Throughout the energetic LDi2014 show, PLASA members were recognized with awards at several industry events. The Behind the Scenes Happy Hour featured an award tribute on the eve of LDI. On Saturday, November 22, at the close of the trade show floor, the LDI Awards were presented in front of a lively and enthusiastic crowd. Earlier in the day, PLASA bestowed an award in the PLASA booth. The following recaps each member’s award.

Eva Swan Award
The Eva Swan Award is presented to an association member who has put forth exceptional effort in time, expertise, and personal resources on behalf of PLASA; been instrumental in shaping and promoting PLASA’s strategic direction; made major contributions to the realization of PLASA’s mission, goals, and objectives; and enhanced the value of membership for all.

This is not an annual award but rather a special award that is presented only when a worthy recipient is nominated. In a presentation at the Behind the Scenes Happy Hour on the eve of LDI, Steve Way, President of ALPS, presented the Eva Swan Award to Dinna Myers.

Dinna is the Director of Sales and Marketing at Musson Theatrical, where she was hired in her early 20s. As a young professional she had a passion for theatre … and that passion flowed through her work at Musson, as well as her many volunteer-based activities.

Dinna has made a significant impact on the Association during her many years of service, going back to the late ’90s when Zoe Paine, her predecessor at Musson, first involved her with ESTA, now PLASA. Dinna’s involvement has included work on multiple committees, co-chairing and chairing many of these committees, and serving as a board member and as secretary. Dinna has been instrumental in crafting membership campaigns, setting communications strategies, and developing member benefits.

Steve shared, “Dinna is not afraid to ask the hard questions. She says what needs to be said. She is a cheerleader and advocate. Dinna does what needs to be done… to continually move this association forward.”

Zoe said it best: “Dinna’s passion and dedication is exactly what is required to make a volunteer organization successful. What sets Dinna apart is her ability to maintain that dedication and continue to contribute over these many years.” (See Dinna’s acceptance speech on page 64.)

Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award
Created by the ESTA Board of Directors in 2005 to honor Frank Stewart’s incomparable service to the association, the Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award is granted by the PLASA North American Regional Board.

In the PLASA booth on November 22, Mike Lay, Chair of the Controls Protocol Working Group, presented the award to Bill Ellis, owner of Candela Controls.

Mike enthused: “Bill doesn’t know how to say no—lucky for us! Whether designing an educational kit to train users on the use of RDM at the Controls Protocol Working Group presented Bill Ellis with the Frank Stewart Volunteer of the Year Award for his work on the CPWG and ad-hoc TSP Technical Marketing Group.
Group, or managing the installation and strike of the PLASA booth, Bill has always answered the call when PLASA just needed something done, and we as an organization are much better for it.”

Bill spends endless volunteer hours on work for the CPWG and the ad-hoc TSP Technical Marketing Group. He has put in an extraordinary amount of work in the preparation, set up, and running of the TSP area of the PLASA booth at LDI, first with the Control Protocols Pavilion, and most recently with Standards on the Stage.

Bill’s contributions also include presentations on DMX512 and RDM at various trade shows and conferences. Recently, he assisted in completing the assembly of an equipment kit that will be shipped to various IATSE Locals and industry trainers for use in training technicians on DMX512 and RDM. He was also responsible for compiling the presentation slides that will accompany the RDM kit, and is a member of the panel that trains others on how to use the kit properly when it arrives at their location. Thank you, Bill!

**PLASA Members’ Choice Product Awards**

The winners of the PLASA 2014 Members’ Choice Product Awards were announced by Eddie Raymond on Saturday, November 22 at the close of the show floor at the LDI Awards event. These awards honor product innovation and recognize outstanding entertainment technology products by PLASA members in three categories: Expendable, Gadget, and Equipment. The Members’ Choice Product Awards were established in recognition of the fact that PLASA members have an enormous impact on the success of a new product as well as a unique perspective on its merits. The voting for the 2014 awards was open to employees of all member companies attending LDI, regardless of their membership category. To be eligible for these awards, a product must have come on the market after last year’s LDI show and must be available for shipment at the time of the current show.

**Gadget Category**

**ETC for the Nomad Controller**

The tiny ETC Nomad dongle plugs into a computer, turning it into a lighting controller that runs both ETC Cobalt and Eos/Element software, so designers can use both platforms. Nomad can be a primary, backup, or client device; can run completely offline; and is compatible with both PCs and Macs.

