



DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

*"May all your troubles soon be gone,
Christmas lights, keep shining on"*

I've often wondered what it was exactly that made me so interested in lighting design—so inclined to make pretty visuals in an array of colors and textures. Aside from my tech experience in high school, the only experience I had in the world of performing arts was my 16+ years of dance. While this has helped give me perspective on other aspects of performances that I appreciate, it still doesn't exactly establish the connection between me and lights. It took me until recently to realize what got me so into it—Christmas lights! (An "omg duhhh, of course" moment for me.)

I was driving up I-79 North towards my hometown, and as I passed the Butler exit, I saw it: a huge field, full of crazy elaborate shapes and designs made from bright string lights, all moving in different patterns—clearly some sort of pixel mapping was going on. I was filled with nostalgia, reminded of the many years my parents would take me and my siblings to drive through this elaborate jungle of color. The coolest part of this whole setup is that the movement of the lights is synced to Christmas music on a radio station! It



finally made sense to me—this is my favorite thing about one of my favorite times of year.

I learned a lot during my time working on *Dance Nation*, and I'm really grateful that I got the opportunity to work on my first show. Honestly, though? I think the next thing I want to design is a huge field of dancing colors, bringing joy to families and friends alike. Happy holidays, and I hope you get the chance to go see some lights!

By Lauren Holmes, Outreach Coordinator

Holidays

Regardless of upbringings or beliefs, the most cherished holidays in cultures around the world tend to be those centered around joy and gathering with loved ones or your community. I personally enjoy the ending of the year as there are so many holidays, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, New Year's. All of these holidays are rooted in traditions. Though getting together with family for the holidays can be bittersweet the privilege and ability to do so is a victory in and of itself (Did you just roll your eyes? It's okay if you did because I just grimaced writing that). All jokes aside, I'm thankful for the year I've had. Obstacles and all. I'm overwhelmed by the amount of love and support that my family, friends, club mates, and even professors and staff have shown me. Though my holiday season will be spent miles away, I won't forget the joy that people here have brought me this year.

This is normally the time of the year where many people begin to self-reflect, think about the victories and losses of this year, and goals for next year. I don't know about you, but I often enjoy setting goals/challenges for the new year. Because companies know this, there will be an influx in fitness

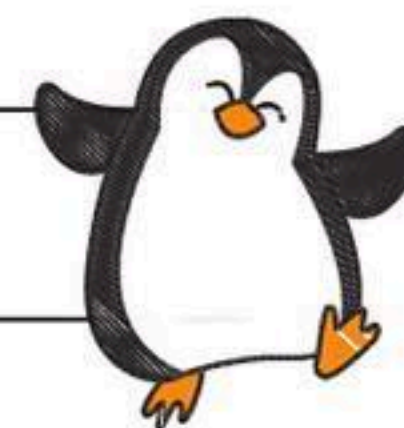
and dietary ads and things of that nature the next few months. Please take care of yourselves and love your bodies in whatever way that looks like for you, but please don't get caught up in what money hungry companies define as "hot", "attractive", or "fit." Listen to your body and you'll know what it does or doesn't need.

And for the love of God, I don't want to see any of you post "New Year, New Me!" I hate to break it to you, but nothing changed between 11:59pm and 12:00am, except maybe a cavity (Did you know you could get a cavity from kissing? Google it if you don't believe me.) In all seriousness though, take care of yourself. When you are setting your New Year resolutions, have expectations but be realistic. Most importantly, before you get caught up on changing things, take a moment to appreciate the amazing human you've morphed into this year.

USITT has had a year worth celebrating. A year filled with laughter, challenges, new leaders, and new beginnings. Whatever beliefs you have or holidays you celebrate, I hope USITT and the people within it have added value to your year, brought joy on some rainy days, and community when you've needed it most. It has been a blessing watching you all grow as technicians, students, and overall, as humans.

