# LIGHTING SOUND International



JANET JACKSON IN CONCERT

- Finland: Tampere Hall/Eastway/MS-Audiotron
- L+SI Exclusive on Theatre in Hungary
- Full report and pictures from LDI Orlando
- Hull's Studio Circus
- Ben Duncan on 'Reproduced Sound'
- Janet Jackson and more On Tour

DECEMBER 1990





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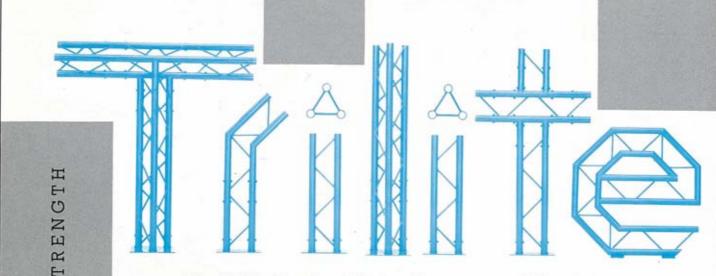
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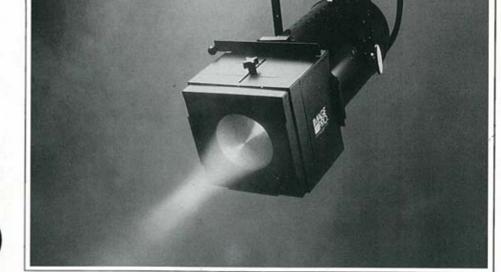
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## LIGHTING SOUND International

published monthly by the Professional Lighting and Sound Association

Copyright Professional Lighting and Sound Association ISSN 0268-742

Editor: John Offord

Assistant: Ruth Rossington

Advertising: Alison Hunt

Published from the PLASA Office:

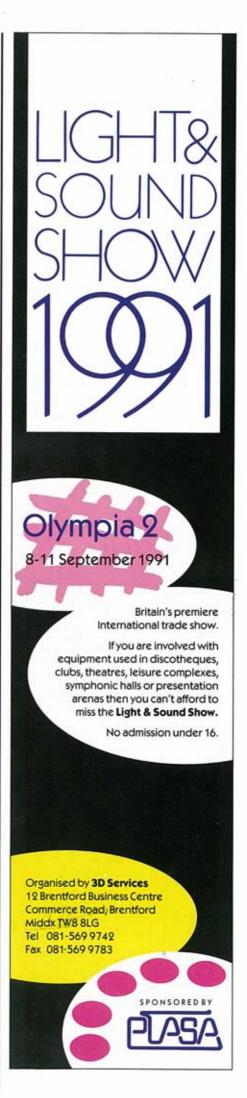
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The magazine is available on annual subscription:

UK: £30.00; Europe and rest of the world £45.00; Airmail £60.00. Single copy price £2.00 plus postage. Editorial Advisors: Tony Akers, David Bearman, Andrew Bridge, Peter Brooks, Jenny Cane, Tim Chapman, Mike Gerrish, Kevin Hopcroft, Tony Kingsley, John Lethbridge, Jain Price-Smith, Neil Rice, Marion Smith. Regular Contributors: Ben Duncan, Catriona Forcer, Tim Frost, Tony Gottelier, Mike Lethby, Graham Walne, Julian Williams.





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We are pleased to have assisted in the creation of this year's Oxford Street Christmas Lights – see page

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## LIGHTING SOUND News

#### PanCommand appoint Jem European Distributor

Jem Theatrical Supplies have announced that they have been appointed as the exclusive European distributor for PanCommand of California. Final agreement on the deal was reached at Lighting Dimensions International at Orlando in November.

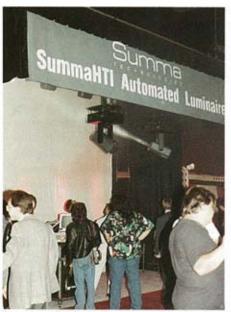
Jem will be responsible for pan-European sales of the PanCommand range consisting of the ColorFader, Color Ranger, CycFader, ParFlector and ColorCue.

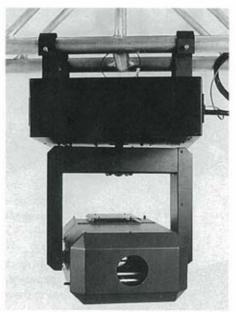
In addition, their top of the line intelligent lighting fixtures, the PC Spot, PC Beam and PC Soft, previously only available for hire through Morpheus in the United States, will be available for sale through Jem Theatrical Supplies. Further PanCommand products are under development for introduction in 1991.

Latest product from Pan Command on show at Orlando was their new XL Ranger, a scrolling colour changer for larger lighting fixtures. This fully digital fixture utilises the same accurate, reliable digital technology used in the ColorRanger, say Pan Command.



PanCommand's Jim Gordon (left) and JEM's Nigel Morris at LDI.





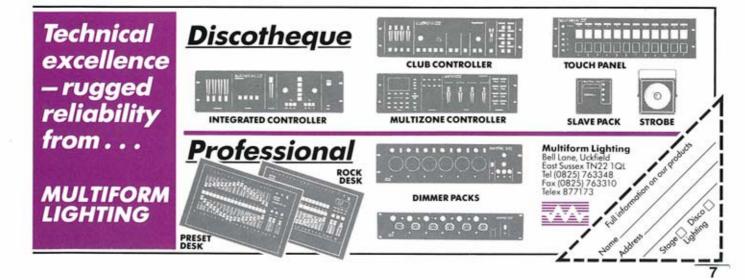
Summa Technologies' stand at LDI, Orlando and close up on their automated luminaire.

#### Celco for Summa

UK-based Celco Ltd and Summa Technologies Inc have announced a joint co-operative venture to distribute the SummaHTI automated luminaire throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. The agreement was reached in November at the Lighting Dimensions International 1990 Trade show in Orlando.

Summa Technologies President Stephan Harper told L+SI: "The SummaHTI is the world's first full function automated luminaire designed exclusively for the USITT DMX512 protocol. Since Celco was already manufacturing their Panorama range of consoles for the integration of conventional lighting and automated instruments it was only natural that Summa team up with Celco.

Keith Dale, Celco's marketing director commented that "we have recognised the requirements for an automated luminaire of this calibre for a long time. After extensive research, we found that the SummaHTI complemented our Panorama range of consoles perfectly. We shall be offering them throughout continental Europe either as a complete package with our dedicated consoles, or as individual units."



#### Why Cerebrum Lighting are

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Cerebrum Lighting are the recognised choice for the discerning trade buyer, with everything you need, from a single gel up to the most complex desks, all available under one roof, sourced from a truly comprehensive range of the most innovative manufacturers around.

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We are the exclusive worldwide distributors for ADVANCED LIGHTING SYSTEMS (Manufacturers of the ENIGMA and ENIGMA Micro), LIGHT & SOUND DESIGN (Manufacturers of lanterns trussing, motor control systems and the COLOURMAG gel scroller range) and POWERDRIVE (Manufacturers of equipment stands, towers and fittings). For these three companies we are authorised to appoint exclusive regional distributors throughout the world.

We also exclusively represent AMPTOWN (Manufacturers of

the POSISPOT moving light system), MA LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY

(Manufacturers of professional lighting control consoles), and SUNN (Manufacturers of MIDI lighting systems) in both the U.K. and certain overseas markets. We are authorised to appoint exclusive regional distributors within certain

In addition, Cerebrum Lighting distribute products from the following manufacturers, worldwide to bonafide trade clients, on a freemarket

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JANDS • JEM SMOKE MACHINE CO. IEM PYROTECHNICS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS LEE FILTERS • LE-MAITRE LIGHTING AND EFFECTS LEMI MUSIC TECHNOLOGY • LIGHT PROCESSOR MODE ELECTRONICS · MULTIFORM LIGHTING OPTIKINETICS • PULSAR LIGHT OF CAMBRIDGE STRAND LIGHTING . JAMES THOMAS ENGINEERING VERLINDE • WHITE LIGHT • ZERO 88 LIGHTING

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Beverley Way, New Malden Surrey KT3 4PT England. Tel. 081-949 3171 Fax. 081-949 3649 **Taking Centre Stage** 

Stage Electrics is one of the largest suppliers of theatrical equipment in the UK. To herald their move to new and larger premises in Bristol, the company recently held a series of open days to demonstrate the range of products and services on offer.

The new premises, just yards from their old ones, set new standards in retail/service provision. The building has been purpose-built to Stage Electrics' own design and features a presentation room where small conferences can be rehearsed, a comprehensive stock of all consumables for the theatre, fully equipped drawing and design rooms, boardroom suites and bedroom and shower areas. All the facilities have been designed to offer a more complete service to the customer.

Represented at the open days, held in November, were several companies with their own personnel on hand to answer queries, and a number of trade stands. Demonstrations of lighting and pyrotechnic effects took place, along with practical workshops on the use of gauze and filters.

#### The Lamp Company

The recently formed Lamp Company specialises in the distribution of all types of light bulbs for use in a wide range of applications across the entertainment industry. Started in June of this year, it would like to develop a dealer network for quality lamp supplies both in the UK and abroad. The company, run by Guy Merchant and Colin Holmes, intend to research into energy saving devices and developing new markets for tungsten halogen lamps and display lighting. For further details contact them in Surrey on (0932) 231010.

#### **Brand Portfolio**

The Wharfedale Group has bought the business and assets of Linx Audio UK from the receiver, completing the Group's portfolio of brands which now spans a well-planned range of quality audio and hi-fi products.

Wharfedale had already acquired the rights to all of Linx's designs and encompassing its full range of hi-fi products - characterised by their combination of quality sound with good design. The production of the range will now be integrated into the Wharfedale premises at St. Ives, where the Cambridge electronics brand is also produced. R&D, admin and sales are being transferred to Wharfedale Group Headquarters in Leeds.

#### The NJD Challenge Shield



The 1990 NJD challenge was recently played at Salford's Albert Park stadium. Teams playing in this year's league included Luton Sound & Light, Jem Smoke Machine Company, Pulsar Lighting, Leamington Sound & Light, Mode Electronics, NJD Electronics and host team Leech Manufacturing.

NJD and Mode battled through to the final, and despite a brave effort by NJD, Mode won the game. Leech succeeded in beating Luton in their third place play off. The presentation (pictured above) was made to the victorious Mode team by NJD's managing director Kevin Hopcroft.

#### **RDE Production Services**

RDE started in the rock 'n' roll industry providing the lighting and touring rigs for the tours that travelled around the country. Recent years have been witness to a period of growth, and headed by Richard Dale, a former lighting designer, the company has now come of age.

The company's portfolio is wide-ranging and includes the provision of sound, lighting, AV, and laser equipment, together with set building and various design services. In the last few years it has handled fashion shows, company product launches and corporate presentations amongst other things. Last year RDE were involved in the Tower Bridge Funday and more recently they designed the Oxford Street Christmas lights, which follow the theme of the 12 days of Christmas.



To heighten their public image, RDE recently held an open evening to remind the industry and related press of the company's activities. The evening started with a champagne reception aboard a boat leaving from Charing Cross Pier and heading down river to Greenwich. After an informal reception at their Lassell Street premises, the night was rounded off with a coach ride back to central London where guests were transferred to an open top bus to view the Oxford Street lights.

#### **New Distributors**

Carlsbro Electronics has appointed More Music in Belgium as its new Benelux distributor of the Carlsbro range of bass, lead and keyboard combos, loudspeaker enclosures, monitors, amps, consoles and full range PA systems. Australian company Freedman Electronics has also joined Carlsbro's roster of international distributors. They too will handle the complete range.