**Equipment Category**

**Interactive Technologies for CueServer 2**

The fully Ethernet enabled CueServer 2 has a 32 universe capability, new rule-based event logic, improved scripting language, simplified programming interface, and audio playback—making system integration and installation easy.

**Expendable Category**

**Rose Brand for Pro Gaffer’s Tape in fluorescent blue**

Rose Brand’s Pro Gaffer’s Tape is a high-strength vinyl impregnated cloth tape with a matte finish. It is waterproof, tear and abrasion resistant, and has a smooth, controlled unwind that is hand tearable—and now available in fluorescent blue.

**PLASA members honored by LDI**

Also at the LDI Awards Ceremony, many PLASA members received recognition.

A new award was announced at the LDI Awards event. David Johnson, Brand Leader for the Live Design franchise, led off with the announcement of a new award from LDI—the Paky Award—in honor of Pasquale Quadri, founder of Clay Paky, who passed away in September. David discussed the void in our community both personally and technologically, and quoted lighting designer Pete Morse who said: “He has left behind a driving force in the field of lighting technology that will not be dim in at least the foreseeable future.”
Frances Thompson called me about seven or eight weeks ago just to chat. At the end of the conversation, she asked me if I liked surprises. I love surprises. About five weeks ago, Frances called me again and said she felt I would not like this kind of surprise—I was to receive the Eva Swan Award. Frances was absolutely right. I freaked out. When she had originally asked about surprises, I thought she meant there would be cake!

After I hung up the phone, I began to go through Elisabeth Kübler-Ross’ five stages of grief. First there was denial—I am not worthy of a Swan award. I have not worked hard enough, not contributed enough. Then came anger—Point of order, Mr. President, technically, I am not even eligible for this award until my board tenure is complete! Then bargaining—please, please don’t let me burst into tears in front of 400 people! Then depression—for which I have some very nice medication, so that’s fine. And now here we are at acceptance.

For ESTA’s 20th anniversary, I wrote an article for Protocol based on the holiday classic It’s a Wonderful Life. In it, I painted a picture of what our industry would be like if ESTA (now PLASA) had never been born. Bill Groener, cast in the role of Clarence the Angel, showed me a world where no piece of equipment could be reliably plugged into another because we had not developed standards. Where trusses were falling from the ceiling because there were no certified riggers to install them. Where exhibitors stared at each other across a cold and bleak trade show floor because they had never had the chance to get to know and respect each other at events such as the Behind the Scenes Happy Hour. And, where critically injured and ill theatre workers had nowhere to turn for relief, as there was no Foundation to help them get back on their feet. It was not a pretty picture. I am so proud of the relatively small contribution I have been able to make in my tenure with PLASA and of the incredibly positive impact of the association on our industry.

I am thankful beyond measure to Zoe Paine for coming up to my desk and informing me that I would now be serving on a committee and that I would like it and that it would be good for me. And I am blessed to have a boss at Musson, Bob Downs, who understands the value of both the association and of having happy and fulfilled employees.

I have been around just barely long enough to have had a chance to meet the lovely, passionate, smart, and formidable woman for whom this award is named. I am humbled beyond measure to receive this prestigious honor. When I went online to be reminded of who I would be sharing this honor with, I saw that each and every one of the recipients have been people of invaluable service to the association. They have all been my mentors and many of them I count among my dear friends. I was astonished to realize, however, that I am the first female Swan (not counting Eva, herself). This is particularly interesting as the two people who have had the greatest impact on me during my tenure with the association have been women. Frances Thompson and Lori Rubinstein are two of the most impassioned, committed, intelligent, and downright ornery women I have ever known. And it is my pleasure to have served with them and call them my friends. I would like to talk to the ladies right now. It is time to get more involved in your association. It is well past time, actually. My advice to you is to find Frances in the PLASA booth and tell her you are ready to serve. You will make many precious friends, work for the common good, and make a difference in your industry. That is the real reward. This right here, is just the icing on the cake. Right? Thank you so much! I am deeply, deeply honored.

Thanks ;)

Dinna Myers
The first Paky Award was awarded to Pasquale Quadri in memoriam for his formidable presence in research and development as well as “his many contributions to advancements in technology in our industry.”

The Best Small Booth award was presented to ModTruss and Showman Fabricators for an “inventive display reminiscent of an erector set, yet entirely modern with a patented new truss product.”

The selection for the Best Creative Use of Light in a Booth award went to A.C.T Lighting and Clay Paky for a “clear demo of new products followed by a fantastic light show” designed by Mark Butts.

