Jing Zhao, graduate student in theatre sound design and composition, received the Young Designers Sound Achievement Award from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT).

The USITT's annual award honors the winner's creative application of sound in the performing arts with their submitted work demonstrating the execution of artistic and technical choices, process, and product. In the past year, Jing interned at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Ga., assisting as a sound engineer on productions of Shakespeare in Love and The Dancing Granny. He also worked as a composer and sound designer on Purdue Theatre's production of The Sins of Sor Juana and on the film Her Last Day, produced through the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Jing is the seventh Purdue sound design and audio technology graduate student to win the award since its inception in 1996 – a feat unmatched by any other graduate sound program.

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