#### Donmar in Tottenham

Donmar of London have just been awarded a £26,000 contract for the supply of stage and lighting equipment for the complete fitting out of the new Tottenham Green Centre.

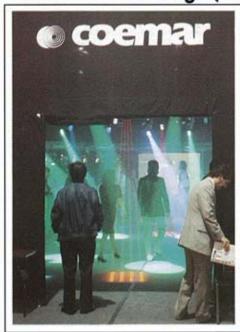
The contract is for Haringey Council whose plans are to make this multimillion pound leisure centre a focus for the community. Currently Donmar are installing stage facilities including 95 metres of Hallstage T60 track together with the drapes. Also to be installed is a 90 sq m stage comprising 30 Steeldeck portable rostra units.

#### **Tokyo Nights**

Juliana's has announced its latest discotheque operation, scheduled to open in Tokyo on May 1st, 1991. With an investment of nearly £4,000,000 and sound, light and video equipment to a value of over £1,000,000, this new club, to be known as Juliana's Tokyo will be one of the most vibrant and exciting new discotheques in Japan.

It will be managed by Juliana's which was acquired earlier this year by Leisure Resources Group Ltd and the operation in Tokyo represents the first of a chain of international clubs to be developed under Juliana's name.

#### L+SI Orlando Coverage (more on 14)



#### Coemar get Stand Award

Coemar's stand at LDI in Orlando last month was placed joint first with the TomCat USA Inc. stand (see Awards list) in the first annual LDI Awards. The huge circular truss was smothered with equipment. literally Highlights on show were the Multi-Tunnel, the Mirage and Atomic. Pictured below (left to right) are Patrick Henry of Futero Cercano, Coemar's US distributors, Coemar boss Bruno Dedoro and Ivano Burato, export sales manager.







#### Coloram from Wybron

Wybron's Coloram will join their now-famous Scroller in January when the first production run comes off the line. Prototype units were at LDI, and Wybron's Bob Gordon reckoned its direct drive system offers many opportunities for better operation. Wybron boss Keny Whitright told L+SI that demand for their products is at such a level that they have had to totally reorganise their production. Pictured above (left) the stand had numerous sizes and samples of Scrollers in working mode. In picture (right) Keny Whitright holds the metalwork of the prototype for ColorMax, circa 1980 and the first of the scrolling colour changers. Coloram is the latest.

US: 010 1 719 548 9774 UK: 0494 446000

#### **PLASA at Orlando**



Anytronic's Bob and Raphael Hall on stand with CCT's Don Hindle (right) PLASA chairman Kevin Hopcroft (right).



demos 'Manufactured in America' equipment.



Zero 88's managing director Peter Brooks (left) with Zero 88 Inc's David Ashcroft.



The Wembley team of Paul Mansfield, Vivian Boyle and boss Paul MacCallum.

#### Protocol Protocol

L+SI's camera shows who's watching who . . .



Andy Meldrum of Vari-Lite (right) on the Avolites stand with Steve Warren and the QM TD console.



David Bertenshaw of Strand Lighting (right) drops in on Celco and Keith Dale (left) and Matt Deakin.

#### First LDI Awards

One of the highlights of LDI 90 in Orlando was the presentation of the first annual LDI Awards for outstanding achievement in the entertainment technology industry. The winners were:

- Product of the Year/Lighting Source: Coherent Laser Group for the Innova 70 Purelight Ion Laser System, the first mixed gas laser specifically designed for the entertainment industry. The PureLight emits red, green and blue light from one tube and simplifies the production of full-colour laser displays.
- Product of the Year/Lighting Control: Kliegl Brothers Universal Electric Stage Lighting Company and inventors Rufus Warren and John Gorman for the K2000 VVO dimmer, the first non-SCR-based solid-state dimmer to be brought to market. The use of high-power MOSFET technology makes possible a dimmer which uses no choke, is shortcircuit proof and has automatic current limiting.
- Designer of the Year/Sound: Jonathan Deans. Since his move to the United States from London, Jonathan Deans has designed sound for productions ranging from Equity-waiver shows to Les Miz and operas with Peter Sellars, and from the Siegfried and Roy extravaganza in Las Vegas to Universal Studios Hollywood.
- · Designer of the Year/Lighting: Daniel Flannery. From his award-winning lighting for the television sitcom Roseanne to lighting the "Kongfrontation" and "E.T." attractions at Universal Studios Florida, Dan Flannery has exhibited a masterful use of both architectural and theatrical lighting in diverse applications.
- · Widget of the Year: Starlift manufactured and distributed by Hoffend and Sons, designed by David Paine of Stardrive Design and Development. The Starlift is a self-erecting tower that cleverly unreels from a portable base as support for lights, trusses and grids.
- · Light Show of the Year: Paul Dodd, designer from Avitec UK, for his outstanding interpretation and the way he brought the product to life in the Elektralite/Celco booth.
- Best Booth Design at LDI90: TomCat, TMB, Skjonberg Controls Booth for creativity, clarity and directness of presentation for their colourful, computer-controlled butterfly; and Coemar/Orion Trading Corp. for their booth design and drew people into a special environment to effectively showcase their products.
- A Lifetime in Light Tharon Musser. A special "Lifetime in Light" Award was presented to Tharon Musser, a distinguished 3-time Tony-Award-winning lighting designer with over 100 Broadway shows to

## **CONTROL BEYOND IMAGINATION**



Imagine a lighting controller that will run Golden Scans, Par Cans, Strobes, Pinspots, tubelights, theatre lanterns, display spots, downlighters, floods, multi-mirror lamps, neon, etc., etc., and produce every effect you could ask for.

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Masterpiece is in a class of its own, the second generation of integrated lighting controllers. It is designed not only to get the best from intelligent lighting, but also to replace a collection of controllers that might previously have been needed for the job. We have tried to include every feature needed in modern light control.

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#### 108 CHANNEL MEMORY LIGHTING DESK

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108 Channels, 216 Scenes of the 108 channel levels with fade in and out times, 54 Scene Chases, 48 Environments of Scenes and Scene Chases, 6 Environment Chases.

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Fully automatic crossfades or manual crossfades using the A and B masters. Fade In and Fade Out time sliders to create/ override the values stored with each scene. Add in any amount of the other 216 scenes at any time. Individual control of the 108 channels always available. Grand Master. Black Out.

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Internal memory non volatile. RAM card for backup, changing shows and transfer between Masterpieces.

Pulsar Modulator's Sound to Light circuits built in, 3 zones of 4 channels, each patchable at any level over the 108 channels.

Using his security code, the 'Programmer' may deny access by the 'Operator' to any touch pad or slider.

•OTHERS: 18 Keyboards of 18 pads, Larch/Flash/Swop/Solo keyboard modes, Sound to Light monitor, Joy stock with position/ velocity, Change security code, Freeze output, Master/Slave desk, Chair section: Manual step find/ney, Super, Super, Rans/reble burst. One shot/repeat, Use scene fide times, copy chase. . . .

#### . . . THE SPECIFICATION *SAYS IT ALL*

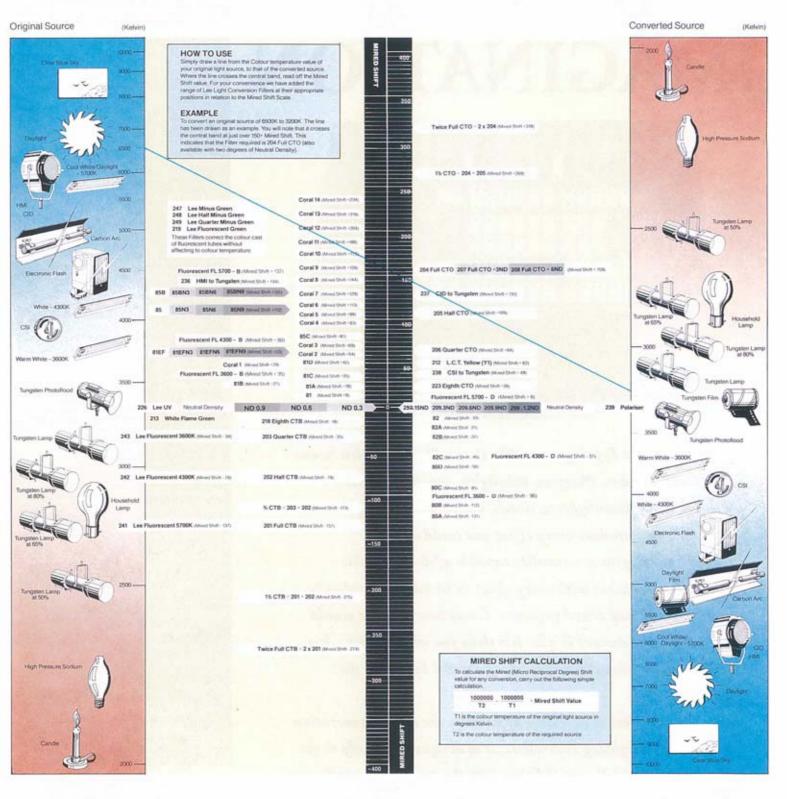
FOR FULL SPECIFICATIONS CONTACT



Pulsar Light of Cambridge Ltd., Henley Road, Cambridge CB1 3EA. Tel: 0223 66798 Fax: 0223 460708

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The first poster in the series – shown on the opposite page – has been designed to provide a simple and instantaneous reference for the calculation of filter requirements when converting from one light source to another.

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#### Hitting the High Spots

This year the Oxford Street illuminations have been produced by using a very special combination of traditional and modern lighting techniques. Lighting Technology working from the initial design concept supplied by Richard Dale of RDE supplied the equipment for the three different aspects of the design (see story page 9).

The centrepiece of the scheme is a series of high level illuminated sign frames depicting the 12 days of Christmas. The light sources for these frames number some 18,000 single 28v 1W aircraft instrument lamps, each one individually hard-wired to flexible twin cable. In contrast the building facades along Oxford Street have been transformed by imaginative floodlighting with alternate green and blue light. This was achieved using specially developed metal halide lamps positioned on the lamp posts along the central reservation in the middle of the street.

Centred around Oxford Circus is the crowning glory of the display. Six individually pre-programmed motorised xenon searchlights are positioned on the rooftops. Their razor like beams slice through the night sky in true 20th Century Fox style.

#### Starlight Express

Starlight Design has just recorded its best months trading ever with a substantial increase in sales on the Starlight range of lighting products. The increase is due in part to a new UK main distributor network that is being set up and also to the substantial leap in export orders to Europe, the Middle and Far East.

Starlight Design's overseas distributors include an importer in Spain, a country which traditionally exports lighting effects. Of particular interest to buyers at the moment is the Cross, Harvesters, Rainbow Gold, Dichroflower and Light Curtains.

As well as the nine new overseas customers already to have placed orders since the Light & Sound Show in September negotiations are also taking place with companies in several other countries.

#### Iraq Update

The traqi authorities last month issued an exit visa to Glantre's contract director, Gareth Davies, who returned to the UK on December 1st. His release was granted largely in recognition of the good relationship that Glantre has always enjoyed with its traqi customers and particularly with the Ministry of Industry.

Six other British staff members of Glantre remain in Iraq — Andy Quin, Alex Lockley, Martin Fitzsimmons, Andy Coulman-Wood, Patrick Read and Bob Roberts — along with 11 of the company's Indian employees. It is hoped that these will be able to depart before too long.

Glantre's Iraqi branch manager, Tony Konnaris who is a Cypriot and 23 Indian personnel have all been granted exit visas

#### Going Independent

After 30 years designing and developing luminaires and studio equipment for Mole Richardson, Berkey Colortran, Strand Lighting and Lee Colortran, Joe Thornley is now working as an independent designer of lighting and associated equipment for theatre, TV and film studios. He can be reached on (0842) 752033.