Elation Professional was awarded the Best Large Booth award.

The Best Large Booth award was given to Elation, cited by the LDI judges “for its rich display, entertaining light show, and easy-to-navigate inviting space.”

The Best Product Presentation award was bestowed upon first-time exhibitor, Epsilon, debuting several dozen new audio and lighting products in an informative display.

Clear-Com received the Best Debuting Product award in Sound for the FreeSpeak II, noted by the judges as “a revolutionary next step in the field of wireless full-duplex communication.”

In the Widget category for the Best Debuting Product, an honorable mention was given to RC4 Wireless’ Magic Series 3 DMX4dim, a universal tool kit for wireless DMX integration.

Rosco’s Matt Delong with the Best Debuting Special Effects Product award for Vapour.

In Special Effects for Best Debuting Product, Rosco’s Vapor received an honorable mention. This new line of fog machines was noted as “the next step in ease of use, serviceability, and creative control of atmospherics.”
A second honorable mention was awarded in Special Effects for Best Debuting Product, by Antari for the Smaze F-7, an all-in-one touring atmosphere effects machine with an integrated focusable fan.

In the Staging and Rigging category for Best Debuting Product, an honorable mention was given to Doughty Engineering for the Modular Rigging System, a clean solution for tail downs, lighting ladders, and drop arms.

The Best Debuting Product award winner in Staging and Rigging went to ModTruss—with its "radical shift in staging on how trussing connects and works as an integrated system."

Green Hippo’s Shape won an honorable mention in the Projection category for Best Debuting Product. Shape is a free software tool that provides the “next-level evolution in projection mapping.”

In the Lighting Fixture category for Best Debuting Product, an honorable mention was awarded to Elation for the Sniper. The judges noted the Sniper “reintroduced and revitalized the scanner in our industry.”

A second honorable mention in the Lighting Fixture category for Best Debuting Product went to Clay Paky for the Mythos, a feature-rich luminaire with great optics.

The winner in the Best Debuting Product in Lighting Control category was ETC for the Source 4 Lustr Series 2. It was
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recognition as “the first affordable LED source perfect for a complete LED theatre renovation or new installation.”

In addition, the LDI judges recognized ETC for “developing a significant increase in the way lighting designers think about and manipulate color with its EOS family of consoles.”

Special thanks

It is the volunteers and generous support of key PLASA member companies that provide our association with the resources and assistance to stage the many meetings, booth hospitality, and other special events during LDI. We extend our warmest appreciation to: Osram, The Stimson Group, Stage Equipment and Lighting, and USHIO for sponsoring the hospitality in the PLASA lounge; and Bill Ellis and Candela Controls, Cirque du Soleil, Morpheus Lights, Riverview Systems Group, Rose Brand, and Wenger Corp. for booth support for both the PLASA and The PLASA Foundation booths.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the Technical Standards Updates and Standards on the Stage presenters for a great round of informative talks: Tray Allen, Robert Bell, Adrian Forbes-Black, Scott Blair, Keith Bohn, Milton Davis, Brad Dittmer, Doug Fleenor, Erin Grabe, Bill Gorlin, Jerry Gorrell, Greg Hareld, Mitch Heft, Mike Kelly, Fred Kosiewski, Eddie Kramer, Roger Lattin, Simon Newton, Maya Nigrosh, Richard Nix, Philip Nye, Miriam Paschetto, Jeff Red, Karl Ruling, Bill Sapsis, Larry Schoeneman, Steve Terry, Ken Vannice, Elmer Veith, Peter Willis, Rich Wolpert, and Mike Wood.

Additional thanks go to ProSight Specialty Insurance for the special partnership with PLASA’s Technical Standards Program that allows the free distribution of PLASA/ANSI standards. During LDI, Kevin Topper, Vivienne Zimmerman, and Mike Kelly from ProSight, as well as Scott Taylor, Neil Huff, and Ross Taylor of Taylor & Taylor Associates were in the booth to discuss savings and opportunities, as well as the guidebook: Entertaining Safety: The Entertainment Technology Professional’s Guide to Insurance and Risk Management.

Bob Gordon, Brian Dowd, and Massimo Piccinini with the Clay Paky Mythos, an honorable mention recipient in the Lighting Fixture category for Best Debuting Product.

Jim Uphoff showcases the Best Debuting Product in the Lighting Fixture category, the ETC Source 4 Lustr Series 2.