

The Stage Managers Association and Ohio Valley USITT

NCC

National Collaborators Conference
October 9, 10, & 11, 2020

Team for the NCC

Chair: **Elynmarie Kazle**

Chair of Ohio Valley USITT: **Kathe DeVault**

Chair of the Stage Managers' Association: **Elynmarie Kazle**

Scheduling Manager: **Casey Hagwood**

Exhibits Manager: **Mandalyn Stevens**

Eventbrite Manager: **Robert Mills**

Finance: **Bill Hare, John Seaman**

Ezekiel Exhibits: **Kathe DeVault**

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Kathe DeVault, Casey Hagwood, Katrina Herrmann,
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Original music for opening and closing sequences by Ethan Korvne.

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Teresa Driver	Sarah Russell
Rachel Harrison	Keyur Shah
Katrina Herrmann	Erin Joy Swank
Sabrina Hykes-Davis	Adrienne Wells
Hope Rose Kelly	Marly Wooster
Suzi Kilbourne	Caila Yates
Pat Loeb	Rachel Zucker

Thank you!

To the Board of Directors for both Ohio Valley USITT and the Stage Managers' Association for taking the leap and agreeing to underwrite this experience for our entire Collaborator Community. Sometimes you just need folks to take the leap with you.

Promotional Support

Dana M. Lerner

Red Pelican Creative

Amanda Spooner, Claudia Lynch,

Norah Scheinman, Matt Stern, Lizzie Strauss

Suzie Kilbourne, Sabrina Hykes-Davis

Karen Glass and Sabrina Hykes-Davis

With many thanks to the Board of the Stage Managers' Association and the Ohio Valley USITT.

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2020-21 Board of the Stage Managers' Association

Advocating for and gathering stage managers
to share information since 1982

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Thanks to our Premiere Partners

Playhouse Square (David Greene, Penny Zaletel, Daniel Hahn)

Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers

Lindsay Jones and The Collaborator Party

Theatre Art Life and Anna Robb

Broadway Stage Management Symposium and Matt Stern



Produced by Broadway Unlocked, created by **Jessica Ryan**

Special thanks to Executive Producer **Kate Novak**

Production Manger and Venue Builder **Victoria Frank**

Opening Night Sponsor

Empty Space/Virtual Callboard

Sponsors

Broadway Stage Management Symposium

Broadway Bazaar

Clear Com

Ithaca College

Intimacy Directors & Coordinators

Kent State University

Kryolan Professional Make up

Stage Managers Association India

Theatrical Intimacy Education

University of California, Irvine

University of Utah

Keynote Speaker

Cody Renard Richard



Cody Renard Richard is an advocate, educator and professional Stage Manager with a career that spans many genres including Broadway, Television, Cirque Du Soleil and Opera. On Broadway, he has worked as a full time and substitute Stage Manager on 12 productions, most recently serving as the Production Stage Manager for *Freestyle Love Supreme*. TV: 2019 Tony Awards, 2020 & 2019 MTV VMAs, *Jesus*

Christ Superstar Live!, *Hairspray Live!*, *The Wiz Live!*. Cirque du Soleil: *OVO*, *Wintuk*. Off Broadway/NY: *Porgy and Bess* (Metropolitan Opera – Assistant Stage Director), *Candide* at Carnegie Hall, 5 productions with NY City Center Encores!, The Public Theatre, Atlantic Theatre Company, 2nd Stage, Transport Group, Pearl Theatre Company. Selected Regional: *Lempicka* at Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Kennedy Center, The Muny, TUTS, Stages STL, Kansas City Rep, Alley Theatre, Repertory Theatre of STL. In addition to his production credits, he is currently Adjunct faculty at New York University and Columbia University. As an advocate for change and equity, Cody has appeared live on CNN and has been interviewed on WNBC. Cody was also recently named one of Variety Magazine's 2020 Broadway Players to Watch and has just launched The Cody Renard Richard Scholarship Program in partnership with Broadway Advocacy Coalition. He holds a BFA in Stage Management from Webster Conservatory and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and the Directors Guild of America.

www.codyrenard.com

@codyrenard

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 9

Sessions in Idea Center
Westfield Studio Theatre

5:30-7:00 p.m.

How to Be an Ally

Sponsored by Broadway Stage Management Symposium

Moderator: Rafael Jaen with Stevie Agnew, Kat Meister, Joanna Obuzor,
Jessica Paz, Nathaniel J. Ryan

8:00-9:00 p.m.

Supporting Indigenous Performance

Moderator: Joel Veenstra with Sue Fenty Studham, Brian Wescott, I Made Sidia,
Eva Grace Mullaley, Lillian Hannah U, and DeLanna Studi

PB & J Lounge

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Introductory Panel

Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World

Moderator: Sarah Russell with Carlton Guc, Richard Morris Jr.,
Kelly Mangan, Christina Wanatabe, Rebecca White

Outcalt Theatre

Cleveland Play House

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Sharing Session: 10/12 Working Group

Moderator: Lindsay Jones with Jessica Paz, Mary Hungerford

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Introduction to Virtual Callboard

Sponsored By EmptySpace

The Miller Classroom

8:00-9:00 p.m.

The Partnership between Stage Manager and Director

Sponsored by University of California, Irvine

Moderator: Lindsay Jones with Amanda Spooner, Rebecca Taichman

Gund Dance Studio

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The 2020 Peggy Ezekiel Awards & Design Exhibit

Saturday, October 10

Live on the Connor Palace Theatre Stage

9:45-11:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Keynote

Cody Renard Richard

introduced by Amanda Spooner

Sessions in The Idea Center

Westfield Studio Theatre

8:30-9:45 a.m.

Stage Management and the Working Relationship
with the Production Team

Sponsored by Kent State University

Moderator: Madison Burkett with Kat Chin, Dian Harchovecchio,
David McGraw, Darren Kowacki

11:15 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management
of Live Sporting Events in the US

sponsored by Theatre Art Life

Moderator: Anna Robb, with Kelly Dredge, Amanda Greco,
Christina Mixon, Laura Johnson

12:50-2:05 p.m.

The “Behind the Scenes Magic” of Weddings in India

Sponsored by Kryolan Professional Make-Up
Keyur Shah, Amrita Puri with Kunal Rai

2:35-3:35 p.m.

Navigating Family and Caretaking in Production Careers

Moderator: Rachel Spencer Hewett with Mimi Apfel,
Patricia Sutherland-Cohen, T.J. Gerckens

4:00-5:30 p.m.

SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times

Moderator: Katrina Herrmann with Jade Cagalawan, David S. Cohen,
Adam Hayward, Tom Humes, Josephine Kearns, Deb Sherrer,
Mandalyn Stevens, Kate York, Julie Zayas-Melendez

PB & J Lounge

11:15 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

Intimacy Choreography: Best Practices for the Entire Production Team

Sponsored by IDC
Moderator: Sarah Russell with Alicia Rodis

12:50 p.m.-2:05 p.m.

Designing in Translation: Taking Your Work Across the World

Kathe DeVault and Ameera Ansari

2:35-3:35 p.m.

The History, The Art, The Act of Calling Cues

Sponsored by ClearCom
Moderator: Erin Joy Swank with Jennifer Leigh Sears Scheier

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?

Sponsored by TSDCA

Moderator: Lindsay Jones with Keya Myers-Alkire,
Cedric Collier, Megan Culley and Richard Thomas

Outcalt Theatre

Cleveland Play House

12:50 p.m.-2:10 p.m.

Lighting Maintenance and Troubleshooting for Stage Managers

Moderator: Adrienne Wells

with Mandalyn Stevens and Ryan Harris

2:35-3:35 p.m.

COVID and the Ever-Changing & Evolving

Role of a Stage Manager

Sponsored by University of Utah

Moderator: Amrita Puri with Jon Allen,
Natasha Bean-Smith, Andy Rowley

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Programming and Working

with Open Broadcaster Software (OBS)

Kate Duprey and Veronica Vera

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday Night Social in The Idea Center

High School Musical with rotating guests

Next to Normal (Chill and Hang out)

How to Succeed in (the) Business

Cleveland, 80's and other Trivia! Hosted by Mandalyn Stevens

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Entertainment on the Connor Palace Theatre Stage

A variety of Cleveland Themed pre-recorded videos - pick something
from the playlist and enjoy!