#### **Australian Venture**

Samuelson Concert Productions Pty Ltd has been purchased back by the management and its original owners — Jands. The company which was part of the UK-based Samuelson Group, is now a wholly Australianowned company and will trade as Jands Production Services Pty Ltd.

Incorporating Vari-Lite Australia Pty Ltd, its operations will remain at the current address of Kent Road, Mascot, Sydney, Australia.

As Australia's largest production organisation, Jands Production Services and Vari-Lite Australia will continue to provide a high standard of sound, lighting and automated lighting equipment including design and production services to the concert, theatre, trade show and convention industry.

#### Light and Sound Expo

The Australian Pro Light and Sound Expo 91 has attracted an international range of manufacturers either exhibiting in their own right, or through their Australasian representatives. With many other manufacturers and agencies interested, the 5,000 sq m of the You Yangs and Carryong Exhibition halls at the newly opened World Congress centre in Melbourne will be full to capacity.

Several international guest speakers will deliver seminars and keynote speeches including Francis Reid. Sponsorship and discounted rates for delegates have been agreed with Australian Airlines and Avis.

User groups holding meetings in conjunction with the Expo include the Confederation of Australasian Art Centres technical managers, New Zealanad Association of Theatre Technicians and NARCARP technical managers. For further information contact Paul Chappell in Australia on (61) 8 296 4189.

#### **Direct Approach to Lasers**

Maurice Perry, formerly of Laser Creations, and Mike Yarranton, formerly of the London Laser Company, have pooled their resources and experience to form Direct Lasers Ltd. Based in Tolworth, Surrey, it is geared to supply and serve all the laser needs of the advertising, marketing, conference, product launch, exhibition and discotheque industries.

The company will supply a complete range of lasers and scanning equipment for various applications. Full technical support will be given by a trained team fully conversant with the design and creativity aspects of laser productions to the highest standards. For further details contact Direct Lasers on 081-399 1754.

#### Amber Lighting

Paul Stewart the man behind the image and promotion of Abstract Design to Light has now left the company due to what he refers to as 'internal differences'.

Stewart, a founder member of the company told L+SI that he was not happy with the direction Abstract was moving and decided that it was time to leave. He has now started a new company manufacturing products at the lower end of the market and making prototypes and special units for installation companies and exclusive items for retail outlets. He can be contacted in Leicester on (0533) 825520.

#### Lighting Dimensions International: Massed Start



Early on a damp Florida morning during LDI 90 in Orlando, Pat MacKay of LDI gets set to lead off a massed start for the Golf Competiton.

#### L+SI Orlando Coverage (more on pages 38 to 48)



Elektralite UK/US line-up: (left to right) Keith Dale (Celco), Mike Wood (JEM), Norman Wright (Klark-Teknik), Jon Petts (JEM), Paul Dodd (Avitec), Chrissy Reichenbach (Celco Elektralite), Neil Rice (Optikinetics), Vinny Finnegan (Elektralite), Graham Norman (Rossula), Jack Kelly (Elektralite).

#### **Elaktralite Go For Superdisco**

European Super disco stands were the inspiration behind the Elektralite/Celco presentation at LDI. Half of the 2,500 sq.ft. space was allocated to participating manufacturer's displays, and the other half encompassing a 24ft high product demonstration/lightshow area. The whole construction was from Trilite.

Companies represented were Optikinetics with Trilite, strobes, Strobeflowers, Quasars and Solar 250s; JEM had a complete range of fog and Heavy Fog machines plus a display of their new pyrotechnic systems; Avitec had their British manufactured Light Mover; Lynx had Synchropins, Tubes and their 100SX high power spot; Light Processor displayed their new Q12 desk and LP434 touch sensors, and these, together with a range of their power packs were used to operate the lightshows.

There's more. Sapro from France had their new Syncotron 800, Epsoms and Lightbeam 250s; Celco, with their own selection of the stand had a range of their latest desks including the new Panorama board.

The stand design and light shows were down to Paul Dodd of Avitec, and for his trouble he won an award, for Light Show of the Year.



Award winner Paul Dodd of Avitec explains how it's done.



Wally Russell gets Vari-Lite talk from Brian Croft.



Andrea Tawil of The Great American Market with Carol Dodds of C.osmos.is and Jo-Anna Kamorin-Lloyd of A1 Audio & Lighting (Australia).

#### Around and About at LDI



Bill Groener and Tom Sullivan of Strand Lighting.



Ron Bourque of Global Future Technologies with David Keene of Lightwave Research.



Freddy Lloyd of Zero 88 with Wybron's Bob Gordon.



Norman Wright of Klark-Teknik with the Celco Panorama 60.



#### **Global Future Technologies**

Pictured above is the Enigma from Advanced Lighting Systems of Edinburgh on the stand of Global Future Technologies, and fresh from its award winning appearance at the PLASA Light and Sound Show in London.



A Le Maitre line-up of Rick Wilson (left) and Anna Sassi and Mick McManus (right) with Global Future directors Jane and Ron Bourque.

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#### **TAMPERE HALL**

#### John Offord attends the International Inaugural concert

Tampere, Finland's second city, makes the claim that the main auditorium in its newly opened complex can be counted as one of the great concert halls of the world. Well, there are numerous excellent concert halls scattered liberally around the globe, and yet another opens in Birmingham (UK) in April within the massive ICC complex. I've no doubt similar claims will be made for that, and from a first look very justifably so.

But . . . Tampere's new hall did get a massive pat on the back when I was there. It came during a special dinner held after the evening's concert and in the form of a full-bodied embrace from the maestro himself, Russian 'cellist Mstislav Rostropovich for the architect in charge of the acoustics, Alpo Halme. Now such unannounced, unplanned and unihibited praise does make you take the claim more seriously . . .

Tampere is often referred to as the Manchester of Finland. It has a population of 170,000, and for a city of this size to build a complex of this magnitude has taken a great deal of courage and faith in the future. For its money (£45m), the city has gained a complex that has three auditoria of different sizes: the main auditorium, a small auditorium and a studio rehearsal hall — as well as many multi-purpose seminar and function rooms and other facilities. There is also a major exhibition hall.

The main auditorium seats 1,806 for concert performances and up to 2,000 for conferences. The size, shape, surface coverings and adjustable acoustics enable it to be used for performance of concerts, choral works and opera in addition to conferences.

The small auditorium has been planned especially for chamber music, but it is also suitable for meetings and small scale functions. There are seats for 489 at concerts and the reverberation time can be adjusted by changing the position of panels in the ceiling.

Primarily designed as a rehearsal room, the Studio can be used as a recording room, music laboratory or as a meeting room for conferences. It can seat 170 to 230 people depending on the type of event. Again, you can change the reverberation: from almost reverberation-less sound to a church-like response.

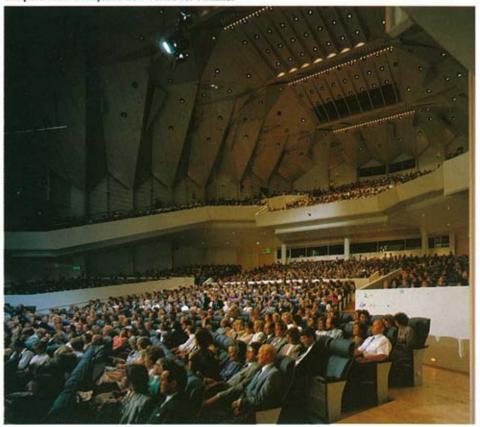
Acoustical consultant and architect Alpo Halme has been involved with the Tampere



Rostropovich congratulates Alpo Halme.



Tampere Hall: a majestic new venue for Finland.







Tampere Hall by night and day. The complex includes three venues, numerous function rooms and an exhibition hall.

project from the beginning, and acoustics have been taken into full consideration at every stage of the building's development.

The techniques used in the design are based on the situation of the various venues and some typical constructional solutions. In order to cut the framework sound propagation and simultaneously prevent a sideways transition of the airborne sound, the building has been divided with technical sound 'seams'. Each hall forms a unit of its own in the framework of the building.

The prevention of noise transition through air is based primarily on massive concrete constructions that are also load-bearing, and the noise insulation in the rehearsal rooms has been further improved by using the so called 'room-in-room' technique where they are separately built on a 'floating' floor. "This method of construction has been common in our studio buildings since the late 1960's" explained Alpo Halme, "and it has been used in several venues designed by us."

A speciality of the main concert hall is its versatility. The hall is designed very largely — volume, size, upholstery, etc. — to the demands of music alone, with a reverberation time of 2.2 seconds, and the shaping of the sidewalls enhance side reflections beneficial to music.

However, it has to be used as a multi-

purpose venue, and situated in guides in the walls and ceilings there are sliding components that can be moved to the top of the hall, and behind reside noise absorbant surfaces.

Using this method the reverberation time can be reduced to approximately 1.5 seconds for meetings.

The studio/chamber music hall's reverberation time set to 'music mode' is about 1.6 seconds, but with adjustable ceiling upholstery it can be reduced to 1.4. The rehearsal room auditorium is movable and the the wall situations can be changed giving a very flexible reverberation range between 0.6 and 2 seconds, and depending on the number in the audience.

MS-Audiotron of Helsinki (see separate feature) was awarded the contract to manufacture and install one if its large MCA-Multimix computer controlled audio mixing systems for the concert hall. The main control room consists of an MCA Combo including computer terminal and additional remote terminal, MCA controlled 16 in/40 out line and speaker level switching matrix and a 40/16/2 Multimix sound reinforcement console which is connected to the MCA via bus outputs. Four other custom Multimix consoles were supplied for other sound reinforcement purposes thoughout the complex.

The design and manufacturing of the system was customised to a large extent to meet the specifications and features required by the Tampere Hall sound engineers, and the system is one of the largest of its kind in Finland. (A list of other sound equipment is given at the end of this article).

Lighting control for the concert hall is in the hands of a Finnish-manufactured Helvar Macro II, and this takes care of 278 2.2k, 60 5.5k and 12 11k channels. Three small Helvar Pico control boards are part of the 'stock' — one each for the Studio and small auditorium, with the third acting as a spare.

Luminaires are Pani and CCT. Panis look after most of the over stage lighting whilst the CCT equipment takes care of the front of house, located in neat and almost invisible slots in the auditorium ceiling. Cyc lights are Strand Iris 4s. The majority of lighting gear is interchangeable throughout the venues and there is a considerable pool of equipment, including a total of 95 CCT and well over 100 Pani instruments.

Follow spots are Pani 2500s with manual colour change, and the hall also boasts two Pani BP1.2 HMI projectors and one Pani BP6 Gold. Other equipment includes four Foudre 3 strobes from J. Collyns of France, a stock of Pani low voltage lighting and 15 Svobodas for light curtains.

The local company of TFP Markinnointi



The concert hall stage.



Projection-lit exterior for the international inaugural concert: lighting designer Juha-Pekka Tamminen.



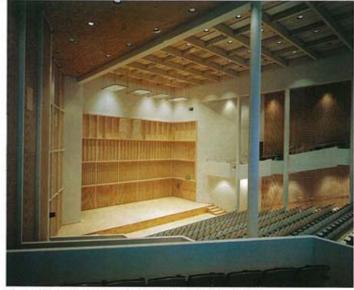
The studio: awaiting a performance.

supplied the CCT lanterns together with Rosco colour, gobos and smoke machines (1 x 1500, 1 × 4500). The various adjustable platforms used throughout the venues were also supplied and assembled by TFP.

To attract incoming touring shows, the technical department is currently in the process of purchasing a stock of specialist equipment. 180 1000W Tomcat Parcans have already found their way to the Tampere (again through TFP), and a Celco control system looks like joining them in the future.