By Ty'Mariya Moss, Secretary

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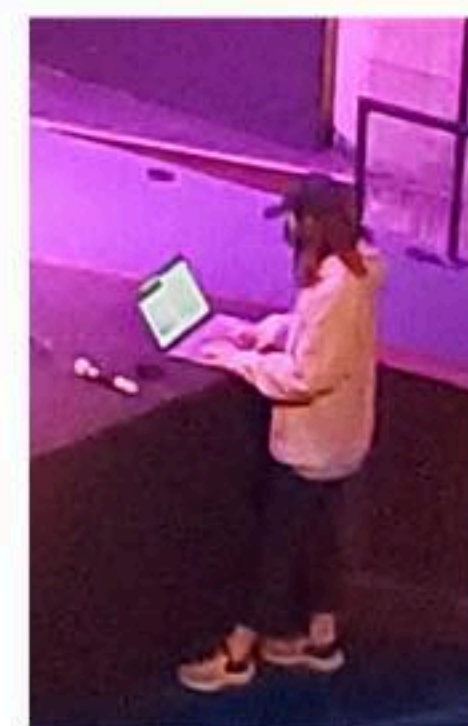
My Adventures in Lighting for Pitt Dance Ensemble

Growing up, I had been around dancers all the time. Oddly enough, I was not a dancer, but I was in and out of dance studios every week, so I got pretty familiar with watching dances and performances. My lighting background has been mostly live theatre, involving plays and musicals. So when I signed onto being the lighting designer for Pitt Dance Ensemble's fall show, I was excited to watch dance again, but I was also treading into unknown lighting territory. For the first time I got to play with booms and extreme side light (my favorite) and I didn't have to worry about the silly little things (like face light, haha). I had so much fun choosing color palettes for each number and experimenting with angles and texture of light. Dance definitely has its own unique features, focusing more on body shapes and musicality. Lots of quick key-punching and mouse moving on this project, as we only had 3 days to rehearsal. But overall, I had a blast dancing my heart out in the booth during "September" and just being in awe of how talented all of the dancers were. It was such an extremely fun experience and I learned more about lighting and dance, and I can't wait to the the next show!

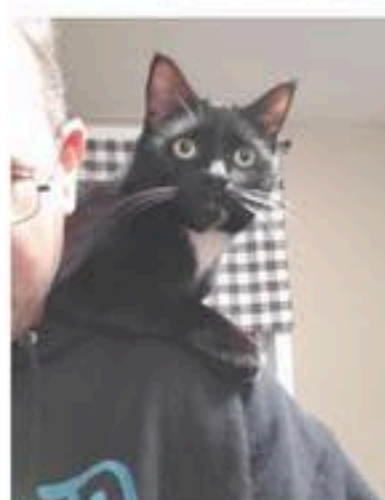
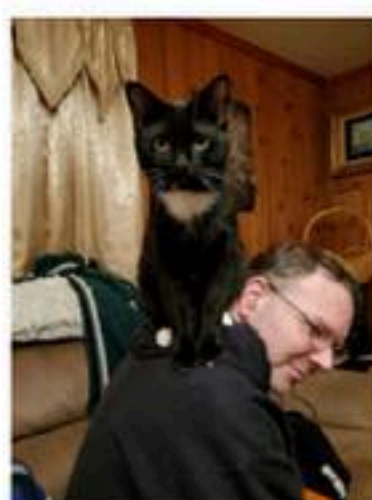
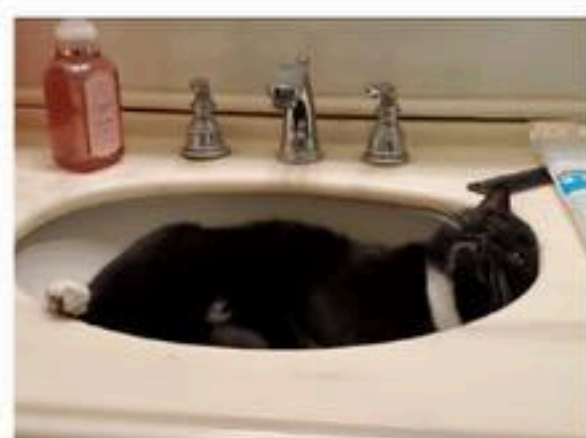
By Elizabeth Amstutz, Business Manager

I would also like to give a major shout to my Assistant Lighting Designer: Gab, who single-handedly helped me figure out what dancers meant when they said "and we'll clump together here" and then "the change happens when we do the side step thingy."