11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall

Booths Open & College Fair, stop by to visit our Exhibitors, Vendors and Sponsors! Future College Students will find representatives from a variety of Colleges waiting to answer your questions.

11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Gund Dance Studio

The 2020 Peggy Ezekiel Awards & Design Exhibit

11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Upper Allen

Stage Management Paperwork through the Centuries: A Virtual Exhibition -- Curated by Jennifer Leigh Sears and Erin Joy Swank

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area will be live in their booth to take questions from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.!

Sunday, October 11

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Live on the Connor Palace Theatre Stage
Closing Keynote and Ezekiel Awards Announcement

Sessions in The Idea Center

Westfield Studio Theatre

9:00-10:15 a.m.

**Cross-Cultural Challenges and Adaptations:
International Stage Management**
Moderator: Anna Robb with Ronel Jordaan, Keyur Shah

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Resiliency and Responsibility:

Why Pursue a College Education in the Arts Now?

Sponsored by Ithaca College

Moderator: Amanda Spooner with Luis Alfaro, Andre Harrington,
Dr. Nicole Hodges-Persley

PB & J Lounge

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Sharing Sessions: Scene Design in a Pandemic World

Richard Morris, Kelly Mangan

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Managing the DNC Convention Online

Moderator: Andrew Feigin with Jeffry Ginty, Doug Fogel

Outcalt Theatre

Cleveland Play House

9:00-10:15am

Sharing Session: Sound Design in a Pandemic World

Carlton Guc

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Defining the Parameters of a Stage Managers' Job:

How Much is Too Much?

Sponsored by Broadway Bazaar

Moderator: Ada Zhang, with Jon Allen, Luci Everett-Brown,
Darren Kowacki, Brandon Li, Julia Reid

The Miller Classroom - 1

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Sharing Session: Lighting Design in a Pandemic World

Christina Wanatabe

The Miller Classroom - 2

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Sharing Session: Costume Design in a Pandemic World

Sarah Russell, Rebecca White

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall

Booths Open, stop by to visit our Exhibitors, Vendors and Sponsors!

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Gund Dance Studio

The 2020 Peggy Ezekiel Awards & Design Exhibit

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Upper Allen

Stage Management Paperwork through the Centuries: A Virtual Exhibition -- Curated by Jennifer Leigh Sears and Erin Joy Swank

Let us know where you're tuning in from, check out what's Live from Cleveland and be sure to swing by Ottos - you never know who you'll run into face-to-face at the pub!

Bios of our Panelists and Speakers

Stevie Agnew (Host, How to Be an Ally) is currently the Resident Lighting Director for Florida Grand Opera. He has a diverse design background from opera, plays, corporate, dance, private, and consulting. He has designed for Pittsburgh Opera, Dimensions Dance, WQED, Bodiography Contemporary Ballet, Florida Grand Opera, August Wilson Center, and LabCoDance. Stevie has also worked for The Santa Fe Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Miami Youth Ballet, and Marc Wollin Productions. Mr. Agnew holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Lighting Design from Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama.

Luis Alfaro (Panelist, Resiliency and Responsibility: Why pursue a Career in the Arts Now) is a Chicano writer known for his work in poetry, theatre, short stories, performance and journalism. Luis spent six seasons as the Playwright-in-Residence at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival from 2013-2019. He was a member of the Playwright's Ensemble at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre from 2013-2020. Luis is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He was recently awarded the PEN America/Laura Pels International Foundation Theater Award for a Master Dramatist, The United States Artist Fellowship and the Ford Foundation's Art of Change Fellowship. His plays and performances include *Electricidad*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Mojada*, *Delano* and *Body of Faith*. Luis spent over two decades in the Los Angeles poetry community and touring North and Latin America as a performance artist. He is a tenured professor at USC and his book, *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro*, is just released from Methuen Press.

Keya Myers-Alkire (Panelist, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) has been working in sound and lighting for professional theatre and events for more than 25 years. She has a BFA in Theatre Arts from Ohio University and has worked with theatre companies such as Baltimore's Center Stage, The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Players Theatre Columbus, CATCO, Available Light Theatre, and Tantrum Theatre. At CATCO, Keya served as the Sound Designer/Master Electrician for 20 years creating sound designs, mixing musicals, executing lighting designs, and managing rental events in company venues. Currently, she is managing the Sound & Media Studio as well as teaching Sound Design at The Ohio State University Department of Theatre. As a member of IATSE Local 12, she has also worked for CAPA and other production companies to bring musicals, concerts, and events to audiences across Central Ohio.

Jon Allen (Panelist, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much? & Panelist, COVID & The Ever Changing & Evolving Role of A Stage Manager) Jon is an innovator bringing culture-shifting technologies to the live experiential landscape. His background spans theatre and broadcast and he has traveled all over the world to direct messaging and craft

impactful experiences for clients like Volvo, Intel, Samsung, PepsiCo, EA, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Heineken and many others. Jon takes pride in using his vast experience to work with developing companies whose messages land close to his heart. Recent work with Not Impossible, Original Thinkers, the Endwell Project, and Planet Home have fulfilled this drive for progressive social justice. He is also an active mentor within the stage management community.

Sam Anderson (Panelist, Introduction to Virtual Callboard) founded EmptySpace Technology to merge his passion for performing arts and technology, delivering software to support the arts since 2006. Our premiere product, Virtual-Callboard, launched in 2006 with StageStock, our inventory software, launching in 2016. Sam has worked in the entertainment industry as a Stage Manager and in the technology industry as an application designer and design leader. He enjoys spending whatever time is left after all of that with his spouse and three rambunctious kids. Sam is a member of Actors' Equity (AEA).

Mimi Apfel (Panelist, Navigating Family and Caretaking in Production Careers) Mimi Apfel and Andrew Feigin met at South Coast Repertory in 1979 following their college years (Mimi USC '79; Andy Cornell '75). They have enjoyed long careers Stage Managing for Radio City Music Hall (Spectaculars, Concerts and Events), on Broadway (Bob Fosse's Dancin', Cats, Nick & Nora, Phantom of the Opera), Opera, Broadcast Television and Regional Theatre. As founding partners of AppleFig Productions, LLC they have focused the last two decades providing Stage Management services for Corporate Events across the USA and around the world. In the midst of managing their careers, they also raised 2 children, now both married and living on the West Coast. After living bi-coastally for the past 10 years, in June of 2019 Mimi and Andy became full time residents of Cambria, California. This August, they became first time grandparents.

Natasha Bean-Smith (Panelist, COVID and the Ever-Changing & Evolving Role of a Stage Manager) Based in Toronto, Canada. Stage Management credits include: Opera Atelier (Actéon & Pygmalion in Toronto, Chicago and Versailles, The Return of Ulysses, Dido & Aeneas), Tarragon Theatre (Guarded Girls, Hamlet, Sequence, Within the Glass, The Bakelite Masterpiece, The Ugly One), The Thousand Islands Playhouse (The Canadian, The Birds and the Bees, Das Ding, Dear Johnny Deere, The Ugly One, Salt Water Moon), Theatre Centre (Secret Life of a Mother at Crow's Theatre, After the Fire from Punctuate! Theatre), Festival Players of Prince Edward County (A Beautiful View), Theatre Smash (Kiss, Durango, Das Ding, The Ugly One). Also a concert manager for Tafelmusik.

Lucie Everett Brown (Panelist, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much?) At eighteen, Lucie wanted to act but while performing in her first professional theatrical production, she was more interest-

ed in what was happening offstage than on it. Alongside her work as a make-up artist and photographer, Lucie has been freelancing full-time as a stage manager for four years. She specializes in the technical aspects of stage management, and often operates shows as well as assisting on local production pack ins or bump outs. She is currently based in Auckland, New Zealand, but is excited to take her skills and experience overseas in the future.

