More certified technicians, more venues, more recognized employers and labor providers—ETCP is on a roll!

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING COUPLE OF YEARS for ETCP! There are currently over 600 ETCP Certified Technicians who hold over 720 total certifications. There are eight technicians who hold all three certifications: Rigger – Arena, Rigger – Theatre, and Entertainment Electrician.

The first ETCP Class of 2005, over 150 riggers who took and passed the very first rigging exams, will come up for renewal in November of 2010. Those who took the first entertainment electrician exam will need to renew in November of 2011. To maintain certification, an ETCP Certified Technician must continue to work in their field of expertise and accumulate forty points to renew or they must retake the test; ten of those points must be accrued through continuing education/professional development. ETCP technicians are constantly seeking opportunities to gain renewal credits, so if you are a trainer or your company or local provides training that is open to the public, please notify the ETCP office so certificants in the area may be notified.

Venues recognize benefits of ETCP Certification

Many venues are recognizing that the certification process is vital to assuring public safety because it gives them a means of measuring the knowledge and skills of technicians in a way that was not available to them before the creation of ETCP.

In January, the Los Angeles Convention Center took the lead on requiring all its rigging supervisor hires to be certified under ETCP. The San Diego Convention Center followed suit in July by revising their rigging requirements and the policy states that all rigging installations must be done under the supervision of a Rigging Supervisor who is ETCP Certified. Last year, Live Nation and Global Spectrum signed collective bargaining agreements that call for IATSE to provide the venues with an ETCP Certified Rigger at any rigging call and an ETCP Certified head Electrician. Most contracts call for a one to three year phase-in of the requirement. Some of the first venues to implement the agreements were Live Nation theatres in Baltimore, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia. Live Nation amphitheatres in Charlotte; Hartford; Holmdel, NJ; Kansas City; Tampa; Washington, D.C.; and West Palm Beach have also added certification language to IATSE agreements.

New ETCP Council members

Live Nation has been a supporter of the program from the beginning. Recently, Curtis J. Voss, General Manager of the Susquehanna Bank Center and Tony Cima, Executive Vice President of Production & Arena Operations – North America Music Venues were appointed to represent Live Nation on the Council. Mark Bumgardner, National Director of Production/Theatrical joined the Council this year from Broadway Across America. Cirque du Soleil’s representatives, Martin Crawford, Technical Manager – Technical & Show Support (Resident Show Division), and Tony Galuppi, Head of Rigging, Cirque du Soleil, KA, have provided a fresh perspective to the Council since the summer of 2007. Christopher Brockmeyer, formerly of Live Nation, now serves on behalf of The Broadway League, where he is the Co-Director of Pension and Welfare. The Council was also pleased to welcome another Canadian organization, SHAPE, who is represented by Health and Safety Consultant in Performing Arts, Brent Rossington.

Join the growing list of ETCP Recognized Employers and Labor Providers

Industry employers and labor providers play a fundamental role in the growth of the program. ETCP would like to thank the ninety-
A new valuable resource is available that promotes the ETCP certification exams. These 24" x 36" posters define the eligibility requirements and target audience for each exam. The posters also include full content outlines for the Rigger - Theatre, Rigger - Arena, and Entertainment Electrician examinations. You can show your commitment to safety by displaying posters in your meeting hall, break room, or backstage! To request posters, or to answer any questions about the program, please contact Meredith Moseley-Bennett at 212.244.1505 or certification@esta.org.

Five companies and labor providers who have signed the ETCP Best Practices Agreement which states that they will utilize ETCP technicians and encourage their employees to become ETCP certified professionals. The agreements are renewed on a yearly basis and all of those participating in the program are listed and searchable on the ETCP website by company name, city, and state. They may also utilize the special ETCP logo on their website, company letterhead, and promotional materials. If you have ETCP Certified Technicians on staff or use them in over-hire situations, you can download the Best Practices Agreement at http://etcp.est.org and follow the link to “Recognized.”

All three ETCP examinations will be offered at the USITT Conference & Stage Expo March 20 - 21, in Cincinnati, OH.

Entertainment Electrical Exam—March 20 starting at 2:00 p.m.

Arena Rigging Exam—March 21 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Theatre Rigging Exam—March 21 starting at 2:00 p.m.

Applications are available at http://etcp.est.org and must be submitted to the ETCP office by February 27.