P.S. I also found great joy spying on our favorite vice-chair...



Adventures of Shoulder Cat: Meet Aemon!



Aemon is all of 2 years old and he is quite the little adventurer. He frequently acts like a dog in the ways that he will give out little licks when he is held, and he will be friends with anyone who ever comes near him. He also has been known to enjoy exploring the great outdoors. Recently, Aemon and all his friends moved from their hometown in Levittown, PA all the way across the state to Rochester, PA.

Aemon has embraced this move with open paws, as he now gets a whole new place to explore. He has gotten to go on many new adventures, especially to the playground near his new house! All reports have said Aemon is becoming a town favorite on his little adventures. His dad is even letting him venture around outside off leash (supervised, of course). When Aemon is inside, he loves to climb. One of his favorite places to climb is onto his dad's shoulder, so he can be up nice and high. Aemon's affinity for climbing on shoulders is how he received his nickname of "Shoulder Cat". His shoulder adventures are also not limited to his dad, but also extend to my friends. Aemon is not picky. One of Aemon's other favorite past times is to play with water. Whenever someone turns on a faucet in the house, Aemon is right there, excited to stick his little paws in the water. Aemon is looking forward to all his future adventures and all the chaos he will continue to cause.

By Megan Franco, Chair



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Lighting Design at the Yung Gravy & BBNO\$ concert

Over thanksgiving break I had the amazing experience of attending a concert at The Met in Philadelphia. This amazing concert venue is an intimate space with a capacity of about 3,500 people. Even though the space is small for a concert venue, it does not lack in lighting capabilities. The lighting design for this production blew me away. The concert was for artists Yung Gravy and BBNO\$, who are notorious for having fun, exciting, and upbeat music. Their music is fast paced and really something that I could see a lighting designer having a lot of fun with. Their lighting setup featured lots of movers and LED lights to provide plenty of color changing abilities and moving beams of light.

There was also a huge disco ball mounted to the proscenium that the lighting designer was able to direct a large spotlight on. This created a magnificent effect, casting the shimmers from the disco ball all around the room! I was impressed with the structure of the concert as a whole. The way the lighting was able to help convey mood and tone within the music, and also help to guide the performers around the stage was fantastic. While the venue was intimate, the lighting aided in enlarging the room and making the event feel otherworldly.

The effect that lighting design can have on a performance is unimaginable, and I hope that this analysis of the concert I attended helps emphasize this to everyone. I hope it also helps lighting designers realize that you are in no way confined to theatre! Pitt Theatre Alum TJ Hays had, and still has, a passion for concert lighting as a designer. As you learn the methods and skills here in school, explore all your avenues until you find the form of performance that makes you happiest to work within—and that goes for ALL tech areas.

By Rachel Nolen, Vice Chair



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Poppportunities

- Cedar Point
 - <https://staging.offstagejobs.com/jobdetail.php?jobID=60986>
 - apply asap!
- Department
 - keep an eye on your emails for next semester department popportunities as they come up!

What We've Been Up To

- planning USITT 23 Conference details
- planning fundraising!
 - South O bake sale was a success
 - sticker sales were a success
 - USITT overalls were a success
 - still to come:
 - T-shirts & more!
- SM Calling workshop
- Resume workshop
 - special thanks to Gianni, Eve, Annmarie and Ashley for helping!
- planning 2023 workshops!
 - stay tuned :)

