



March 3, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Padla / 203 432 1574 / steven.padla@yale.edu

**BEN SAMMLER,
CHAIR OF TECHNICAL DESIGN AND PRODUCTION AT YALE SCHOOL OF DRAMA
AND PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR AT YALE REPERTORY THEATRE,
RECEIVES THE
2009 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN TECHNICAL PRODUCTION
FROM UNITED STATES INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY, INC. (USITT)**

Ben Sammler, Chair of the Technical Design and Production Department at Yale School of Drama and Production Supervisor at Yale Repertory Theatre, will be honored with the **2009 Distinguished Achievement Award in Technical Production** from the **United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. (USITT)** at USITT's 49th Annual Conference & Stage Expo in Cincinnati, March 18-21.

"USITT's Distinguished Achievement Awards are designed to recognize those who have achieved outstanding success not once, but throughout their careers. Mr. Sammler's work has made a lasting contribution to the American theatre by revolutionizing production-based training," says **Carl Lefko**, President of USITT. "He has shared his knowledge through his work as an educator, mentor, editor, and author. Mr. Sammler's colleagues are proud to recognize his leadership in this very challenging field."

"In more than 30 years at Yale, Ben Sammler has made enormous professional contributions to the American theatre as a distinguished leader in technical design and production management. Equally remarkable are his teaching and mentoring of hundreds of technical designers and managers trained at Yale School of Drama and now working in theatres and other creative industries around the world," says **James Bundy**, Dean of Yale School of Drama and Artistic Director of Yale Repertory Theatre. "The entire Yale School of Drama and Yale Rep community celebrates this award, which is richly-deserved recognition of Ben's extraordinary accomplishments."

United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Inc. is the association of design, production, and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industry. USITT began presenting its Distinguished Achievement Awards in 1998 to recognize achievement by designers and technicians with established careers. Areas of achievement include, but are not limited to, scenic, costume, lighting, and sound design; technical direction; theatre architecture; theatrical consulting; production management; arts management; and costume direction.

Ben Sammler, Production Supervisor of Yale Repertory Theatre, has been Chair of Yale School of Drama's acclaimed Technical Design and Production Department since 1980. In 2007 he was named the Henry McCormick Professor (Adjunct) by Yale's President, Richard Levin. He is co-editor of *Technical Brief* and *Technical Design Solutions for Theatre Vols. I & II*. His book *Structural Design for the Stage* won

the United States Institute of Theatre Technology's Golden Pen Award. Demonstrating his commitment to excellence in technical education and professional production, he founded USITT's National Theatre Technology Exhibit, an on-going biennial event, has served as a commissioner and a director-at-large and is a lifetime Fellow of North America's foremost Theatre Technology Association. He was honored as the Educator of the Year in 2006 by the New England Theatre Conference. His production management techniques and his introduction of structural design to scenic technology are being employed in both educational and professional theatres throughout the world.

###