Madison Burkett (Host, Stage Management and the working relationship with the Production Team) Madison graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Australia, with a Bachelor of Dramatic Arts (Production). She spent five years as a stage manager for large scale water circus productions at *The House of Dancing Water* in Macau SAR and *Le Reve – The Dream* in Las Vegas, USA. Since returning to Australia in 2017, Madison has been working as a calling stage manager in touring musical theatre productions including: Gordon Frost Organisation’s production of *Rocky Horror*; shake & stir’s production of *Green Day’s American Idiot* and GWB Entertainment’s international production of *School of Rock – The Musical*.

Jade Cagalawan (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) is a Los Angeles native and has been a member of Actors Equity for 3 years. She received her BA in Theatre from Cal Poly Pomona and MFA in Stage Management along with a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. She’s worked with theatre companies such as Geffen Playhouse, East West Players, and A Noise Within, all while working as an Adjunct Lecturer for her Alma Mater, Cal Poly. In 2019 she decided to switch from stage managing to becoming an Arts Education and Professional Enrichment Programs Manager for East West Players.

Kat Chin (Panelist, Stage Management and the working relationship with the Production Team) Based in Toronto, Canada. Kat primarily stage manages plays and opera. Select credits include: *Idomeneo*, *Acteon* and *Pygmalion* [Toronto, Chicago, Versailles]; *August*: Osage County, *Kim’s Convenience* [incl. Off-Broadway, National Tour, Fringe], *Death of a Salesman*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and more at Soulpepper Theatre. She has also worked at Opera Atelier, Theatre Passe Muraille, Factory Theatre, the National Ballet of Canada, the Stratford Festival, fu-GEN, Cahoots, Why Not, The Glenn Gould School, George Brown Theatre School, Toronto International Film Festival, and Hot Docs Film Festival. Kat taught Stage Management at Ryerson University and is a member of the Canadian Actors Equity Association Stage Management Committee.

David S. Cohen (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) is an experienced Event & Stage Management specialist with a demonstrated history of work in Theater, and the Marketing/Advertising industry. Skilled in management of Trade Shows, Large-

Scale Events, Dance, Theatre, and Festivals. Most recently, David was the Stage Manager for the national tour of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*. In events, David works as a Show-Caller, Deck Manager, and sometimes an Associate Producer. Event credits include: His Holiness the Dalai Lama, The International Science and Engineering Fair, The Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards, The Regeneron Science Talent Search. Corporate Clients include: Yahoo, Intel, Target, Regeneron, Bloomberg and others.

Cedric Collier (Panelist, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) International: South American Tour of *Phantom of the Opera*, Nixon's Nixon at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, Show Time in Colombia, Mercury productions in Brazil, Ryan productions, Aquila production, and Norweigan Cruise Line. Regional: The Kennedy Center & The National Theatre in Washington D.C., The Old Globe in San Diego, The Aronoff Center in Cincinnati, Cincinnati Opera, Negro Ensemble Company, Pennsylvania Center Stage, and Seaside Music Theatre. His favored designs have been *A Woman in Black*, *Tommy*, and *Tamer of Horses*. Designing more than 43 productions as Resident Sound Designer at Penn State University, Adjunct University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. And working on more than 100 productions at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and 2004, 2007 Tony Award at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park., working in (10) countries from Puerto Rico to Brazil. Cedric is a member of IATSE Local 5.

Megan "Deets" Culley (Panelist, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) Sound Designer. Recent credits include *Cullud Wattah* and *The Loophole* (The Public Theater,) *Antigone* (Cleveland Play House,) *Nickel Mines* (ACT of Connecticut,) *Terminus* (NYTW Next Door,) *Grounded* (Dobama Theatre,) *The Last Match* (B Street Theatre,) *Roan @ the Gates* (Luna Stage,) *Inanimate* (the Flea Theater.) meganculley.com

Kathe DeVault (Host, Designing in Translation: Taking Your Work Across the World) is currently head of ONU's International Theatre Production program. She earned a BA in theatre/English from Ohio State University and an MFA in lighting and sound design from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Before coming to ONU, she was the resident lighting designer at Smith College and did freelance lighting and sound designs for various companies, including Natarjii Dance Company, Chrysalis Theatre, New Century Theatre and the Drama Studio. At ONU, DeVault has designed lights and sound for many productions, including *Elysium*, *Picnic*, *Magic Flute*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Tommy* and *Carousel*. She has lit all the International Play Festivals and served as scenic and sound designer for a few. DeVault also has designed lights for the Wellington School in Columbus, Ohio (musical *Tater Tots of Love*) and Columbus Children's Theatre (*Xanadu Jr.*, *Willy Wonka Kids*, *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *Cinderella Kids* and *13*). She did the lighting and sound design for Freed Purple Monkey's production of *A Matter of Choice* at the New York Fringe Festival.

DeVault is national president of Theta Alpha Phi and chairperson of the USITT/ Ohio Valley section. Outside of theatre, DeVault is a 4-H Club advisor and a proud member of the Logan County Junior Fair Poultry Committee.

Kelly Dredge (Panelist, Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management of Live Sporting Events in the US) Currently the Director of Live Experience with the Cleveland Indians, Kelly has more than 15 years of experience in the sports and entertainment industry. Kelly's background encompasses world-class leading companies and professional sports teams including IMG, Cycling Sports Group and the San Francisco 49ers. Her expertise is in event management with a passion for creating innovative, engaging experiences and memorable moments that unite and inspire. As an athlete, Kelly played collegiate tennis at Bowling Green State University where she received her BA degree and most recently completed her MBA at UMASS Amherst. Kelly proudly serves as a mentor for College Now Greater Cleveland whose mission is to increase postsecondary educational attainment through college and career access advising.

Kate Duprey (Panelist, Programming and Working with OBS) After Stage Managing professionally for over 12 years my world has been completely turned upside down. Being in the rehearsal hall, surrounded by groups of talented people is where I've always called home. Now things have changed, and we in the arts have had to change as well. Over the years, I have worked with a number of different companies. I have been with shows that ran four months, and worked on a Cruise Line, where every night was a different show. When the arts industry hit pause, I was determined to find a way to work from home, even if it wasn't going to be the same. Not one to shy away from new technology I dove into the world of OBS and found a tremendous amount of new possibilities! With a number of Virtual Shows now under my belt, I look forward to sharing what I have discovered.

Nagla Essam (Panelist, International Stage Management: Cross-cultural challenges and adaptations) Born and raised in the UAE, Nagla is an events professional with 5 years of experience working for some of the biggest event companies and mega events. She has worked in different capacities within the industry and held several roles from operations management to stage management in festivals, conferences, exhibitions, award ceremonies, activations & much more.

Andy Feigin (Host, Managing the DNC Convention Online) Mimi Apfel and Andrew Feigin met at South Coast Repertory in 1979 following their college years (Mimi USC '79; Andy Cornell '75). They have enjoyed long careers Stage Managing for Radio City Music Hall (Spectaculars, Concerts and Events), on Broadway (Bob Fosse's Dancin', Cats, Nick & Nora, Phantom of the Opera), Opera, Broadcast Television and Regional Theatre. As founding partners of

AppleFig Productions, LLC they have focused the last two decades providing Stage Management services for Corporate Events across the USA and around the world. In the midst of managing their careers, they also raised 2 children, now both married and living on the West Coast. After living bi-coastally for the past 10 years, in June of 2019 Mimi and Andy became full time residents of Cambria, California. This August, they became first time grandparents.

Doug Fogel (Panelist, Managing the DNC Convention Online) DGA Stage Manager.

Other Union Affiliations: AEA, AGVA, AGMA, AFTRA, SAG. DGA Credits include: Tony Awards, Academy Awards, BET Hip Hop Awards, Miss America, Billboard Awards, GLAAD Awards, Country Music Awards (CMA), 2020 Democratic National Convention, 2016 Democratic National Convention, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Wendy Williams Talk, Rachael Ray, Crossing Over with John Edward, A Capitol Fourth for PBS, National Memorial Day Concert for PBS, Live from Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center Honors, Americas Got Talent, MET Live HD Broadcasts. Prior SM credits: B'way, NY City Opera, Radio City Music Hall, Regional Theater

Brandon Li Genshi (Panelist, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much?) Senior Stage Manager, National Centre for the Performing Arts, China. Head of NCPA's Stage Management Team. During 10 years' career, did more than 40 repertoires of opera, drama, dance, GALA, competition, ceremony and other productions produced by NCPA. Mainly focuses on opera productions. During 2020's pandemic period, he has stage managed several online and live forums.