The management of the Tampere Hall complex is determined to use all the facilities at their disposal, but they will have to promote very heavily — both to their local polulation and the outside world — to attract both the shows and events and audiences they will need. The city is endeavouring to bring in international conferences and is already having some success in this area. They hope, too, that major international entertainment attractions will put the venue on the regular tour sheets.

It will be difficult, and regular injections of subsidy, in one form or another, will no doubt be needed. One thing is for sure. There is no shortage of technical, management and artistic ability 'on tap' at Tampere. And they have a truly magnificent building in which to work their wiles of promotion and presentation.



The small auditorium - designed for chamber music.



Lighting positions, side stage.



Stage machinery control desk.



A Helvor Pico control board in the studio control room.



The small auditorium control room.

TAMPERE HALL

Technical Department

Technical manager: Raimo Putkonen

Stage manager: Kari Putkonen

Lighting designers:

Marko Koivisto Juha-Pekka Tamminen Jyri Tervakangas

Reima Rajala Sound designers:

Iuhani Laine

Heikki Lehtonen

Hannu Mäki-Laurila

Juha Sirén

Harri Valoma

Architects

Sakari Aartelo Esa Piironen

Alpo Halme (acoustics)

Sound Equipment

(not already mentioned in article)

PA System: Martin LE400 wedge monitors, Genelec 1018 (50W) active hot spots, Genelec 1072 (300W) sidefills (RCF 15" + JBL horn driver), 5 × Yamaha Q 2031 dual 32 band graphic EQs.

Effects and Processors: 4 × Symetrix 525 comp/lim/gate, 3 × Yamaha SPX 1000, Lexicon PCM 70, TC Electronics 2290 delay, AKG ADR 68k digital reverb and effects processor, 2 × Art PD3 line delay.

**Recording Equipment:** 2 × Studer A810 multitrack, 1 × Revox C270, 1 × Denon DR M-34HX, 1 × Otari 16 track MX80.

Microphones: 8 × Shure SM58, 6 × Shure SM59, 10 × AKG C414 B-ULS, 2 × Bruel & Kjaer Y011 and 2 × Y006, 8 × C-Ducer, 8 x Sennheiser MD421, 12 × Sennheiser MD441, 6 x AKG C568EB, 7 × Countryman D1-box, 6 x AKG C451/CK1.



The Helvor Macro II in the Concert Hall lighting control room.



Mr Morelli, technician for MS-Audiotron responsible for installation and training.

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#### MATTI AND THE MULTIMIX

#### John Offord talked to Matti Sarapaltio of MS-Audiotron

MS-Audiotron president and sole owner Matti Sarapaltio — yes, you'll have recognised him from his frequent appearances at international trade shows — has been 'in the business' for 25 years. A professional saxophonist in his early days, he started a small workshop, built a few cabinets and did a few rentals.

In 1973 he started MS-Audiotron and began visiting exhibitions around the world. It gave him a head start and in the following years he scooped up most of the big names in the manufacture of sound and lighting equipment as their exclusive distributor in Finland. He nows runs a company that employs 60 people and has a turnover of 50m Finmarks (about £7m). His distributor list is far, far too long to print here.

Matti Sarapaltio has a fine line in blunt super-slang Anglo-American superlatives and expletives that are totally unprintable. Certainly he leaves you in no doubt as to meaning.

But his heart is in the industry, and his language is much more considered and eloquent when he talks about the music business and the way it performs. A man who grew up with the jazz festivals of the early sixties, he feels he has to keep emphasising the fact that everything isn't rock and roll. "I try to teach my staff this," he told me.

"The improvement in equipment has been due to demand from the bands," he continued. "Small mixers, 8-12 channels, bigger cabinets, power amps and monitors — all these were new. The musicians demanded it and it was fun; a pioneering age and a lot of work."

On his way through the sixties Matti Sarapaltio spent time in broadcasting and five years on studio work. "But with no mutli-tracks," he emphasised. "Nowadays you can multiply the dB level by 10 very easily, and I think it's down to the crazy sound people, not the artistes.

"Now, the touring money, on sound, lighting and staging — there's plenty of it, but I have to ask where the music is? The equipment has become better and better, but the output worse and worse in many ways. The range is not there. Too much equipment development has gone ahead of the people who are using it and their touring."

He has a different and better view of the industry in general and the companies in it. "We are now much more open-minded and people are talking to each other. Competition is much more open now," he said.

For many years Finland had been one of the few routes of selling equipment to the USSR, so I asked Matti about the current situation, following all the recent changes. "We have done some good work there, often through Finnish contractors. We've recently started advertising, but let's wait and see. It's all a sad song; they are so broke. Maybe Charles Darwin should be



Matti Sarapaltio: a pro-European view.

listened to more closely.

"The biggest problem in the USSR is their expectation of a Western standard of living coupled with the Russian attitude to work. They are scared now they are in the open. And along with that everything is corrupt. The route through is always diverse — under the table or round the corner. So we have a black market and now the mafia."

I asked about the world market for equipment. "I feel very pro-European," he said. "We Europeans should look much more closely at what the Americans and Japanese are doing."

Matti Sarapaltio was 50 in November and has gone back to playing the saxophone. In 1991 he plans a change in the structure of his business. One thing is certain. Unless I'm very mistaken his knowledge and nous will keep him and MS-Audiotron at the leading-edge for a long time into the future.

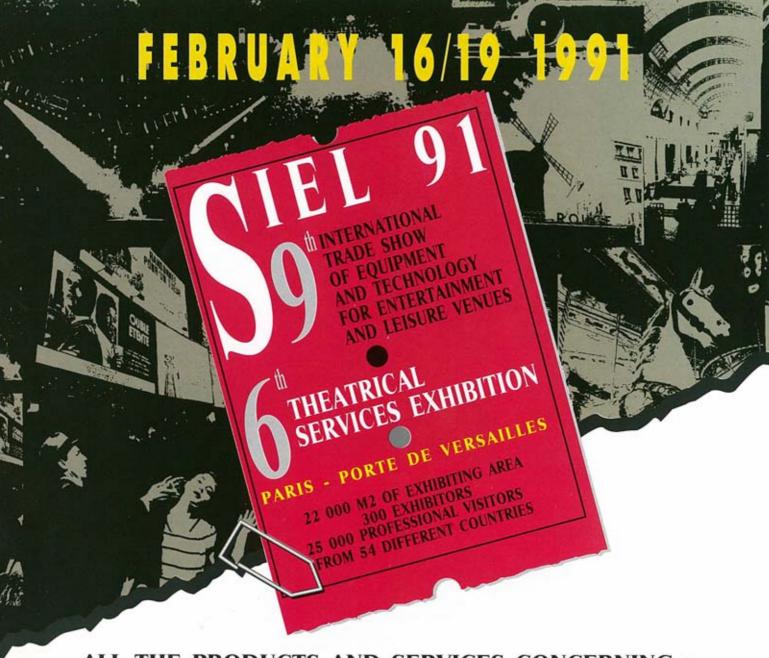
#### MCA-Multimix

MS-Audiotron has recently undertaken several R&D projects and now manufactures hi-end audio products of its own. The Simultimix console is for applications where simultaneous multitrack recording and broadcasting/PA is required, for example OB vans. Of more interest to L+SI readers is the Multimix modular console for sound reinforcement and the MCA computer controlled console dedicated to live theatre sound and similar applications where complex multi-channel sound is required, and as installed in the Tampere Hall (see feature).

The MCA system is capable of



MS-Audiotron MCA Multimix system at Tampere Hall.



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16-video studio
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19-press 1-local authority 10-radio 11-retailer 12-concert hall 13-multipurpose hall

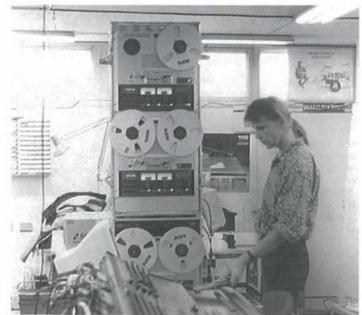
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matrix. Up to 100 speaker channels can be controlled.

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Programmable digital fader to determine and memorise output level of all speakers. This feature, coupled with auto pan, enables the sound engineer to create moving or static sound fields, e.g. approaching thunder storm with a circulating helicopter and explosions etc. surrounding the audience.

A monitor with keyboard is supplied for visual information on cues, input and speaker routing, etc.

Also available is a remote terminal which enables the sound engineer to cue and make changes to the programs from the audience area. This enables far more accurate monitoring of the real situation.

"The MCA allows the sound engineer to step through cues with a production and can concentrate on the finer aspects of mixing instead of frantically searching for correct effects, patchbay connections, volumes, and so on," stated Matti Sarapaltio.

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#### **EASTWAY SHOW SERVICES**

#### John Offord visits Finland's front runners

Finland's leading operator in concert and event production is now Eastway Show Services of Helsinki, a company that has expanded by both natural growth and acquisition.

Brothers Juha (managing director) and Jyrki Hytti (technical director) started in business with sound equipment hire and supply in 1981, moving into lighting in 1988 when they purchased the stock of Bill Daley Oy when that company closed operations. In 1989 they incorporated Ekku Peltomaki Oy and reached their now pre-eminent position in Finland, and possibly the whole of Scandinavia as a result.

Trade shows and presentations of various types account for around two-thirds of the company's activity and turnover, with the rest coming from a mix of TV work, live concerts, displays and so on. There is also some equipment sale, more of which later.

With its roots in sound, it is no surprise that Eastway has a comprehensive stock, and this is built around 'system' use. They have four main systems: an active 100,000W continuous power 4-way PA system, a 45,000W continuous power 3-way system, an active 15,000W continuous power monitoring system, and a 12,000W continuous power monitoring system.

Speakers are largely JBL and Electro-Voice and mixers DDA, TAC, Yamaha and Soundcraft, Mics include Shure, EV, Sennheiser and AKG, and processing equipment covers a range of most of the well known names.

Their lighting stock follows the same kind of international line-up. Control includes Celco, ETC, GAM, Avolites, Amptown and Zero 88 equipment. Lanterns include Thomas, ADB, CCT, Arri, etc. with Lycian, Pani and Strong follow spots. Trussing and pre-rigged truss is Thomas plus some Astralite, and they hold a complete Thomas ground support system with Verlinde chain hoists and Avo controllers. Curtains and back-drops are available too. For the flashy stuff they have Sky Trackers, Color Rays and Moto Arcs and more.

Following the joining of forces with Ekku Peltomäki Oy last year, Ekku Peltomäki himself is



Sibelius Park: LD: Ekku Peltomäki.



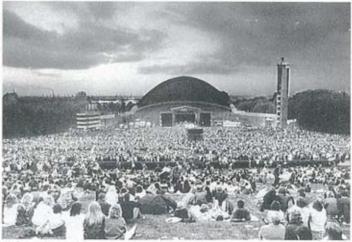
Managing director Juha Hytti (left) and technical director Jyrki Hytti.



Part of Eastway's 25 strong team pictured in the lighting warehouse.



Famous facade: Helsinki gets light out treatment from Ekku Peltomäki.



Light and sound for a concert at Tallin, Estonia.



This complete 'space station' was designed and produced by Eastway for IBM at their Helsinki HQ in February 1990. LD: Ekku Peltomäki.



An Eastway production for an anniversary party for Hakanit cosmetics took place in an old cable factory in Helsinki. LD: Vallu Syrjänen.

now art director for Eastway, giving an artistic dimension to the company's range of services as well as increasing its international experience. Peltomāki has a long list of lighting design credits to his name, some of which have been featured in previous issues of L+SI including the design for 'Cats' in Helsinki and his work as light artist at the underground arts centre at Retretti. At a young 40-something he adds a considerable amount of experience to the 25-strong Eastway team whose average age is just 27.

