



DramaScene by DramaShare

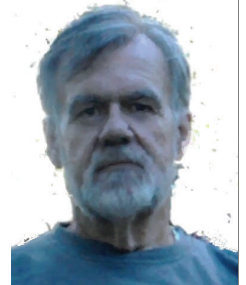
An international newsletter for those with interest in Creative arts ministry

September 2011



Welcome to the DramaScene newsletter

From the Editor



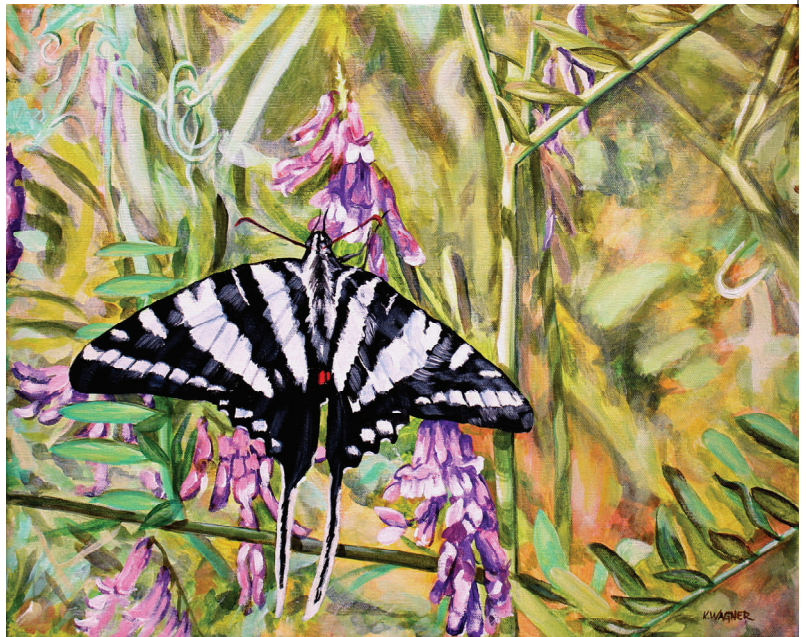
Well, it's harvest time here in the Mississippi Delta, and I am telling you they leave more rice and soybeans on the ground where they load trucks than I'll eat in a lifetime.... I take it if it hadn't been defoliated etc...

Anyway, it's still in the mid 80s here, and probably in the 50s in Saskatoon... On to the Newsletter

Techies Corner revisits flame retardant coatings and their need.

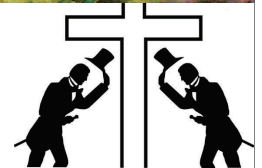
Q&A has a few other questions in there, so please check it out.

Thought I'd include a painting I did of a zebra swallowtail butterfly. Enjoy!



See the listing of recently completed DramaShare scripts [click here](#).

KK (Karl Wagner) Editor karlwagner@dramashare.org



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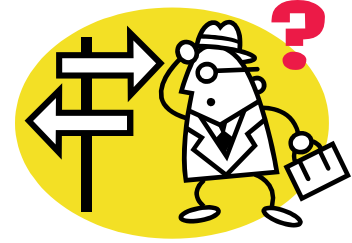
God doesn't call the equipped . . .

He equips the called



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

As always, thank you for the continued questions and responses. It is, as always, my prayer that the information can help you somewhere down the road. If you have a better answer, or something to add, or another question, just click on the flashlight and send it in to me. KK



Q: Q: How long does making a set piece flame proof last?

A: First, you are not making it flame proof, only flame retardant. It means it will go out when the flame is gone. Read **TECHIES CORNER** in this edition.



Q: We want to be able to throw a glass of water in the actor's face, but he will be wearing a microphone. Any ideas?

**Got a question?
Or a better answer to a question which Techie Karl has answered?**

[Click here to send it on in!](#)



A: DPA manufactures mics for high moisture areas and outdoor use, and they cost long dollars. Try putting the microphone at the hairline on the actor and throw the water at their chest. The audience will see it as the same action.



Q: Any ideas on how to properly train stage managers, sound people, etc.?

A: Basically you mean train them to do what you want, right? I mean they may be completely trained as technicians go. My best suggestion is mentoring. It is exactly what Jesus did with the disciples. They learned from Him as He interacted with people, authorities, etc., and as he served in His ministry. Teach people how to be a part of the team and treat them as valuable. Professionally trained and experience people often work differently than perhaps we want them to do, I know I do. And I have to make myself to what is asked sometimes, and not necessarily what I feel ought to be done. Just my thoughts.



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TECHIES CORNER FLAME RETARDANT REVISITED

HEADSET CONVERSATION

Headset voice: Hey, Krazy, what do you think about this theatre business, huh?

KK: It is a daily exercise in futility. Constantly facing nearly insurmountable obstacles all the while headed for an imminent disaster...

Headset voice: Man, why in the world do you do it then?

KK: It generally turns out well in the end... plus it's kinda fun...

