

January 29, 2014



Please Join Our Sales Team  
at the  
**Western Pennsylvania  
Facilities Directors  
Association  
30th Annual Vendor Exhibit  
and Workshops  
January 31, 2014**  
Stratigos Banquet Center  
North Huntingdon PA

## Did You KNOW?

Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* was not a financial success when it first debuted in 1892. It wasn't until the 1960's when it began to gain popularity in the United States. Today, the yearly productions of *The Nutcracker* comprises forty percent of the yearly earnings of some major American ballet companies.



*"Our front traveler makes a grinding noise when we open and close it. The rope is very tight and it is becoming more difficult to operate. We have a production next week. Can this be repaired quickly, without a major interruption?"*  
-John, Pittsburgh

Many issues like this can be repaired quickly without the need to disassemble and reassemble track. First, if your curtain is on a counterweight system, make sure objects like scenery, lighting, and rigging, are not hindering the action of the rope. If this is not the case, the most likely the culprit is either worn-out carriers or end pulleys. Qualified personnel can remove the inoperable parts, clean the track and re-rope the system without much disruption to the theatrical schedule.

Contact Pittsburgh Stage for a free consultation to determine the best solution for your theater issue.

 : 877-734-3902  
 : [Click to Email](#)



## Schools: New Year, Same Challenges

With each passing year, it seems as though school budget cuts remove more and more funding from the arts. Teachers continually stretch operating budgets to cover the needs of a growing student body. Here are some suggestions to help stretch your budget just a little further.

**An Ounce of Prevention.** Proper training of students on equipment helps to prevent many types of damaging situations. For example, older walk-along curtains are susceptible to tears if pulled from the edges. Utilizing the correct procedure can help ensure the full life of a curtain. Fixtures or lamps are easily damaged by scenery, if the proper fly in-fly out procedure is not observed. These practices may seem trivial for experienced stage workers. However, they are not commonplace for novices. For more information on how to properly operate theatrical systems and equipment, contact Pittsburgh Stage. The first five people to respond below will receive a complimentary operations seminar.

**Theatrical Directors are Masters of Recycling.** Every prop room is filled with scraps from the woodshop, donations from parents, left-behinds from past students, and that perfect prop that you may or may not have found in a dumpster (but it was on top, so it's OK). Here are more suggestions where to find inexpensive building materials.

- **Home Improvement Stores.** re-sell unwanted paint for only a few dollars a gallon.
- **Carpet Stores.** Carpet is shipped on dense cardboard rolls, perfect for making background scenery.
- **Construction Companies.** Construction companies continuously have shipping materials as well as scrap wood, metal, and other building materials. Strike up a conversation with a contractor and you may find a pickup truckload of scraps pulling up to your theater loading dock.

**Replace Fixtures and Distribution in Stages.** Many schools are not able to replace lighting and distribution at one time. It can be difficult to make a case for preventative purchasing. However, what school boards may not realize is that using outdated equipment many times, costs more than replacing with newer equipment. For example, one of our lighting representatives was assisting a particular school, to help find older lighting fixture parts. After much searching, the parts were found and priced. Replacing just one part needed in each fixture was as costly as purchasing new better quality units. Older units are more prone to higher electricity usage, shorter lamp life, and breakage. Contact Pittsburgh Stage to see what options are available if your school is interested in replacing theatrical lighting equipment in stages.

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## What our Customers Are Saying



*"It has been a very pleasant experience all the way. I thank you for your patience in dealing with us. The proposals, project timeline and the installation was very professional."*  
-SV Temple

## Pittsburgh Stage Equipment in Action

Send us your best production photo! We here at Pittsburgh Stage love to see the equipment we install in action. So many times we install our products during an early phase of construction. Our installers may finish their work in a theater with unfinished walls and floors, or without seats. We always want to see how our clients utilize their new equipment. We are looking for your best production photo with Pittsburgh Stage equipment. Our staff will then choose a favorite to be published in the monthly newsletter. Thank you for choosing Pittsburgh Stage, and we can't wait to see all of your amazing productions!