T.J. Gerckens (Panelist, Navigating Family and Caretaking in Production Careers) is the Theatre and Dance Chair at Otterbein University and a USA829 Lighting Designer. T.J. has been part of the design team for the Tony and MacArthur Foundation winner Mary Zimmerman for the last 27 years. Most recently he designed the world premiere of *Eurydice* at the L.A. Opera. His designs have been seen at theatres across the United States, on and off Broadway, in England, Australia, and at the LaScala Opera in Milan, Italy. His numerous awards include the Drama Desk, Lortel, Jefferson, and an award for "Exemplifying the Art of Collaboration" given to the Zimmerman design team.

Jeffrey Gitter (Panelist, Managing the DNC Convention Online) SM: Numerous Commercials; Oscars; Grammy's; Tony's; CMAs; MTV-VMA's; CHT Awards; Garth-Central Park; Def Comedy Jam; GQ Man/Year; 25th Anniversary, Kennedy Center; ESPY Awards; Presidential Inaugural Galas; Special Olympics; Christmas in Washington; Essence Awards; NBA All Star Weekend; Olympic Ceremonies; Miss America, USA & Universe; VH-1 Divas; SuperBowl 1/2 Time;

Victoria's Secret; Apprentice-Finale; Survivor-Finale; Hip Hop Honors; Hip Hop Awards; Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame.

Amanda Greco (Panelist, Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management of Live Sporting Events in the US) Amanda began her career working with the Utah Starzz of the WNBA and the Utah Jazz of the NBA. A big thrill of her life was acting as a venue producer for the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympic Games, in her hometown. In 2002, Amanda was hired by the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL. In addition to the hockey games and galas, she produced boxing, tennis, track and field, and soccer events. In 2004, Amanda was hired by the Cleveland Cavaliers of the NBA to lead their game presentations. In 2010, she was the venue producer for the Pacific Coliseum for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Since 2013, Amanda has been the event producer for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, video board producer for the Tennis Centre of the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games and the venue producer for the Gangneung Ice Center for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games. In 2018, Amanda began working for the FIVB VNL Tournament as a Sports Production Supervisor.

Carlton Guc (Host, Sharing Session: Sound Design in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) So what does a Computer Tech/Coder Musician do when not playing music or coding computers? Design Sound for theatrical and themed installations, of course. Sound Design is a mix of analytical and artistic. Sometimes more analytical when designing themed installations using multiple racks of computers, amps and hundreds of speakers (i.e. Dialog in the Dark - Exhibit) or sometimes more artistic (i.e. The Colored Museum). Regardless of the mix, I've enjoyed working in the theatre/themed industry all around the world for some time now. www.carltonguc.com (<http://www.carltonguc.com/>)

Resident Sound Designer for Beck Center of the Arts. Contributed to Cleveland Public Theatre; Cain Park; Tri-C; CSU; French Creek; Hathaway Brown; Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute; Sea World; Premier Exhibits; Greenbrier (Former Resident Designer); Cassidy Theatre; Fine Arts; Barnstormers Drama Club; Actor Summit Theatre; Berea High School; Berea Summer Theatre; Cleveland Music Hall; Connor Palace Theatre; Allen Theatre; Fairmount Performing Arts; Huntington Playhouse; John Carrol University; Lakeland Theatre; Magnificat High School; Nordonnia High School; Old Trail School; Royalton Players

Casey Hagwood (Steering Committee, Conference Scheduling Coordinator) is an AEA Stage Manager and Stage Management Faculty at Florida State University. Resident and/or recurring SM roles include Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Other credits include:

Theatre for A New Audience, Sharon Playhouse, Looking Glass Theatre Company, *Laughter and Reflection* with Carol Burnett. Casey has served as a Mentor for the Stage Management Mentor Project (SMMP) at USITT and sits on two committees within Actors' Equity Association. She is an active member of the Stage Managers' Association and serves as a member of the Membership Committee. She holds an MFA in Stage Management from CCM, and lives in Tallahassee, FL with her fiancé Jeff and her cat Siren. Many thanks to Elynmarie, Broadway Unlocked, and all of the SMA/OVS colleagues who helped this conference come to life!

Dian Harcovecchio (Panelist, Stage Management and the working relationship with the Production Team) Based in Cape Town, South Africa. Dian started his Stage Management career after completing his BA in Technical Theatre Practice course from the Artscape Technical Training Academy. He has worked with numerous companies and clients in different roles, including his most recent role as Deputy Stage Manager for David Ian Productions, for the production of Chicago, The Musical as Deputy Stage Manager. He holds vast knowledge in the industry. He is currently permanently employed with Cape Town Opera as Assistant Production Manager. Dian has also expanded to the props making and special effects field.

Andre Harrington (Panelist, Resiliency and Responsibility: Why Pursue a College Education in the Arts Now) Professor of Design at California State University, San Bernardino, he holds an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa. Mr. Harrington hails from the east coast, and was a freelance designer in Philadelphia, PA who has designed costumes for many professional theatre companies, including The Alliance Theatre, TheatreWorks USA, The Court Theatre, Theatre Virginia, Freedom Theatre, St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, and Crossroads Theatre. He participated in TCG/NEA Career Development Program for Designers in 1999 and used the TCG/NEA program to begin his research of carnival, beginning in Trinidad. His work includes Peter Minshell's carnival band and Brian MacFarlane of MacFarlane Carnival as well as studies of cultural retention aesthetics of the Notting Hill Carnival, when working as a guest artist with Mahogany Studios in London. In 2010, Andre attended the Surin International Folklore Festival, at the Surindra Rajabat University, Thailand to present his research on "Anne Lowe, An American Couturier". Andre recently completed a term as President of the Black Theatre Network and is a member of United Scenic Artists Union 829, United State Institute of Theatre Technology, Phi Beta Delta Honor Society and serves CSUSB's organizational membership of TCG.

Ryan Harris (Panelist, Lighting Maintenance and Troubleshooting for Stage Managers) is the Field Service Coordinator at Vincent Lighting Systems in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the last decade, Ryan has had much professional and community theatre experience as a stage manager. He also brings technical expertise,

having been a stage technician for Cedar Fair Amusement Parks, The Walt Disney Company, as well as head of Props for a Broadway national tour.

Adam Hayward (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) is the Director of Sales and Professional Services with Vincent Lighting Systems, a theatrical supply company based in Ohio. Living in the Cincinnati area, Adam has been the lighting designer in many area venues such as the Fitton Center and Kings Island, where Adam spent 12 years in multiple positions prior to joining VLS. Adam is also a current board member for the Ohio Educational Theatre Association and member of the USITT Lighting commission.

Katrina Herrmann (Steering Committee; Host, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) Katrina has worked at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Drury Lane Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Court Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public Theater, Baltimore Center Stage, and La Jolla Playhouse, among others. She stage managed both Off Broadway runs of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Flick*. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity. For nine years during the holidays, she used to work for Santa Claus at Macy's in New York City.

Rachel Spencer Hewitt (Host, Navigating Family and Caretaking in Production Careers) is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama whose theatre credits include Broadway to off-Broadway to Regional theatre. She is a mother of two and thanks her own mother for always believing that “todas crianças são artistas,” that it's never too early to cultivate a passion for craft, history, and culture. Spencer Hewitt is the founder of Parent Artist Advocacy League (PAAL), a national resource hub, solutions generator, and network created to build community and initiatives for caregiver support in the performing arts. PAAL's goal is to elevate the national standard of care for caregivers by shifting culture to recognize caregiver support as gender parity and access needs with intersectional realities and to actively create solutions that bring us together as a community rather than keep us afraid of the conversation. From the Radical Parent-Inclusion project with the Playwrights Realm to creating the first national all-discipline childcare grants to creating the international PAAL summit for caregiver support and more, we work to develop solutions that are inclusive, compassionate, and sustainable for both institutions and individuals.