FIRE RETARDANT COATINGS- REVISITED

Many, many moons ago I wrote an article about fire and general safety in the theatre. I have recently had some interactions with a few new locales, and was asked how long does fire retardant treating last? The answer can vary. But, first, let's recover quickly the fire safety info.

Nearly all props, costumes, drapes, curtains, drops, etc., are made from flammable materials. Usually wooden sets are built using pine which burns quite quickly and hot. Then they are frequently covered in fabrics, and it is usually a cotton based material, which again burns quickly. Add that to churches where candles are often used in close proximity and the possibility for a fire is ever present.

And, remember, material doesn't have to actually touch fire to burn it just has to be heated to its own individual flashpoint... the point at which ignition occurs. So, prolonged exposure to a 500 watt lamp, at too close a distance and fire may occur. Or someone brushes past a lit candle in a flowing costume which is untreated, and you know the rest.

Because of this the professional theatrical industry, and far too few schools, churches, and community theaters, apply flame retardant materials to their costumes, props, sets, drapes, etc. At least, by law, they are supposed to do so. But again, very few churches or schools do it. They may never have a problem, or they could have a disaster...



FLAME RETARDANT COATINGS

There are many flame retardant coatings out there. Most are water soluble concentrates, which, when diluted to the proper consistency are either sprayed on the materials or the materials are submerged in these retardants for a period of time and then laid out to dry. The problem is, too often, that it is an extra expense, an extra step(s), and therefore extra time. And in costuming it may alter the brightness and even the bounce of some costumes. However, in professional theater and also in many communities it is the law. Fire marshals can enforce it and some may, but insurance will certainly ask questions before covering any fire damages.



Rosco has numerous Flamex coatings available at your theatrical supply house, and there are now inherently flame retardant materials available. **Now, to another question asked of me recently... "Does applying a flame retardant make it flame proof?"**

The answer is absolutely NOT!

Applying flame retardant coatings doesn't mean your object will not burn. As long as the flame or heat source is there, it may and can burn. Flame retardant means that it will not sustain a flame on its own. Remove the source of ignition, and, if the material is properly treated, the flame will go out. That also means there is very little likelihood of spontaneous re-ignition.

PROPERLY TREATED

The best way is immersion, just soaking it in the solution. This is how raw fabrics should be treated, and in professional circles, the material is weighed ahead of treatment and after treatment to assure proper treatment. But, of course, it's kind of hard to soak a huge set piece. Brushing can be done, as can spraying in a Hudson style sprayer (pump up hand sprayer). But remember, you lose an awful lot of solution to the floor in spraying.

After treatment the only way to determine if it is treated properly is to test it. Hold a flame to a lower edge for about 10-20 seconds and then remove the flame. Properly treated and it will go out after a few seconds.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Unfortunately, not long. About a year, maximum. Plus, let's say you have a curtain out front, and the months go by and it actually can accumulate a thin layer of dust, and particularly, sawdust, which could burn. So it pays to vacuum your stage curtains from time to time.

And how many years can you keep recoating? Well, the rule has always been about 10. But it could be as much as 20 years you could keep recoating it. One point of con-



sideration is the relative humidity there, where you are. The coatings are water soluble... so, high humidity and over the months the flame retardant is weakening, and reapplication itself

can take a toll on curtains. Rewetting the fabrics can eventually loosen the weaves, etc. And, also remember that if you dry clean or launder something that is flame retardant, you'll need to recoat it.

Keep safe!! And if you have any questions, just email me.

KK

Here's a brief list of materials and the right Flamex products, on next page.

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RoscoFlamex

Material	C26	S33	W40	P50
Acrylic Fabric	no	Best!!	no	no
Acoustical Board	no	no	Best!!	no
Burlap	Best!!	no	no	no
Canvas	Best!!	no	no	no
Cellulosic Board	no	no	Best!!	no
Cellulosic Material	Okay	no	Best!!	no
Cheesecloth	Okay	Okay	no	no
China Silk	Okay	Okay	no	no
Corrugated Paper	Best!!	no	Best!!	no
Cotton	Best!!	no	no	no
Duvetyne	Best!!	no	no	no
Felt	Okay	Best!!	no	no
Fluorescent Paint	no	no	no	Best!!
Hay	no	no	Best!!	no
Iddings Deep Colors	no	no	no	Best!!
Muslin	Best!!	no	no	no
Nylon	no	Best!!	no	no
Off Broadway Paint	no	no	no	Best!!
Paper	Best!!	no	Okay	no

Plywood	no	no	Best!!	no
Polyester	no	Best!!	no	no
Rayon	no	Best!!	no	no
Scrim	Best!!	no	no	no
Supersaturated RoscoPaint	no	no	no	Best!!
Satin	no	Best!!	no	no
Synthetic Fabrics	no	Best!!	no	no
Velour	Best!!	no	no	no
Velvet*	Best!!	Best!!	no	no
Wood (untreated)	no	no	Best!!	no
Wool	Best!!	Okay	no	no

* Use C26 for natural fiber velvets, or use S33 for synthetic fiber velvets.

For more information about Roscoflamex, visit the Rosco website - www.rosco.com