So, having set themselves up very neatly in all aspects of production, the company is quite naturally looking at sales as another area of growth. They are already exclusive Finnish distributors for Great American Market, Thomas and SkyTracker of America and also supply most international product lines, but under sales manager Olli-Pekka Kollia (also previously with Ekku Peltomāki) plan to push more heavily into sales and offer the 'total' facility of design, production, hire, sales and service to their clients

As Kollia told L+SI: "Eastway is now the leading staging and production company in Scandinavia and has the ability to offer a complete service, from design right through production and hire to sales and after-sales service and maintenance. And we have an excellent team for the job with all the necessary skills and enthusiasm.



Ekku Peltomäki.



Olli-Pekka Kallio.



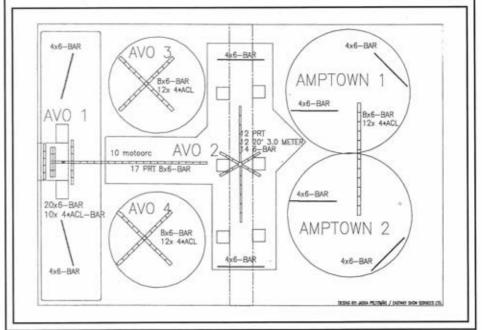
Designed by Jaska Peltomäki, this Coca-Cola sponsored discotheque was produced by Eastway for SVUL (athletics association).

#### Equipment:

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- 1 × 10-ch motor control
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- 28 × 20' truss 3.0m 30 × 12' truss 3.0m
- 1 × pre-rigged 6-way 5 × 20' 4-way

- 1 × pre-rigged 4-way
- 6 × 20' hinge
- 1 × pre-rigged hinge
- 1 × pre-rigged/20' adaptor
- 8 × outrigger
- 2 × Avolites 72
- 2 × Amptown 36
- 2 × Avolites 30 2 × Celco 60 Major
- 2 × Celco 30 Major
- 98 × 6-bar Par 64

- 46 × 4\*ACL-bar
- 42 × Par 64 CP60
- 12 × Raylite
- 12 × MotoArc
- 2 × Pani followspot
- 2 × Orbiter followspot 4 × followspot chair
- 6 × ClearCom
- 20 × 8\*ACL-bar
- 5 × smoke machine LTM
- 5 × wind machine LTM



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#### THEATRE IN HUNGARY

#### by Mihály Vargha

#### Special L+SI feature compiled by John Offord

Exactly two hundred years has passed since the first professional Hungarian theatre company gave its opening performance on the 25th of October, 1790 in the castle Theatre in Buda. A recent meeting of the International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians (OISTAT) Publication and Information Exchange Commission held in Budapest and other venues throughout the country gave L+SI a chance to visit five major theatres and the State Opera House in Budapest. We asked architect and theatre consultant Mihály Vargha to set the scene on the occasion of this bi-centenary.

"Over the past two hundred years there have been few occasions for 'overseas' Europeans and the rest of the world to get acquainted with the best productions of Hungarian theatres, and our past 40 years have been especially unsuitable for advertising our cultural merits in spite of the world-wide development of the information society around us.

"The ice was broken last year when Hungarian cultural weeks were organised in the Barbican Centre in London, but I understand that this event made less impact than was hoped for by our press and TV commentators. Hungarian theatre life might be virtually unknown but I am sure our film industry is known in Great Britain as it is generally well-known in the western part of the world. And this fact may well be a good start towards theatre as the following passage from a recently published book suggests: 'Almost all the leading roles in the productions at the top theatres, such as the Katons József, were taken by actors and actresses who were also Hungary's most popular film stars. There was no evidence of the division of talent between film and theatre common in Western Europe. In a small country, versatility is de rigeur.' (Stephen Brook: The Double Eagle, Picador 1989).

"It's interesting to note that the Katona József Theatre was mentioned as an example where the author had seen two performances: Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' and Harold Pinter's 'A Kind of Alaska'. Many people are of the opinion that it is one of the best theatre companies in Hungary, and they have made several successful tours abroad and have been members of Strehler's Europe Theatre since 1989. Their latest premiere of Chekhov's Platonov took place in Paris in the Spring of 1990.

#### What's On

Leafing through the weekly magazine of cultural information about Budapest, Pesti Müsor, Stephen Brook was surprised to see how many of Shakespeare's plays were running in Budapest theatres. According to an old Hungarian joke, Shakespeare is the best Hungarian dramatist! Many of his plays were excellently translated into Hungarian in the last century but his popularity had been established earlier through German trans-



Mihály Vargha, the author of this article, is an architect and theatre consultant, beginning his work in theatre technology in 1979. He soon became assistant editor of Szinhaztechnikai Forum (Hungarian Review of Theatre Technology), and at the same time produced technical plans for the reconstruction of various theatres and cultural centres. From 1986 he has been the editor of Magyar Epitomuveszet (Hungarian Architecture) and is currently acting editor. In 1989 he was technical consultant for the second place prize in the competition for Budapest's new National Theatre.

lations. Hungary had been under Habsburg rule for a long period so the language of the theatres at the turn of the century was German.

"To counterbalance this influence, and to start the development of Hungarian theatre was the aim which brought our first national theatre company into being two hundred years ago. But this company, owing to the lack of a permanent building and financial aid, couldn't take root and 50 years had to pass until the first Budapest theatre performing in Hungarian opened in 1837. In this building of acceptable but not too original architectural quality, both plays and operas were performed, and the first attempts to write plays and operas in

There are two main legacies handed down from the former communist government of Hungary: one major asset, one major problem. The assets are in real estate and people. An excellent structure of theatres has been set up right across the country, with the majority of major venues having received considerable rebuilding and renovation programmes through the eighties. And they have the technical staff, management and acting companies to go with them.

On the debit side there is the tremendous problem of how to fund operations that up to now have relied on state subsidy of around 90%. With ticket prices at under £1.00, attendances have been good, but box office income accounts for only 10% of the necessary funds. In addition the staff numbers, both technical and acting, are large by Western standards.

As Hungary's economy moves into a marketbased system, there will be a difficult period of change ahead. Ticket prices will have to rise, and the timing and pacing of change will have to be delicately handled.

The outlook has to be good, with a period of at least unsettled weather, possibly stormy, in between. Hungarian can also be ascribed to this period.

"József Katona, whose name was taken up by the successful company, was one of our first important dramatists, and a few decades later Imre Madách, author of 'The Tragedy of Man' won international fame for Hungarian drama though mostly among the professionals and to a lesser extent among the public. The play itself was produced first in 1883.

"In the second half of the 19th century, coinciding with the boom of theatre building in Europe, several theatres were built in Hungary. The starting point of this period was the Hungarian-Austrian compromise of 1867 and it ended in 1914, at the beginning of the First World War. (This interval can be clearly followed in the data of the theatres presented in accompanying tables). Pest and Buda were united in 1873 and the first theatre opened in 1875 which was the Népszinház (Popular Theatre) built by the Austrian company Fellner and Helmer which built more than 50 theatres all over Europe in the following decades.

"It's a great shame that this theatre and the first Pest theatre built in 1837 couldn't be included in the tables but they have been demolished. I'm sorry not only for the loss of the buildings themselves but also for their historic importance, as they became the first National Theatres in Budapest (the old one between 1840 and 1908, the Népszinház from 1908 till 1964).

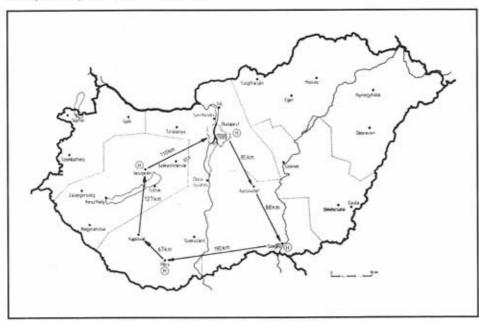
"The building which houses the National Theatre today was built at the turn of the century and totally reconstructed in the early 1960s. Several attempts to build a 'real' National Theatre, have been made but none has been successful so far. Six design competitions have taken place this century and it gives little comfort that it also took a long time to build the National Theatre of London, especially if we count it from the birth of the British theatre! So I hope we won't have to wait for another two hundred years in Budapest. But there's one thing I'm sure of: we mustn't again fall into the error of wanting to build a grandiose theatre with a huge stage-system as the former regime did.

"The 'Opera', designed by Miklós Ybl, opened in 1884 and was a much more successful building. It has remained the glittering jewel among the Hungarian theatres ever since. It was one of the most up-to-date buildings of its age, and the first to have understage machinery and flying system operated by water-hydraulics. It was the last theatre to use this invention of the Viennese Asphaleia company. The stage lifts, which had been out of use for many years were started once again for the last time in 1981 when the reconstruction of the building began. Later they were changed for a new electro-mechanical system of East German manufacture following a 'political decision at high level'. In fact it was the cheapest on the market. Since then Sziki, the leading Hungarian staging and engineering company, has worked on the gradual replacement of

The most delicately beautiful of the theatres visited in Hungary, the Katona József Theatre (above and right) in Kecskemet was originally opened in 1896 with an auditorium capacity of 943. It has had a permanent company since the fifties and various renovations with a major reconstruction in 1986-1987 under architects Gábor Farkas and Pál Boros. Consultants for the project were Tónus GM (Judit Csanadi, Sándor Máté and Mihály Vargha). The theatre now seats 596 and was re-opened on December 18, 1987. It has a revolving stage.



The OISTAT/PIEC group pictured at the State Opera House in Budapest. Representatives came from Chile, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.



Map showing location of theatres visited during the OISTAT/PIEC tour.

#### KECSKEMET:

Katona József Theatre



The auditorium, showing Tungsram/Pani lighting instruments.





Lighting and sound control at the Katona József Theatre.

the controlling mechanism every summer and we are hoping for reliable machinery very soon!

"The period between the two world wars didn't produce much in the field of building but it brought a great deal of achievement in Hungarian theatre life. Apart from the two state-owned theatres (the National Theatre and the Opera) several private companies appeared both in the capital and across the country. Cabaret venues and music-halls opened - and closed - mostly in Budapest. Of course, this didn't mean it was an exciting era free from worry; it's enough to remember the world-wide economic crisis of the 1930s and the catastrophic peace treaty of Trianon, in consequence of which twothirds of the Hungarian territory was annexed to other countries with one-third of the Hungarian population becoming an ethnic minority within new boundaries.

"The contradictory influences of these

years are proved by the great number of artists and scientists who emigrated from Hungary, the internationally famous dramatist Ferenc Molnár among them.

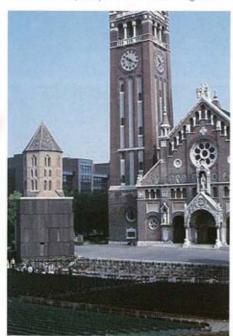
#### Decades in the Eastern Bloc

"The achievement of the period between the two world wars — though it wasn't unclouded — came in very useful for the people's democracy proclaimed in 1948. The new regime nationalised all private theatres and the artistic management of the state-owned ones as well. The extremities, considered improper by the authorities, were 'clipped away' and a centrally directed 'socialist-realistic' style of art was soon introduced. The Kádár-regime first only slackened this rein a little but in its last years it simply gave up all kinds of artistic control. And this is where we are now . . .

#### The Buildings

"But let us return to the subject of the theatre venues. In the last 40 years only two new theatres have been built in Hungary — in Györ and in Mátészalka — but a lot of other events have taken place. Several theatres have been reconstructed or modernised and this process has gathered speed in the last five years. The theatres of Szeged, Kecskemét, Kaposvár, Veszprém and two theatres in Budapest, the Játékszin and the József Attila Theatre, were completed and the reconstruction of the theatres in Pécs and Szolnok and that of the Arany János Theatre in Budapest has almost been finished.