Tom Humes (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) Tom currently serves as an Assistant Professor for the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. He currently teaches Stage Management, Production and Stage Management and the Design, Tech and Production section of the First Year Experience. Tom's primary

background is in stage management for theatres such as: Cain Park, Cleveland Play House, McCarter Theatre Center, Dobama Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, Karamu House, Cleveland Orchestra and Opera Cleveland. He is also a member of the I.A.T.S.E. and works as a part time stagehand. He received his BA in Theatre at Bowling Green State University.

Mary Hungerford (Panelist, Sharing Session: 10 out of 12 Working Group) (she/her/hers) is a freelance AEA Stage Manager based in Chicago, IL. She is also one of the Chicago Vice Regional Representatives for the Stage Managers' Association.

Rafeal Jaen (Host, How to Be an Ally) is a practicing costume designer, professor, and author. He has received multiple design accolades, as well as the *Kennedy Center Golden Medallion for Excellence In Theatre Education*, the Salem State University *Life Achievement In The Arts Award*, and the UMass Boston *Manning Price for Excellence in Teaching*. He serves as the USITT VP for Communications, and he is a past National KCACTF DTM Chair. Mr. Jaen is the author of *SHOWCASE* and *Digital Costume Design And Collaboration* by Focal Press/Routledge, and he is the Main Editor for the USITT/FOCAL Press *Backstage* series. He is currently the Performing Arts Department Chair at UMass Boston.

Laura Johnson (Panelist, Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management of Live Sporting Events in the US) With over seventeen years of sports production, event management, and entertainment experience, Laura enjoys the thrill of live events and thrives under stadium sports lighting. Beginning her professional sports career in 2003 producing MLB Spring Training games for the Seattle Mariners and San Diego Padres, Laura has since worked with many professional sports teams producing events, in-venue entertainment, and video-board shows, including: the Arizona Cardinals, UCLA, Churchill Downs, The Kentucky Derby, NCAA Men's Final Four, College Football Playoff National Championship, BNP Paribas Open, Fiesta Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Super Bowl XLII, XLIX, and 50, to name a few. Laura begins her 13th season in the NFL and 5th season with the San Francisco 49ers, where she currently serves as the Director of Game Presentation and Live Events.

Lindsay Jones (Host, Sharing Session: 10 out of 12 Working Group; Panelist, The Partnership between Stage Manager and Director; Host, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) Lindsay Jones (Original Music and Sound Design) - Broadway: *Slave Play*, *The Nap*, *Bronx Bombers* and *A Time to Kill*. Off-Broadway: *Bootycandy* (Playwrights Horizons), *Mr. Joy* (LCT3), *Privacy* and *Dry Powder* (Public Theater), many others. Regional: Guthrie, Hartford Stage, Alliance, Goodman, Old Globe, ACT, Chicago Shakespeare, Steppenwolf, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage and many others. International: Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Canada) and Royal Shakespeare Company (England), many others.

Awards: seven Joseph Jefferson Awards and 24 nominations, two Ovation Awards and three nominations, three Drama Desk Award nominations, three Helen Hayes nominations, two Barrymore nominations, and many others. Film scoring credits include HBO Films' A Note of Triumph (2006 Academy Award, Best Documentary), many others. www.lindsayjones.com

Ronel Jordaan (Panelist, Cross-Cultural Challenges and Adaptations: International Stage Management) A South African technical theatre practitioner for 20 years, Ronel travelled the world as a musical theatre stage manager, ran the lighting department for a large technical equipment supplier in South Africa, and managed a theatre in London. From musicals to Rock n Roll, Opera to TV cooking shows, this varied experience and a keen interest in all aspects of technical theatre landed Ronel in her current role as Production Manager for the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies at the University of Cape Town. She oversees on average 73 show outputs per year in the 5 theatre spaces of the Centre.

Elynmarie Kazle (Steering Committee; Host, Closing Keynote and Ezekiel Award Announcement) is a freelance stage/production manager, and stage director who has designed stage management mentoring programs and curricula for a variety of institutions across the country. Currently SM Mentor for Ohio Northern University, recent gigs include SM for Match Girl/Columbus Dance Theatre and Regional Emmy Awards for NATAS as well as company manager/director of Teacher Training for the Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute. Chair of the Stage Managers' Association/USA and Vice Chair for Special Projects USITT Ohio Valley. Previous incl: BAM, Deaf West, Pasadena & Cleveland Play House, Los Angeles Classical Ballet, Opera Columbus, San Diego Opera and international tours. She served 9 years on the AEA West Coast SM Committee, and three years working for the Stage Directors Union. Recently named to the National Theatre Conference, she is one of the youngest Fellows to be named by USITT. Her BFA is from the University of Mn, Duluth and MFA in Theatre Management from Ohio University. She is a play responder/workshop presenter and has been an adult leader for the Scouts for 15 years and prior to that an International Cultural Ambassador to Sweden. She is the proud mom of Banno, an Eagle Scout.

Josephine Kearns (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) Josephine Kearns (she/her) is a consultant, educator, and theatre artist specializing in transgender, queer, and intersex issues. Believed to be the only theatre artist in the US focused primarily on gender consulting, she has worked at regional theatres across the country as well as with multiple musicals in Broadway development, and is the gender consultant for Actors' Equity Association and the Consultancy Director for Ring of Keys. She has also consulted on gender inclusivity and conducted trainings over

100 schools, hospitals, businesses, and government agencies, including Chicago Public Schools and the State of Illinois.

Hope Rose Kelly (Steering Committee, Digital Monitor) Companies stage managed at include Hartford Stage Company, Shakespeare & Company, WAM Theatre, Montana Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Public Theatre in Maine, Stonington Opera House, McCarter Theatre, Wilma Theatre, George Street Playhouse, Hangar Theatre, CLOC. Training: B.A. in Drama - Ithaca College, M.A. in Renaissance and Medieval Theatre History - University of Toronto. Member of Actors' Equity Association (Delegate for Greater Albany Liaison area) and Stage Managers' Association: serving as Editor in Chief on the Board, Chair of the International Cohort, and Vice Regional Rep for New England/Upstate NY. #blacklivesmatter #WeMakeEvents

Darren Kowacki (Panelist, Stage Management and the working relationship with the Production Team & Panelist, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much?) After graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts Darren has spent the last 15 years working in the entertainment industry as a professional stage and production manager with major arts companies around Australia touring nationally and internationally. Notable productions include: King Kong Live onstage. National tours include: Dirty Dancing, We Will Rock You, The King & I, Priscilla the musical & Hugh Jackman's Broadway to Oz Australian tour. Also international tours of Singin In The Rain, Sir David Attenborough's A Quest for Life tour and Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock.

Kelly Weigant Mangan (Host, Sharing Session: Scenic Design in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World) is a member of the design/tech faculty at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Her professional career has spanned work as a scenic designer at Stage One, The Louisville Children's Theatre, Mount Holyoke Summer Theatre Festival, and the Huron Playhouse. She has also served as properties master at The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The Western Stage and Stage One. She has worked in scenic art studios in Chicago (Scenic View, Chicago Scenic, Funkhauser Backdrops, and Tamara Backdrops) as well as the Chicago Historical Society. She continues to actively work in props and scenic design at BGSU where she teaches scenic and prop construction, stage management, scenic art, and drafting courses. Kelly received her undergraduate degrees (Theatre and Secondary Education) from The University of Missouri at Columbia and her MFA from The University of Minnesota, Mankato. Kelly is a member of S.P.A.M., The Society of Prop Artisan Managers, The Stage Managers Association, The Guild of Scenic Artists and USITT, The United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

David J. McGraw (Panelist, Stage Management and the working relationship with the Production Team) David serves a Director-at-Large on the board of the Stage Managers' Association as a Director-at-Large. Stage manager at Triad Stage, Chester Theatre Company, Iowa Summer Rep, Geva Theatre Center, Capital Repertory Theatre, Oldcastle Theatre Company, StageWorks on the Hudson, Perishable Theatre, and Yale Rep. Executive/general management at Iowa Summer Rep, Vilar Performing Arts Center, and the White River Theatre Festival. After leading the Stage Management MFA program at the University of Iowa for 14 years, Mr. McGraw took the helm of the Arts Administration program at Elon University in 2017.

