

THEATRE Safety Success Stories

Selected testimonials from 'Safety First, Last and Always' by Michael Eddy an article featured in the September 2019 Edition of *Stage Directions*.

Fox Theatre, Atlanta GA

"Here at The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, we're a 1929 venue. We were originally built as a performance hall and movie house; we still show movies in the summer. We have three hatches in our InCord orchestra pit net so we can have the Möller pipe organ come up on a lift stage right that can play for movies, and The Atlanta Ballet's productions. We also have an act lift for pianos or performers that is separate—and was used for a new version of The Nutcracker last year, and a conductor lift.

InCord handled the site survey and installation, all of it. Working with InCord was great because I don't know what happened to measuring tools



Fox Theatre, Atlanta

when they built this building in the 1920s, but everything's slightly off here. It was great just having somebody on site to make sure on every measurement of our pit was correct because we're not at all symmetrical around here." - Amy M. Smith, Director of Production, The Fox Theatre, Atlanta

"...probably one of the easiest purchasing decisions I've ever made" - Michael R. Metzdorf



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Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Houston TX

"Here at the Hobby Center, we've had an InCord OPN since August 2015. The purchase was driven by a stagehand, working in our smaller theater, who knew the pit was down, but wasn't paying attention to where he was onstage and fell 12-feet to the pit floor, landing on a music stand and a chair; he was out for six months. It was probably one of the easiest purchasing decisions I've ever made, because there was a definite need.

Since getting the net, we've had two incidents where the net saved people. One was a student accepting an award and another was a lighting designer. If we hadn't had that net, both incidents would have had entirely different outcomes. We have a policy here that the net is in place for anyone who uses the pit."

- Michael R. Metzdorf, Director of Production, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

The Bushnell Center for Performing Arts, Hartford CT



"Here at The Bushnell Center, we've had safety nets from InCord for over 10 years now. In fact, we have all of their products—nets for our pits, catwalk nets, and the Stage Guard nets for our prosceniums to protect our stagehands. We are very safety conscious here. I will say the Stage Guard safety net across the front's a biggie, which we use daily. We keep it in a barrel offstage and it goes up in about a minute. A lot of times we're doing production work when we have to drop our pits and there's a whole crew in here, not just local crew, a road crew as well who don't know the building. Having that up is a great feature to have.

We had people fall in the pit, unfortunately, prior to having these nets up. We have not had anyone —knock on wood—fall since the nets have gone in; they've been a great help and a great deterrent. I would recommend safety nets for any theatre. People just don't watch all the time what's going on and especially when you have a lot of people working in a tight area. It's a good expense to make and you keep your people safe." - Mike Sivo, Technical Director, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts





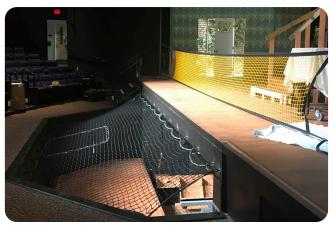


Catwalk Safety Systems Stage Guard

"The InCord product helped save that child." - Darrell Ziegler,

Kahilu Theatre, Waimea HI

"During a kids' theatre camp just this summer, they had a power blackout in the Kahilu Theatre, and before the emergency lights came on, a kid backed up and fell off the stage onto the safety net. This confirmed that this was exactly what the theatre needed, that it's working wonderfully. It's a wonderful product, and everyone at the theatre is so, so happy that they got it.



The InCord product helped save that child. There is no reason whatsoever to not have a pit net. It's relatively inexpensive; it's not really complicated to install. When I was working as a consultant at Westlake Reed Leskosky, all our projects would have an orchestra pit net as part of the building. As I said, I can see no reason for a theatre with an existing orchestra pit to not have one." Ziegler, who has worked with InCord multiple times over the years adds, "The turnaround on making a net is very quick. You can handle the installation locally or InCord will do it. They are a great company to work with and I just think they have a wonderful product."

- Darrell Ziegler, an emeritus theater consultant member of the American Society of Theatre Consultants and now volunteer member of the facilities team at the Kahilu