"And we mustn't forget about the cultural centres either. Most of them are suitable for taking in productions of travelling companies, and some of them located in the bigger towns can house temporarily a permanent company too, where the theatre is being re-built. The cultural departments placed a great emphasis on building such centres all over the country between the fifties and seventies. In the 22 districts of Budapest 24 such cultural centres can be found and about two-thirds of them can be used for theatrical performances. But it's a pity that few of these buildings have architectural quality worth mentioning. Some



Pictured above is part of the massive open air theatre at Szeged.

#### **SZEGED:** National Theatre





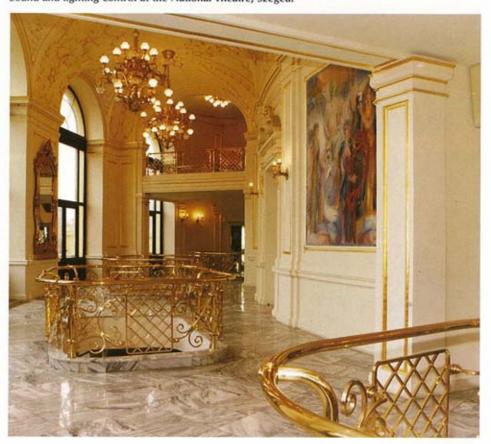
The National Theatre at Szeged has had a chequered history. From 1800-1847 there was a theatre-hall in the town hall and then a summer theatre (1856) later re-built for winter use. Destroyed by a great flood in 1879 the reconstruction of the town dictated the building of a new theatre.

The theatre now standing opened in 1882 (architects Ferdinand Fellner and Hermann Helmer) but it suffered a fire and was rebuilt soon after with insurance funds, eventually re-opening in 1886 with an audience capacity of 1018. It was reconstructed in 1948-49 with a major overall reconstruction from 1978-1986. It now seats 856. Architect for the latest reconstruction was Márton Maár with theatre technology from Szinháztechnika Kisszövetkezet (Sziki). The front of house facilities, in marble, brass and gilt are of special note.

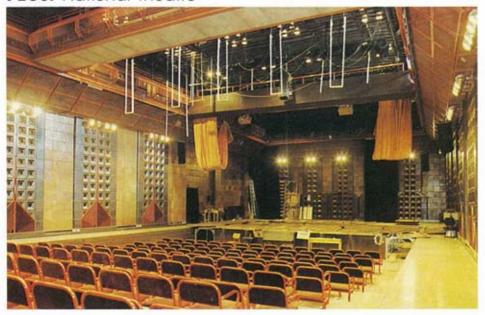




Sound and lighting control at the National Theatre, Szeged.



#### **PÉCS:** National Theatre



of them operate as small theatres or can be turned into theatres by making small alterations. The theatre of Zalaegerszeg was built this way and the new cultural centre of Mátészalka was designed to house a permanent company though only the lower part of its completed fly-tower has been used.

"I must stress the point that several new companies were founded during this time — four new state-owned ones in the 1980s — and many companies gained additional small or studio theatres. And in the last few years some new private companies were also founded, self-supporting ones or sponsored

by different trusts. Quite a few new initiatives are taking place in the theatrical world nowadays as well, such as performances in English during the tourist season in summer.

"It will be interesting to take another 'snapshot' of Hungarian theatres in a few years time in order to record the changes that are now taking place.

#### Other Activity

"I haven't yet mentioned summer theatres in Budapest and other performing arts. It's a very complex matter, but let's look at a few examples.



The National Theatre at Pécs in southern Hungary is currently undergoing a major reconstruction, now reaching its conclusion. It was originally opened in 1985 (architects Antal Steinhardt and Adolf Láng) and had seating for 1150. When it re-opens it will have seats for 590. The Intimate Theatre (shown left) is a popular venue and seats 276-340 depending on format and was opened in 1986. There is also a Studio Theatre (95 seats) and the Room-Theatre with 90 seats.

Among the summer theatres in Budapest the two most notable are the Dominican Churchyard of the Hotel Hilton and the Open-Air Theatre on Margitsziget (Margaret Island). The former provides intimacy and a beautiful view of the town as a background, the latter a unique atmosphere owing to its location in a big, hundred-year-old park.

"The oldest and best concert hall in the capital is the Academy of Music with excellent acoustic and interesting art-nouveau interior. This building, which is an early example of the use of reinforced concrete framework, was completed in 1907 to the









The traditional style Csiky Gergely Theatre in Kaposvár was built in 1911 as a summer theatre — without heating! Architects were Ede Magyar and József Stahl. It has a horseshoe-shaped auditorium with boxes on three levels plus gallery and originally seated 1500. It re-opened in March 1988 after major reconstruction and the auditorium now seats 547 in comfort. It has had a permanent company since 1955 and also supports a studio theatre. Architects for the reconstruction were Éva Czuppon and Zsuzsanna Novák with theatre technology from Szinhaztechnika Kisszövetkezet (Sziki).

designs of Flóris Korb and Kálmán Giergl. Only concerts likely to attract a large audience are given in the Budapest Convention Centre which has a large, airconditioned hall.

"I don't want to become entangled in the programmes of the different night clubs, jazz, pop and folk music clubs or discos, as one can find information about them weekly in **Pesti Müsor**. For those who want to spend a longer time in Budapest and those who are especially interested in the capital I recommend a book by **András Török: Budapest**, **A Critical Guide** which has been published both in English and German.

#### Shakespeare again

Hungarian author György Dalos wrote his book '1985' in 1981 and it was first published illegally. The title is a kind of reminiscence of Orwell's novel 1984, and here is a passage from it: 'At the last scene of the play, when Fortinbras ordered his men to give Hamlet a soldier's funeral in state, the audience stood up as one and demanded similar funerals for the three revolutionaries. Those sitting in the pit were shouting together with the students in the gallery. The members of the SZVH (Authority for the Protection of the Intellect) present were trembling with rage and fear as they watched this grand protestation. It

looked as if two theatres met here: a colourless copy of the old National Theatre (for the performance was rather immature) and the 'Real Theatre' which performed without script or staging.' Such demonstrative 'performances' of the audience have actually happened in Hungarian theatres.

"A good example of this was a production of the Csiky Gergely Theatre in Kaposvár: Peter Weiss's 'The Persecution and Assassination of Marat', directed by János Acs with György Szegó' as the stage designer. This was 'Real Theatre' in Hungary and I have hope now there will be much more.