Kat Meister (Panelist, How to Be an Ally) They/Them pronouns. Kat is a freelance digital stage manager with experience working theatrically and politically in the virtual realm. In the before-times, they have worked with the Public Theatre, the Met Museum, the Juilliard School and the NY Philharmonic in addition to presenting works at La Mama and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. They are grateful to be ever learning and advocating for life experiences beyond their own, and they are unafraid to educate the people in the room about Trans issues. Kat is a graduate of the University of Southern California and currently based in NYC. mxkatmeister.com

Christina Mixon (Panelist, Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management of Live Sporting Events in the US) is the founder of Mixon Digital, an agency that combines data and visual art to create unforgettable fan experiences for the world's most influential brands. Mixon Digital is the culmination of Christina Mixon's extensive experience in broadcasting, live sports, innovative graphic design, and data modeling. Formerly the Director of Graphics for NBA Entertainment, she was responsible for building the very first graphics operations department to support NBATV. There she developed advanced display systems for all of the NBA's major events. She also established a program that trained broadcasters and venue production teams to integrate the NBA stats system with advanced graphic displays. Recent highlights include managing the live visual experience for the first NHL tour of China and pushing the boundaries of live graphic integration on the largest indoor LED screen in Asia for the Legends Fighting Championship and making NBA history (again) by developing the visual displays for the NBA Restart project in Orlando Florida.

Richard Morris (Host, Sharing Session: Scenic Design in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World) is a native of Cleveland Ohio, and holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He is currently Technical Director for Weathervane Playhouse in Akron, Ohio. He has designed Scenery for over 140 Productions. Mr. Morris was the recipient of the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival award for "Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design". In 2013,

Mr Morris was Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on African Americans In Scenic Design.

Mr. Morris' Scenic and Lighting Designs have been seen at Karamu Performing Arts Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, Akron School of Performing Arts, Ensemble Theatre Cleveland, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cuyahoga Community College, Oberlin College Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Akron Civic Theatre, Heights Youth Theatre, Jabar Productions, and Rabbit Run Theatre. Mr. Morris is currently working on "Two Boys from Glenville" the story of the creators of Superman.

Eva Grace Mullaley (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance) is a Widi woman from the Yamatji Nation in the Midwest Region of Western Australia. She graduated from the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre Course at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2003. In her 17+ year career Eva has worn many hats in the theatre industry including Director, Administration, Stage Manager, Tour Manager – internationally and nationally, Producer, Event Manager, Actor, Dramaturge, Lecturer in Character and Script Analysis, Collaborating Director, Workshops Coordinator and many more. She has worked as a director and dramaturg for Moogahlin Performing Arts, Yellamundie Indigenous Playwrights Festival, Ilbjerri Theatre Company, Te Rehia Theatre Company, WAAPA and Yirramboi Festival. Eva also worked as the Development Producer for the Australian Blackfulla Performing Arts Alliance (BPAA) a national peak body for Indigenous theatre and performers. She is currently Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Perth, Western Australia.

Joanna Obuzor (Panelist, How to Be an Ally) is the Operations Manager of the Benedum Center with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. The Benedum Center is both one of the busiest theatric venues in the United States and Pittsburgh's largest performing arts venue. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a multimillion-dollar regional economic driver which has an annual operating budget nearing \$90 million. Prior to spending time as an Operations Manager, Joanna spent 10 years as a professional stage manager working primarily in regional theater. Joanna has also spent time as a professor of stage management at Point Park University and West Liberty University.

Jess Paz (Panelist, Sharing Session: 10 out of 12 Working Group) is a Tony Award-winning Sound Designer for theater, film and music. Most recently, she collaborated with Nevin Steinberg on the sound design for Anaïs Mitchell's acclaimed production of *Hadestown*, which earned the duo a Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle nomination. On Broadway, Jessica was an Associate Sound Designer on projects including *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Bandstand*, *Disaster! The Musical*; *The Assembled Parties* (MCC); and *Fela!*. Other design credits include Off-Broadway and Regional theater work. Jessica is

fascinated by music studio and live concert techniques. She is constantly learning and researching innovative approaches from the traditional music recording world, and bringing them into her theater work.

Nicole Hodges Persley (Panelist, Resiliency and Responsibility: Why Pursue a College Education in the Arts Now) Dr. Hodges Persley is the Artistic Director of the KC Melting Pot Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City's premiere Black Theatre company. She has directed several critically acclaimed theater productions including Amiri Baraka's *Dutchman*, Angelina Grimke's *Rachel*, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, and Dominique Morriseau's *Sunset Baby*. She began her directing career in film in Los Angeles where she attended graduate school at UCLA and USC focusing on Black performance. She began as an actor and shifted to writing, directing and producing theater and short film projects to have more creative control in the entertainment industry. Her film *Epiphany* is an official selection of the DC Black Film Festival 2020 and is one of several collaborations with Kansas City playwright Lewis J. Morrow. She is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of American Studies and African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas. She is the founder of The Black Performance Project, a digital archive of popular Black performance. Her forthcoming books *Sampling and Remixing Blackness in Hip-hop Theater and Performance* (University of Michigan Press, Summer 2021) and *Breaking it Down: Audition Techniques for Actors of the Global Majority* (Roman & Littlefield, Summer 2021) Hodges Persley is the director and chair of The Black Vitality Commission of The Craft Institute, a contributing partner to TCG's EDII Initiative.

Amrita Puri (Host & Panelist, The "Behind the Scenes Magic" of Weddings in India; Host, COVID and the Ever-Changing & Evolving Role of a Stage Manager) After completing her Masters in Journalism, Amrita worked as a television journalist with a leading news channel in India for over a year before shifting gears to her true calling and finding her passion in general entertainment and events. She has an experience of almost fourteen years in the entertainment business with general entertainment channels, leading production houses and event management companies. In 2015 she started Usually Unusual Entertainment, a Show Running & Stage Management agency in India. They have worked on some of the leading shows in the country which have been nominated and bagged several awards. Amrita is also the founding member of Stage Managers Association India which launched earlier this year.

Julia Reid (Panelist, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much?) Julia trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama graduating with a Higher National Diploma in Stage Management. With a career spanning a quarter of a century, she has worked in a wide variety of freelance stage management roles as an ASM, DSM, SM and CSM. She has

worked in Regional Theatre, the West End and toured the U.K. extensively. Her international work has taken her to America, Canada and Europe. Affiliations: Professional member and Board member of the Stage Management Association UK. Member of the Stage Managers' International Relations Cohort USA and member of Equity UK.

Anna Robb (Host, Sports Presentation: Behind the Scenes Management of Live Sporting Events in the US & Host, Cross-Cultural Challenges and Adaptations: International Stage Management) is an experienced global Producer/Production Stage Manager. Her 20-year work history spans Asia Pacific, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. She has worked for companies such as Cirque du Soleil, Franco Dragone Entertainment Group, Christie Digital Systems and The Sydney Opera House. She has worked in the areas of concerts, arena events, corporate events, trade shows, musical theatre, plays, dance, circus, outdoor festivals and mega shows. Anna holds an honours degree in Design for Theatre and Television and is also the Co-Founder and Managing Director for TheatreArtLife, an online platform for entertainment industry professionals.

Alicia Rodis (Panelist, Intimacy Choreography: Best Practices for the Entire Production Team) is an intimacy director and coordinator, fight director, actor, and stunt performer. She pioneered the position of intimacy coordinator for film and tv. She is currently an advisor to Times Up, SAG-AFTRA, and serves as the official intimacy coordinator for HBO Studios, consulting on their policies and protocols as well as training and vetting the IC's working on HBO productions. (Including The Deuce (S2, S3), Watchmen, Plot Against America, Crashing (S3), High Maintenance (S4), I Know This Much Is True, The Undoing, Westworld, and the upcoming Lovecraft Country, amongst others). Alicia is a founder and executive with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators which specializes in training performers and industry professionals to better approach intimate scenes, as well as training and certifying intimacy coordinators for film and intimacy directors for theatre. Fight and Intimacy Direction: The Juilliard School, Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, New York University, New York Shakespeare Exchange, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, PACE University, amongst others.

