BRAVO

to Our Tony Winners & Nominees

DeWitt Stern congratulates our American Theatre Wing Tony-winning clients, the best of the best on Broadway this season.

Act One
Best Scenic Design of a Play

All The Way
Best Play, Best Actor in a Play

Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Best Revival of a Musical, Best Actor in a Musical, Best Featured Actress in a Musical, Best Lighting Design of a Musical

Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill
Best Actress in a Play, Best Sound Design of a Musical

The Bridges of Madison County
Best Original Score, Best Orchestinations

The Signature Theatre - Regional Theatre Award

In a year with many strong contenders, we’re proud of these outstanding clients that also were nominated for Tony Awards:

Bullets Over Broadway  Of Mice and Men
Cabaret  Outside Mullingar
Casa Valentina  The Glass Menagerie
Les Misérables  The Velocity of Autumn
Mothers and Sons  Violet
Machinal

Entertainment & Media News

INSURANCE NEWS

• AICP Week
• Filming with Drones
• Essence Festival
• Tony Award Winners and Nominees
DRONE FILMING
No place for amateurs

A small drone flying above New York skyscrapers spiraled out of control and crashed on a midtown sidewalk during rush hour last year. Luckily, no one was hurt. The video of Manhattan was amazing and included a selfie of the amateur who launched the drone from a high-rise terrace.

Drones, Quadcopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Spidercams — whatever you call them — are increasingly sophisticated tools in the film and media industry for scouting locations, spectacular overhead shots, and much more. Drones are quickly replacing helicopters and cranes at a fraction of the cost, which is especially important for independent film makers with limited budgets.

Drones fall down, crash into property, outrage humans and frighten horses. Much of this is due to “plott error” while handling UAVs’ tricky remote controls in unpredictable winds.

The resulting liability is not automatically included in production insurance packages. However, DeWitt Stern brokers have access to specialized liability insurance for commercial Drone/UAV usage on an annual or per production basis.

The FAA does not have jurisdiction over aerial vehicles that fly below 400 feet and stay three miles away from air traffic control areas. This area is also where most commercial filming takes place — within “line of sight.”

A Federal administrative judge recently nullified FAA regulations banning commercial use of drones. The FAA is appealing. By the end of 2015, the FAA expects to publish comprehensive regulations that encompass training and certification as well as drone airworthiness testing. Their goals are not only safety, but also national security and privacy.

Flying drones for commercial purposes is illegal throughout New York’s five boroughs, Los Angeles and most cities. However, when it is done, check with your broker to make sure your insurance provides coverage.

Commercial production is a $5+ billion industry and AICP (Association of Independent Commercial Producers) members produce about 85 percent of all US commercials. Since its inception over 40 years ago, the AICP has developed essential business guidelines, contracts, and proposals, in addition to providing much needed insurance advice. The AICP also holds educational production training seminars in Los Angeles and New York twice a year and keeps its members informed through the AICP website, its newsletters and blogs.

“Our industry is constantly changing, both driving and reacting to trends in the overall business world,” says Matt Miller, President and CEO of AICP. “Our job is to keep our members properly informed and represented so they can conduct their businesses at optimal performance.”

During this year’s AICP Week, a celebration of advertising creativity which includes the debut of the AICP Next Awards and the premiere of the AICP Show, AICP conducted a Business Affairs Boot Camp. This series of workshops highlighted current issues affecting production companies, including insurance. DeWitt Stern Managing Director Conte Moore, along with Joe Finnegan of ProSight Specialty Insurance and Scott Taylor of Taylor & Taylor Insurance, spoke on a panel moderated by Miller to discuss various issues pertaining to insurance. The topics included wrap-up production insurance, which continues to have problematic application in the real world and causes concern for AICP members.

In addition to the Business Affairs Boot Camp, there were discussions about creativity, digital production and workflow. The AICP Next Awards debuted on June 10th at the NYU Skirball Center and the 23rd annual AICP Show premiered on June 12th at The Museum of Modern Art.

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Photo courtesy of Doug Goodman

Industry Works to Keep Production Insurance Current