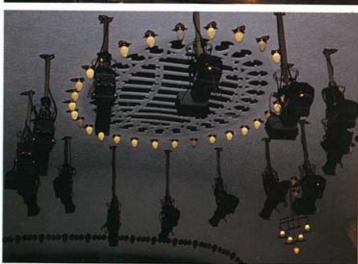
Mihály Vargha

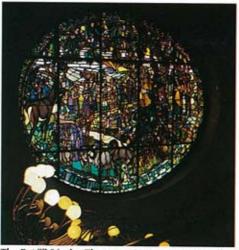
#### VESZPRÉM: Petőfi Sándor Theatre

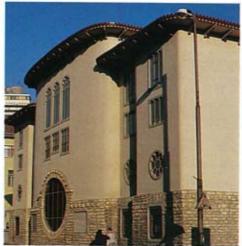


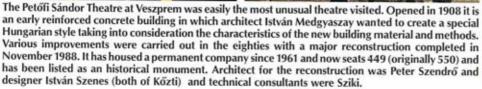














THEATRE SOUTH OF SAMELY OF MARELY	BUILT ORIGINALLY RECONSTRUCTED (REFURBISHED)	SEATS (STUDIO)	DRAMA	DPERA	PARTY.	DOMEST	STAFF (TECHNICAL)	LIGHTING C - CONTROLS L - LANTERNS (W) - HUNGAIRAN	SOUND M - MOXER A - AMPLIFIERS LS - LOUGSPEARERS (H) - RUNGARIAN	NOTES
MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ H-1051 Budapest, Andréssy (formal Nepkóztársanág) út 22	1875-1884 1812	1261	0			20	1164 (357)	C - Strand Salaxy L - Niethammer, ADR, Pani, Strand, CCT, Narva	M + BEAG (H) A + Agotatechnic (H) LS = REFLEX (H)	
(361) 1312550 ERKEL SZÍNHÁZ H-1001 Bodapest, Köstársaság tér	(1900-1984) 1911	2186					with Opera	C + Spaceton LC200 (H) L + ADB, Pani, Strand, Adelshofter	M = UNIEL (H) A = Agotatechnic LS = REFLEX (H)	
(361) 1339108 NEMZETI SZÍNHÁZ (National Theatre) III-1077 Budapent, Hevesi Sándor tár 4 (361) 1413649	(1990) 1997 1966	671				0	341 (199)	C - Tungsram FVE 160E L - Tungsram, AOB, Pani	M - Soundoraft A - ElectroVolce LS - ElectroVolce (Dig/Volce system) (H) Microport - Sennhaise, Micron	Total rebuilding in 1966
VÁRSZÍNHÁZ (Castle Theatre) H- 5014 Budapest, Színház utca 1-3 (361) 1756011	1287	258 (99)	•		-1	0	with NT	C - Tungsram 90 manual L - Tungsram, Pani, ADB	M - Soundcraft A - ElectroVolce LS - ElectroVolce (Dig/Volce system) (H) Microport - Senthelser, Micron	Total rebuilding in 1978
MADÁCH SZÍNHÁZ H-1073 Budapest, Ezselbet (formal Lenie) krt 29-33 (361) 1220677	1908 1993-1961	#H .	•			•	225 (110)	C - Spaceton LC150 (H) (with Tungsram dimmers) L - ADB, Strand, Tungsram, Pani	M - Soundcraft 32 A - Agotatecholc (H) LS - ElectroVolice Microport - Sannheiser	
MAGÁCH KAMARASZÍNHÁZ H-1975 Budapest, Maltich Idr 6 (361) 1236442	1941 1979-1982	390					WITH MADACH THEATRE	C - Strand DUET II L - Strand, ADS, Pani	M = BEAG (H) A = SEAG LS = BEAG Microport = Senviteiser	
KATONA JÖZSEF SZÍNHÁZ H-1052 Budapest, Petől Sándor utcz 6 (361) 1186309	1916 1976-1981	353					95 (48)	C = Tungeram PVE 96E L = Pani, Strand	M + BEAG PKP 18: A = BEAG LS + BEAG	Total rebuilding in 1976-1981
THÁLIA SZÍNHÁZ H-1065 Bullapest, Nagymező útta 22-24 (361) 1124230	1923	649 (92)	•				138 (74)	C - Tungsram (from early 1970s) L - Tungsram, Pani	M + Soundcraft 600 A - Zenelektro (H) LS + ElectroVoice Microport + Senshelser	
VÍGSZÍNHÁZ H-1137 Budapest, Szent latván krt. 14 (361) 1111650	1895-1896 1951 (1970s)	9579 (70)	•			0	199 (111)	C = Tungaram PVE 190 E L = Tungaram, Pani, ADB, Narva, Strand, HMV (H)	M + Soundcraft 600 A - Agetatechnic (H) Zenelektro (H) LS - ElectroVaica, Aflec	Fellner and Helmer
PESTI SZÍNHÁZ H-1056 Rudapest, Váci utca 9 (361) 185255	1911 1964-1967	544				0	wm vigsztnekz	C - Tungsram PVE 96 E L - Tungsram, HMV (H), Narve	M = Polyphan (H) A = Agetatechnic (H) LS = REFLEX (H)	Total rebuilding in 1964-1967
JÓZSEF ATTILA SZÍNHÁZ N- 1034 Budapeit, Váci új 63 (361) 1208238	1953 1985-1986	593 (70)	•			0	113 (51)	C + Tungsram PVE 96 E (+ Staccato Ethect) L + ADB, Tungsram, Panil	M - Soundcraft 800 24/8/2  - Peavey 16  A - METALPLASST ELEKTRONIKA (H) LS - ElectroVeice	
FÖWÄROSI OPERETT SZÍNHÁZ H-1065 Budapesi. Nagymezif ultra 17 (361) 1126470	1893-1894 1966-1970	967 (96)				•	330 (98)	C = Tungsram PVE 127 E L = Tungsram, Pani, Strand, HMV (H)	M = Soundcraft 600 A = Agotatechnic, Twin (H) LS = GBL, ElectroVoice Microport = Sennheiset, Micron	Feliner and Helmer
MIKROSZKÓP SZÍMPAD H-1065 Budapesi, Nagymerií utca 22-24 (361): 1327700	1967	162					40 (17)	C = Tungsram FVE 64 E = Effect L = CCT, Strend (Patt), FITE, Pani	M = BEAG PKP 21 and 35 A = BEAG LS = BEAG	Political Cabaret
VIDÁM SZÍNFAD H-1055 Budapest, Révay stca 16 (361) 1329916	About 1900 1968-1970	483 (185)				0	107 (45)	C = Zenelektro L = Pani, Strand (old types), HMV	M - Soundtraft A - LS -	
RADNÓTI MIKLÓS SZÍNHÁZ H-1063 Budapest, Nagymező atza 11 (361) 1210000	1937-1941 1973-1976	230	•				68 (24)	C - Tungsram Lucifer (Reduced by the staff) L - Pani, Strand, ADR, Narva, HMV (H)	M - Yamafu M16 A - Zanelektro (H) LS - REFLEX (H)	
ARANY JÁNOS SZÍNHÁZ H-1061 Budapest, Paulay Ede ulica 35 (361) 122-2059	1907-1909 (1988-1990)		•			0	100 (43)			Youth Theatre (before finishing)
ALLAMI BÁSSZÍNHÁZ I N-108Z Budapest, Andrássy (Formal Népkürtársaság) ét 69 (361) 1215200	1971-1976	356		Г			212 (113)	C - Tungsram Manual L - Pani, Strand (from 1976)	M = BEAG PKC A = BEAG LS = BEAG	Puppet T In an old building
ALLAMI BÁBSZÍNHÁZ II H-1061 Bodapest, Jókaí tér 10 (361) 1534633	About 1926 1969-1970	223			Г	T	WITH ALLAMI BÄRSZÍNHÁZ I	C + Tungeram FVE L + Tungeram (500W E27)	M = BEAG A = BEAG LS = BEAG	Puppet T
NÉPSZÍNHÁZ, JÓZSEFVÁROSI SZÍNHÁZ H- 1929 Budapest, kulich Gyula tár 6 (1851) 191779	About 1930 (1967)	333		0		0	294 (124)	C = Tungsram FVE 96E L = Tungsram, HMV	M - BEAG PKP A - BEAG LS - BEAG	Centre of a travelling company
ROCK SZÍNHÁZ H-1328 Budapest, Visegrádi ultra 3 (Office) (361) 1125648	1007					•	68 (24)	C = (H) (Individual)	M = SoundMaster A = ElectroVoice, Peavey US = ElectroVoice Microport = Micros	Established 1980 Has no building
JÁTÉKSZÍN H-1062 Budapest, Teréz (formal Lanie) krt 13613 1325532	1907 (1980) 1988	276	•				35 (20)	C - Zenelektro (H) L - Tongsram, Pani		Has no company
ÓDRY SZÍNPAD H-1088 Butapest, Vas utca 2/c (361) 188111		337					20 (10)	C = Tungsram PVE 90 E L = Strand, Pani, ADB, Tungsram, HMV	M • Soundcraft A • Zenelaktro LS • REFLEX	Theatre of the Theatrical High School
SZKÉNÉ SZÍMHÁZ H-1111 Budspest, Múlegyelem rkp 2 (361) 1654011/2369	1576	100		Т		T	(2)	C - Zenelektro Analogic 24 L - Tungsram, HMV (H)	M - ROLAND A - DYNACORD LS - DYNACORD	University Theatre (Technical University)
R.S.G. STÚDDIÓSZÍNHÁZ H-1073 Budapest, Rumbach Sebestyén utca 9 (361) 1425/78	1990	100				0	(t)	C - Zenelektro Analogic 34 L - Narva, Tungeram	M = UNIEL A = Zenelektro LS = REFLEX	Alternative theatre in a cellar
PINCESŽINHÁZ H-1003 Budapest, Terisk Páll vitca 3 (361) 1176390		99			Т		5 (2)	C - Tungorum Menual	Old fishloned	Alternative theatre in a cellar
EGYETEMI SZÍMPAD H-1056 Budapest, Pesti Sarnabás utca 1	About 1916 About 1962 (1990)	460			T	T	6 (3)	C - Tungaram Manual L - Tungaram, HMV	M = BEAG PKP 19 A = BEAG LS = BEAG	University Theatre (University of Sciences)
(361) 1163311 MAGYAR HONVÉDSÉG MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZA (MHMH) H-1406 Budapest, Népstadion út 34	1979	480		T	T	T	(8)	C = RÁVISZ Memolux 2 L = Strand	M = BEAG PKP 19 A = BEAG LS = BEAG	Has no own company Cultural Centre of The Hungarian Army
(361) 1217850  SZEGEOI NEMZETI SZÍNHÁZ  H-6720 Seeged, Delák Ferenc otca 12 (26-62) 12111 (Pegolation: 185.500)	1882-1883 1886 (after a fire) 1978-1986	699		•	•	0	335 (152)	C = Tungsram FVE 224 E L = Tungsram, Pani, ADS	M = Soundcraft A = ElectroVoice (5 = ElectroVoice (Dig/Voice system) (H) Microport - Sennheiser	Feliner and Heimer Intimate T with 368 seah in another building
PÉCSI NEMZETI SZÍNHÁZ H-T621 Pics, Sainház Hr 1 (36-72) 2626 (Population: UT0.200)	1895 1987-1990	590 (80)			•	0	256 (104)	C - ADB Tenor L - ADB (50%), Tungsram, Pani	M - Soundpraft A - ElectroVolce 1,5 - ElectroVolce (Dig/Volce system) (H)	Intimate T with 261 seat in another building
MISKOLCI NEMZETI SZÍNHÁZ H-3525 Miskelc, Déryné últra 1 (20-46) 44711 (Population: 211,200)	1857 1956-1959 1983	765 (70)	•	0			249 (102)	C = ADB Tenor (240) 171 L = Pani, ADB, FITE	M + BEAS PKP 24 A + BEAS LS + BEAS Microport + Beyer Dynamic	Intimate T with 156 year in another building
DEBRECENI CSOKONAI SZÍNHÁZ H-4024 Debrecen, Kossuth stca 10 (34-52) 17811 (Population: 212,300)	1862-1865 1978-1982	554	•				266 (125)	C - Tungsram FVI L - Tungsram, ASB, Pani, Shand, FITE	M - SEAG PKC 18 A - BEAG LS - BEAG	s. Intimute T. with 408 seat in another building
KISFALUDY SZÍNHÁZ H-9022 Győr, Gerkij utrz 34 (36-90) 12044 (Population: 129,400)	1978	691 (140)					269 (134)	C = RÁVISZ SML 256 (H) L = Pani, Strand (old types)	M = Polyphon 20+4/6/4 (H) A = BEAS, Zenelektro LS = BEAS, REFLEX	Intimate T, with 499 seat in another building
CSIKY GERGELY SZÍNHÁZ H-7400 Kaposvát, Rákóczi tér 1 (36-62) 20833 (Population: 71,800)	1909-1911 Early 1960s 1986-1988	548 (65)					247 (113)	C + Tungsram FVE L + Tungsram, Pani, AOB, Strand	M = BEAG PKC 115 A = BEAG LS = BEAG	
GÁRDONYI GÉZA SZÍNHÁZ H-3300 Eger, 60-as ezred (formal Levin) tér 11 (36-36) 11664 (Population: 62,000)	1904 1960-1964 (1962-1963)	549 (176)				•	162 (80)	C = Tungstam FVE 128 E L = Tungstam, ADB, Pani	M = Polyphon (H) A = Zenelektro (H) LS = REFLEX (H)	
HEVESI SÁNDOR SZÍNHÁZ H-8900 Zalaegerszeg, November 7. lér 136-92) 14405 (Pogulation: 62.300)	1963	464 (80)					194 (100)	C + Tungsram FVE 90 E L + Tungsram, Narva, Pani, AOB	M - BEAG A - Robson LS - Robson	

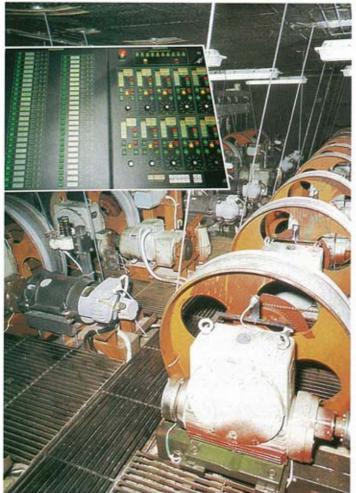
managana ay saka	BUILT		COMPANY					2.55 (2.55)	SOUND		
THEATRE	POPULATION OF BUDAPEST 2,105,860	ORIGINALLY RECONSTRUCTED (REFURBISHED)	SEATE (STUDIO)	DRAWA	OPERA	BALLET	MUSICAL	STAFF (TECHNICAL)	C = CONTROLS L = LANTERNS (H) = HUNGARIAN	M - MIXER A - AMPLIFIERS LS - LOUDSPEAKERS (H) - HUNGARIAN	MOTES
JÓKAI SZÍNHÁZ H-5600 Běkéscsaba, Tanácskörtársaság útja 1-3 (36-66) 26777	Population: 67,700)	1678-1679 1912-1913 (1990)	425 (190)	•			•	157 (53)	C - Tungaram PVE 96 E and Zendektro effect L - Tongaram, Pani, PITE, Altmann, Narva	M = BEAG A = BEAG and Zenelektro LS = REFLEX, Dynacord	
KATONA JÖZSEF SZÍNHÁZ H-6000 Kacakamét, Katana Jácsef tér 5 (36-76) 21500 (Pi	opulation: 102,600)	1906 1984-1988	598 (126)				•	211 (96)	C + Tungarum FVE 96 E L + Tungarum, Narva, HMV (H)	M = BEAG PKP 21 A = SEAG LS = BEAG	Feliner and Helmer
MÓRICZ ZSIGMOND SZÍNHÁZ II-4400 Nyingynáza, Bessenyel Mr 13 (36-42) 10481 (P	opulation: 114,200)	1893-1894 1923 1955-1960 (1960-1981)	495 (80)	•				153 (\$1)	C + Tungsram 90 Manual L + Tungeram, Pani, Strand (Cadenza)	M = Alles HIT 24/4/2 A = Agotalechnic (H) LS = HEFLEX (H)	
PETŐFI SZÍNHÁZ H-8200 Veszpelm, Düzsa Gyérgy ét 2 (36-80) 20444 (F	Population: 64,000)	1907-1908 1984-1988	649 (80)				•	155 (78)	C - Tungsram PVE 96 E L - Tungsram, Pani	M + METÁLPASZT ELEKTRONIK (H) A + METÁLPLASZT ELEKTRONIK (H) LS + ElectroVolce	
SZIGLIGETI SZÍNHÁZ H-5000 Szolnok, Lenin park 1 (36-56) 42633 (F	Population: 78,400)	1909-1912 1927 1989-1991	575 (82)	•			•	180 (84)	C - ADB Tenor L - ADB (50%), Pavi, Tungsram		Under reconstruction
VÖRÖSMARTY SZÍNHÁZ H-8000 Szikestehérvák, Március 15. utca 10 (36-22) 11296 (Pc	opulation: 109,000)	1874 1962 (1963)	677						C = Tungsram 90 Manual L = Tungsram, HMV, Albreans	M = Zenelektro A = Agotatechnic LS = Zeck	Has no own company
PETŐFI SZÍNHÁZ H-9400 Sapran, Petőfi tár 1 (36-99) 12261	Population: 55,100)	1906-1908 1970-1975	458						C + Tungsram 96 Manual L + Tungsram, HMV, Altmann	M - AEG A - AEG LS - AEG	Has no own company
SZÍNHÁZ ÉS MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-4700 Mütészakka, Szabadság tér 2 718	Pagulation: 19,100)	1967-1968	460						C + Tungsram /VE 72 E L + Tungsram, HMV (H)	M + BEAG A - BEAG LS - BEAG	Has no own company

#### **BUDAPEST:** Hungarian State

#### Opera House

The Hungarian State Opera House in Budapest was opened in 1884. Architect was Miklós Ybl and seating capacity 1175 with a horseshoe-shaped auditorium with boxes on three levels and a gallery. It has had various renovations over the years and it was closed in 1980 for major reconstruction, re-opening in 1984 on its centenary.