Andy Rowley (Panelist, COVID and the Ever-Changing & Evolving Role of a Stage Manager) Theatres worked include Manchester Royal Exchange and Library Theatres, Orchard Theatre, Theatre Clwyd, Warwick Arts Centre, and in Chester, Birmingham, Exeter and many other touring venues. Andy was a television stage manager, AD and Line Producer in production at the BBC. He has produced many ground-breaking and award-winning dramas globally, and was awarded BAFTAs and other recognition for his work. Andy is committed to supporting stage and production management, the value of the creative work that such disciplines contribute to UK Theatre and economy, and to working with

Stage Management Association UK as Executive Director to make theatre and live events more inclusive and representative of the UK.

Sarah Russell (Steering Committee; Host, Intimacy Choreography: Best Practices for the Entire Production Team, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World; Host, Sharing Session: Costume Design in a Pandemic World) is a Costume Designer living and working in the Northeastern Ohio region. Her costumes have been seen in productions at Porthouse Theatre, The Highlands Playhouse, CATCO, Near West, The Beck Center for the Arts, Weathervane Playhouse and Stage One Productions. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Mount Union where she also acts as the Resident Designer and Costume Shop Supervisor. She has also worked with Cleveland State University, Ashland University and Allegheny College. Her educational design credits also include productions at Cuyahoga Community College, Kent State University and Bowling Green State University. She is a proud member of USITT and a working mom to two amazing little monsters.

Nathaniel J. Ryan (Panelist, How to Be an Ally) is a man with many options. Ryan submerged himself into his academic studies and earned his BA from Morgan State University, and his MBA from Clark Atlanta University. In 2005 he decided to take his first acting class, and hasn't looked back since. No stranger to the stage Ryan recently played the role of 'Lyons Maxson' in August Wilson's 'Fences' produced by JAG Theatre Productions. Ryan has tackled roles in 'Othello: The Panther', and other notable productions. In 2017 Ryan won the Ocktober Film Festival Best Actor award for his role in 'Blind Faith' a short film. Other credits include 'Blue Bloods', 'The Blacklist', and 'And There Were 4' an independent film available to watch on Amazon Prime. A natural athlete he enjoys track and field, canoeing, swimming and martial arts.

Jennifer Leigh Sears Scheier (Host, The History, The Art, The Act of Calling Cues; Curator, Stage Management Paperwork Through the Centuries) is a freelance AEA stage manager and a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her dissertation, "The Quest for Professionalization: A 20th Century Cautionary Tale for American Stage Managers," focuses on reclaiming stage management history while investigating the field's current challenges through a historical lens. Several of her research articles have been published in Stage Directions Magazine. She earned her MFA in Stage Management from the University of Iowa and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and the Stage Managers' Association. Her past stage management credits include: Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Knoxville Opera, La Jolla Playhouse, Lamb's Players Theatre, Long Beach Opera, San Diego Repertory Theatre, and Tennessee Repertory Theatre.

Keyur Shah (Panelist, Cross-Cultural Challenges and Adaptations: International Stage Management & Panelist, The “Behind the Scenes Magic” of Weddings in India) Keyur completed his Masters in International Events Management from Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. He has learnt best international practices from the industry leaders and practitioners which has extended his passion for events. During his twelve year journey in the field of entertainment and events, he has put his skills to action at numerous events and aced his favourite role as a Stage Manager in prestigious international and national projects. He has also received formal training in Sports Business Operations from New York University and in Global Business from Harvard Business School Online. In 2015, he started Usually Unusual Entertainment, a Show Running & Stage Management agency in India. Keyur is also the founding member of Stage Managers Association India which launched earlier this year.

Deb Sherrer (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) is currently the Director of Plays for New Audiences at Children’s Theatre Company. After a decade as a professional stage manager, she refocused her career into arts management. Deb has worked as the General Manager for the Weston Playhouse, the Director of Finance and HR at Charleston Stage Company, and the Business Manager at Emerald City Theatre. She is currently a director at large for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) where she serves as the Chair of the Board Mentorship Committee, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. Deb holds a Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a BFA in Theatre Point Park University.

I Made Sidia (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance)

Amanda Spooner (Host, Opening Keynote; Panelist, The Partnership between Stage Manager and Director; Panelist, Resiliency and Responsibility: Why Pursue a College Education in the Arts Now) is a stage manager and educator, based in New York. She has worked on Broadway and throughout the country. She is the founder of the grassroots campaign Year of the Stage Manager, the Vice Chair of the Stage Managers’ Association, an ambassador for the Parent Artist Advocacy League, and is on council at Actors’ Equity Association. Amanda received her MFA from the Yale School of Drama and serves on faculty at Ithaca College.

Mandalyn Stevens (Panelist, Lighting Maintenance and Troubleshooting for Stage Managers) is the SMA Vice Regional rep for Cleveland. She spends her days at Vincent Lighting Systems and her nights in community and regional theatres. Recent credits include Rasheeda Speaking (Karamu House) Legally Blonde and Sister Act (The Brecksville Theatre). As a proud bisexual woman, in a male

dominated field, she tries to fight the good fight for women in our business; both in her sales job and the theatre.

Sue Fenty Studham (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance) Dr. Sue Fenty Studham has worked as an international stage manager for more than 30 years. Originally from NYC, she has had the privilege living on Whadjuk Noon-gar land in Australia and working with Noongar artists over two decades. Sue recently stage managed *Hecate*, the ground-breaking Noongar language translation of *Macbeth* (2020). Her work has taken her around the world, with hundreds of credits in many genres of theatre from solo performances to large-scale events involving up to 1,600 performers including Bali Agung, 3 Opening Ceremonies for Citrawarna: Colours of Malaysia, Perth Festival, and many festivals in New York. Head of the BFA Stage Management Program at DePaul University in Chicago, she is a published arts researcher with interests in regional identity and theatrical processes that respect cultural variation. Sue's work in Bali was the focus of her doctoral thesis, *Stage Management: A question of approach in intercultural theatre*, scheduled for publication in 2021.

DeLanna Studi (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance) has 25+ years of experience as a performer, storyteller, educator, facilitator, advocate, and activist, Studi has theatre credits that include the first national Broadway tour of *August: Osage County*, Off-Broadway's *Gloria: A Life* at the Daryl Roth Theatre, *Informed Consent* at the Duke Theater on 42nd Street, and regional theatres (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, Cornerstone, and Indiana Repertory Theater). Studi originated roles in over 18 world premieres, including 14 Native productions. A pivotal moment in her career was writing and performing *And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears*, based on retracing her family's footsteps along the Trail of Tears with her father, which has been produced throughout the country, and was the first American play chosen for the Journées Théâtrales de Carthage in Tunisia, Africa. In film and television, Studi can be seen in *Edge of America*, Hallmark's *Dreamkeeper*, *Goliath*, *Shameless*, and *General Hospital*.

Patricia Sutherland-Cohen (Panelist, Navigating Family and Caretaking in Production Careers) Patricia has been married to Robert Sutherland-Cohen for over 39-years. Together they have built careers in theatre and academia. Although childless, they have nurtured two daughters from his previous union right through their own respective marriages. Patricia is a Founder of the SMA. Their separate SM careers included productions that ranged from theatres regionally, On-Broadway, and internationally. Eventually Patricia parlayed her SM skills as a teacher trainer in NYC schools and as a professor of Disabilities Studies for CUNY.