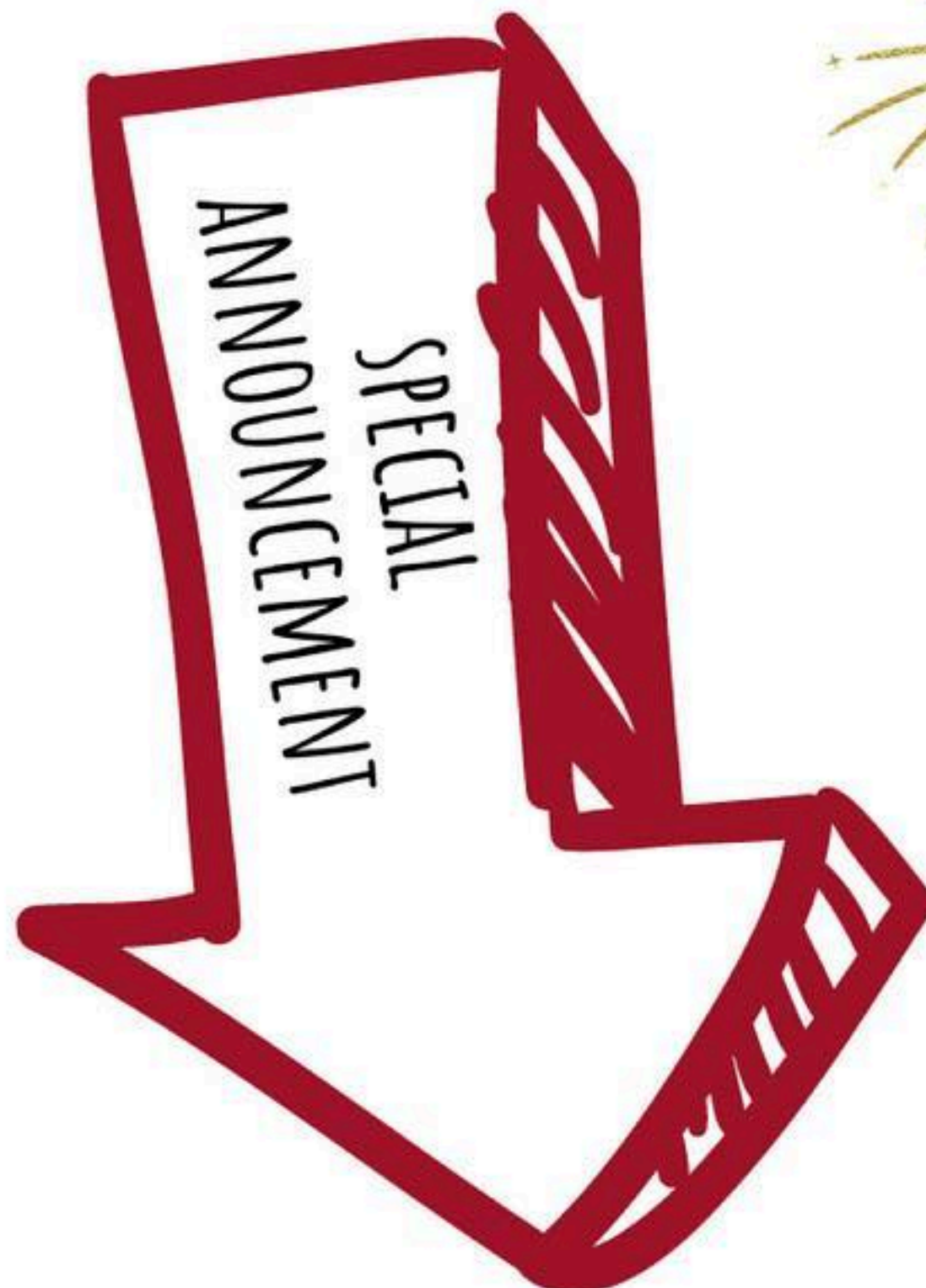
Announcements

- SPECIAL announcement on the last page!
- Keep an eye on your emails for:
 - overall pickups
 - first spring workshop announcement & details
 - other fundraising announcements/updates!
 - Conference updates
 - any incoming popportunities

see you

SOON!

Happy
New Year
2023



special announcement!

our Junior Board Member...

Is...

usitt

ISABEL
SINNOTT!!!

CONGRATS