Erin Joy Swank (Curator, Stage Management Paperwork Through the Centuries) has served in various capacities for the SMA over the years, including be-

ing the first Secretary outside of New York, a Vice Chair, and a Director-at-Large. She is currently Chair of the Webinars committee and the Vice Regional Rep for Colorado. Erin enjoys hosting SMA gatherings in Colorado and around the country as she freelances nationally in theatre, musicals, opera, dance, cirque, and concerts. Her favorite cast members ever were the camels of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular (tour, featuring the Rockettes). As a Vice Commissioner in Management with the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Erin has coordinated the Portfolio Reviews & Interview Materials Prep sessions for the national conference, along with other special projects. She also has experience as a licensed river guide and enjoys checking out new waterways wherever she goes. Member: AEA, AGMA, USITT

Rebecca Taichman (Panelist, The Partnership between Stage Manager and Director) 2017 Tony Award for Best Director of a Play, Obie, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for *Indecent* written by Paula Vogel (Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, The Vineyard Theater, Broadway at The Cort Theatre). Rebecca has directed on and off Broadway, new plays and classics, musicals and opera. She has worked with writers Jocelyn Bioh, Sarah Ruhl, Danai Gurira, Enda Walsh, Brian Selznick, Kirsten Greenidge, Nico Muhly, David Adjmi, and Stephen Karam among others. She has worked at theaters such as The Roundabout Theatre, Lincoln Center Theatre, The Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, MCC, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Old Globe Theatre, ART, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter, Woolly Mammoth, and others. Rebecca is a resident director at The Roundabout Theatre in NYC, a Henry Crown Fellow at The Aspen Institute, and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. www.rebecca-taichman.com

Richard K. Thomas (Panelist, Sound Designer: Engineer or Artist?) is a professor of Music and Theatre at Purdue University with over one hundred credits as a composer, sound designer, author, playwright, and educator. His compositions have been featured at Lincoln Center, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and ESPN Television Network among many others. He is a Fulbright Specialist and a Fellow of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology, having won their 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award in Sound. Rick has lectured and taught workshops extensively, including at the Prague Quadrennial, World Stage Design, the Broadway Sound Master Classes, the film institute at Babelsberg Germany, the Bregenzer Festspiele in Austria, and many more. He regularly conducts lectures, workshops and classes in the US and internationally around his most recent book, *Music as a Chariot*, a wide-ranging discussion around the subject of theatre as a *type* of music. More information is available at zoundsproductions.com.

Lillian Hannah U (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance) is a first-generation Chinese-Australian woman and stage manager in Sydney, Australia.

lia. She has worked widely across theatre, dance, cultural performance and major events across the Mainstage, Government and Independent sectors. Her work underpinned by a deep understanding of dramaturgy and cultural sensitivity in both the performing arts and events spaces. Lillian is currently the resident stage manager for Bangarra Dance Theatre - Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company.

Joel Veenstra (Host, Supporting Indigenous Performance) is a professional AEA stage manager, production manager, producer, and improviser. As a stage manager, he has coordinated collaborations with regional theaters, including Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pasadena Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse; and galas, including the Legacy Awards, honoring Tom Hanks, Rita Moreno (*West Side Story*), and Laverne Cox (*Orange is the New Black*); the California Science Center's Discovery Ball featuring the Space Shuttle Endeavor; and The Detroit Creativity Project's Detroit Party featuring Keegan Michael-Key (*Key and Peele*). He has produced numerous events including the Global Improvisation Initiative Symposium in Southern California and London, the annual Coup de Comedy Festival, the Applied Improvisation Network World Conference - SoCal, and the Cirque du Soleil KÀ Symposium. Joel Veenstra serves as Associate Chair of Production and Co-head of the Stage Management Program for University of California, Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts' Drama Department, where he teaches stage management, collaborative production, and improvisation.

Christina Watanabe (Host, Sharing Session: Lighting Design in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World) is a New York City based designer for theatre, dance, music, and events. NYC: Lincoln Center, The Public, WP Theatre, EST, Primary Stages, Cherry Lane, 59E59, HERE, New Ohio, Theatre Row, Urban Stages, INTAR, Bushwick Starr, and Theatre for the New City to name a few. Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Brown/Trinity Rep, Virginia Stage Company, Charlottesville Opera, Palm Beach Dramaworks, White Heron Theatre Company, Florida Rep, Bristol Valley Theatre. TV: Colin Quinn (co-design). USITT Gateway Mentor. Knights of Illumination winner. MFA: NYU Tisch. Member USA 829. www.starryeyedlighting.com (<http://www.starryeyedlighting.com/>).

Adrienne Wells (Steering Committee; Host, Lighting Maintenance and Troubleshooting for Stage Managers) has worked in live theater, educational tours and events, opera, jazz, fashion, television, special events, and festivals. Past work includes: *Matilda*, *Guys and Dolls* (Virginia Stage Company), *39 Steps*, *Baskerville*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (St. Michael's Playhouse), *Hair* (Pentangle Arts), *The Long Walk* (Pittsburgh Opera), *Sweat* (Pittsburgh Public Theater), *The Mask of Moriarty* (Pittsburgh Irish and Classic Theater). Ms. Wells serves as the Corresponding Secretary for the Stage Managers' Association, is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama, and a proud member of Actors

Equity Association.

Brian Wescott (Panelist, Supporting Indigenous Performance) Brian was born and raised in a cabin in Alaska without running water and studied at Harvard and Yale. He co-produced the feature comedy “Christmas in the Clouds,” executive produced the feature documentary “The Thick Dark Fog” (about Lakota boarding school survivor Walter Littlemoon) and produced “Ishi’s Return,” all of which won multiple festival awards. He has worked at the Native Voices at the Autry, including on “The Winter Bear Project”, an uplifting play about a young Alaska Native who rises above the traumas of his past thanks to mentorship from Athabascan elder Sidney Huntington. He sits on the Native committees at both the WGA and SAG-AFTRA and is a member of AEA.

Rebecca White (Host, Sharing Session: Costume Design in a Pandemic World; Panelist, Introductory Panel/Prompt Sparking Creation in a Pandemic World) is originally from Minnesota and joined the faculty at Otterbein in the fall of 2007. Rebecca works primarily with students in the BFA Design Technology program and teaches courses in costume history, design, crafts, and makeup. Part of Rebecca’s work is modeling professional practice by designing the costumes for 2-4 productions each school year, with students as collaborators, research assistants, wardrobe, and technologists who make the costumes. Rebecca is a member of the Otterbein Senate and serves the Theatre & Dance department by holding the position of DT Recruitment Officer. As a recruiter, Rebecca travels to Nebraska each summer to meet over 4,000 high school theatre students, as well as hosting visiting students on campus. Previous to Otterbein, Rebecca’s costume work has been shown at The Santa Fe Opera, Theatre L’Homme Dieu, The Minnesota Centennial Showboat, The Milwaukee Rep, Park Square Theatre, Trinity Repertory Theater, and others.

Kate York (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) is a touring stage & production manager based in Washington, DC, most recently with the Kennedy Center’s national tour of *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical*. In addition to theatre and event stage management, Kate has worked in operations, scheduling, and advance positions for campaigns including Hillary Clinton and Ralph Northam, and is currently on the operations team of the Biden/Harris campaign in Virginia, focusing on logistics and labor relations. www.kyorktheatre.com

Julia Zayas-Melendez (Panelist, SM Skills Popcorn: Using your SM Skills to Pivot for Employment in Unconventional Times) AEA Stage Manager and Creative Producer. Julia has been stage managing for more than 20 years, with various theatres and productions on all 3 coasts of America – Boston, Los Angeles, and Chicago, where she spent the bulk of her career. While in Chicago, she also operated her own small business, One Crafty Broad, designing and altering

wedding gowns. In 2018, Julia moved to California, and transitioned her many years of experience into the world of themed entertainment, where she now focuses her creative energy on building new kinds of stories. Julia remains a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, since joining the union in 2003.

Ada Zhang (Host, Defining the Parameters of a Stage Manager's Job: How much is too much?) is a Chinese stage manager based in New York City. She has worked primarily as stage manager, also as producer, company manager, technical translators, etc. on productions in the United States and all over the world. Recent credits: Prometheus Bound (Producer, The Tank NYC), Kinky Boots International Tour (PSM & ASM, Troika Entertainment), Matilda International Tour (ACM, GWB Entertainment UK). M.F.A. in Stage Management, Columbia University. Love to mom and dad.