Of historical note, the stage machinery designed by Asphaleia of Vienna was the first-ever operational system constructed of iron and moved by hydraulic power. It finished its working life in 1970. At the same time the flying system proved defective and was replaced by electric hoists. After 1984 and its re-opening, the new stage and flying systems, imported from the GDR, did not live up to expectations and in March 1987, the small cooperative of Sziki was commissioned to rebuild the flying system (shown above) which is now operating satisfactorily. The lighting control system is a Strand Galaxy.



Cover of a recent issue of SZÍNHÁZTECHNIKAI FÓRUM showing newly installed machinery and control system and the State Opera House.





Above (from top): first, second and third prize projects for a new National Theatre building in Budapest.

CULTURAL CENTRES IN BUDAPEST  • REQUARLY O RARELY	SEATS	THEATRE	CLASSICAL	TAZZ	PDP/RDCK	FOLK	03510
I. KERÜLETI MÜVELÖDÉSI HÁZ H-1011 Bem:rkp. 6 (361) 1150807	170	0		•	•	•	
MARCZIBÁNYI MŰVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1022 Marczibányi tér STA (361) 1151208	400			0			
ÓBUDAI IFJÚSÁGI KÖZPONT H-1032 San Marco etca 81 (361) 1887370	325	•		•			
BÉKÁSMEGYERI KÖZÖSSÉGI HÁZ H-1038 Csoblenka tér S (361) 1802/433	240					•	
ADY ENDRE MŰVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1043 Tavasz ulca 4 (361) 1695351	500				•	•	
ÜJPESTI IFJÜSÁĞI HÁZ H-1042 Bajozy-Zsilinszky út 17-19 (361) 1691283	285					•	•
KÁPOSZTÁSMEGYERI ÁLTALÁNOS MűVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1048 Hajlé utcz 2/8 (381) 1806188	200	•	•			•	
BELVÁRIOSI MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-1056 Molnár utca 9 (361) 1075928	80					•	
FÁKLYA KLUB H-1067 Csengery utca 68 (361) 1324580	266	•				•	
ALMÁSSY TÉRI SZABADIDŐ KÖZPONT H-1077 Almássy lér 6 (361) 1424144	360	•	0	0	•	•	
KOSZTOLÁNYI MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-1093 Tördk Pili sása 3 (361) 1180 193	150				•		
PATAKY ISTVÁN MŰVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1102 Pataky tér 7-14 (381) 1570712	480	•	•		•	•	
KÖBÁNYAI GYERMEK ÉS IFJÚSÁGI SZABADIDŐ KÖZPONT H-1105 Ekse utca 1 (361) 1575090	350						
LÁGYMÁNYOSI KÖZÖSSÉGI HÁZ H-1117 Köhásy ulcu 17 (381) 1664627	300	0		•	•	•	
BUDAPESTI MŰVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1110 Szakasíts Árpád út 55 (381) 1889444	200	•	0	0	•	•	
SZAKSZERVEZETEK FŐVÁROSI MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZA H-1119 Fehérvári út 47 (361) 1811360	468		0	0			
MOM MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-1174 Geóraz utca 18 (361) 1752548	757	•	0	0			
JÖZSEF ATTILA MÜVELÖDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1131 József Attila tár 4 (361) 1208276	360	•	0		•	•	
PETŐFI CSARNOK H-1146 Yároslójet, Zichy M. ulca 14 (361) 1224434	850 (2500)						
KASSÁK KLUB H-1145 Uzsoki utca 57 (361) 2513669	100			•		•	
RÓZSA MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-1181 Városház utca 1-3 (361) 1787507	335	•			0	•	
CSILI MŰVELŐDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1201 Nagy Győri L sítek 4-8 (361) 1278630	600	•	0		•	•	
RADNÓTI MIKLÖS MŰVELŐDÉSI HÁZ H-1214 Vérusz ulta 2 (361) 1583774	220		0		•	•	•
XXII KERÜLETI MÜVELÖDÉSI KÖZPONT H-1222 Nagytillenyi ét 35 (361) 2265317	480						

CONCERT HALLS IN BUDAPEST	SEATS	NOTE
ZENEAKADÉMIA - ACADEMY OF MUSIC N-1061 Lium Ferenc bir 8 (361) 141 4788	1200	SMALL HALL 450
RÉGI ZENEAKADÉMIA - OLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC H-1064 Vördemarty ulca 36 (361) 122 9804	150	
PESTI WGADÓ 1-1051 Vigado 16r 1 (361) 118 4127	680	CHAMBER ROOM 221
BUDAPEST KÖNGRESSZUSI KÖZPÖNT – BUDAPEST CONVENTION CENTRE H-1123 Jugello (it 1-3 - 1,161) 186 SSSS	1923	
BARTÓK EMLÉKHÁZ – BARTÓK MEMORIAL BUILDING 1-1025 Caalan vida 29 (361) 176 2100	80	
NIGHT LIFE IN BUDAPEST		
BÉKE ORFEUM 1-1067 Terlitz kirt. 97 (361) 102 3300	160	
MAXIM VARIETÉ 4-1072 Akácia utca 3 (301) 142 0145	200	
MOULIN ROUGE +- 1065 Nagymedi utca 17 (361) 112 4482	150	
SAVOY ~ 1061 Andréssy út 48 (381) 153 1258	108	
THERMAL STAR NIGHT CLUB H-103 Hatel Thermal Margitscipet (361) 132 1100	200	
HOROSZKÓP NIGHT CLUB H-1013 Hotel Suda Penta, Kriscilna krt. 41–43 (361) 156 6333	100	
OPEN AIR THEATRES IN BUDAPEST		
MARGITSZIGET - MARGARET ISLAND H-1138 Margitatiget (261) 111 6468	2994	
BUDAI PARKSZÍNPAD H-1112 Kosztolányi Dezs tér (361) 166 9916	2316	
VÁROSMAJORI SZÍNPAD H-1122 Városmájor (361) 175 5822		DOES NOT EXIST
HILTOM SZÁLLÓ, DOMINIKÁNUS UDVAR DOMINICIAN CKUPCHYARO OF HOTEL HILJON H-1914 Hess András 161 1/3 (361) 175 1000	339	
ZICHY KASTÉLY H-1033 F616t-1 (361) 180 4020		
KÖRSZÍNHÁZ H-1146 Várssüget (381) 122 3856	820	SUMMER THEATRE IN A PAYILION
HILD UDWAR H-1027 Frankel Le6 (d. 17/19 (361) 115 4680	778	
KARMELITA KOLOSTOR UDVARA H-1014 Scienke utaa 1-3 (361) US 8011		COURTYARD OF THE VARSZINHAZ
OTHER VENUES		11 11110 11110
PLANETĀRIUM/LÉZER SZÍNHĀZ		

MULTIMEDIA SHOWS

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## Tungsram — Hungary's own lighting company

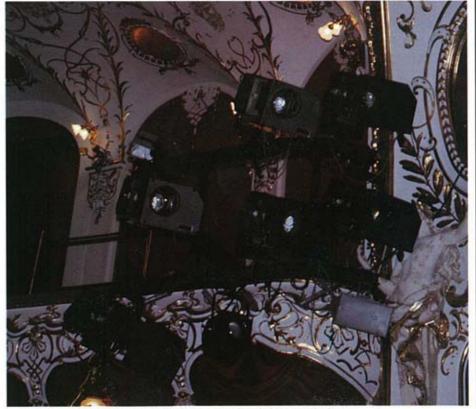
Tungsram was one of the first companies in the world to manufacture electric light sources, with many innovative introductions to its credit over the years. It was established in 1896 and now has 20,000 employees.

In March this year, General Electric of the USA purchased a majority of the shares when the Hungarian government invited investment from the West. Most of Hungary's theatres have Tungsram equipment in both control and luminaires and last year the company installed 30 systems: 15 within the country and the remainder within the former eastern bloc, the majority in Czeckoslavakia. They are now moving into the discotheque area in conjunction with other business. Tungsram has offices in over 30 countries in five continents.

#### Tungsram and Ludwig Pani

A common site in Hungarian theatres is a cluster of Tungsram-Pani lighting units, many with motorised colour changers. Reflecting the links with the past when the countries of Austria and Hungary were part of the same empire, the Vienna-based Ludwig Pani organisation has had a strong presence in Hungary for many years.

In the later sixties Pani was invited to participate at the national theatre exhibitions of Hungarian theatre professionals to show their latest equipment and Austrian stage lighting methods. The HV 650 and HV 2000 spotlight series were soon manufactured in line with Pani plans and drawings and this



A cluster of Tungsram/Pani units at the Katona József Theatre, Kecskemet.

SER THEATRE IN THE PLANETAL 1101 Nepliget (361) 134 1164

FŐVÁROSI NAGYCIRKUSZ

BUDAPEST SPORTCSARNOK - BUDAPEST SPORT HALL N-1148 Intramment of 1/3 (361) 251 1222

arrangement allowed Pani to export projectors and followspots together with their whole spotlight range and also Strand equipment from the UK. This arrangement has continued through the intervening years.

Hermann Sorger of Ludwig Pani told L+SI that although the iron curtain has disappeared the closeness of the countries' capital cities (they are only 260km apart) offers excellent opportunities for the future.

## AN AVITEC OFFERING, WITH RICE ON THE SIDE

#### Tony Gottelier

I have just one piece of advice for those intrepid travellers, who like myself at the time, are intent upon driving to Hull for an evening's entertainment. Don't do it on a Friday night and don't expect to find Hull on a map, or on Autoroute.

For Hull only exists on road signs, everywhere else it goes by the grander name of Kingston-upon-Hull (as in Hull and Kingston Rovers, the local rugby league side). To confuse matters even further, the two places apparently sit on opposite sides of the Humber estuary and have only fairly recently been joined together in wholly gridlock by the famous suspension bridge. So, how one came to be 'upon' the other remains one of life's little mysteries.

Hull, as I shall continue to refer to the place from now on, is a grim monument to the aftermath of the collapse of the shipbuilding industry in the North East, with unemployment amongst the highest in the land as the result. The local paper is full of sad tales of the local youth trapped inescapably in the jobless maze — surely the downside of Thatcher's post industrial revolution.

Yet, there is another side to this city of sooted Victorian back-to-backs, which is found in evidence that the enterprise culture is getting to grips with these problems and that out of this may emerge, one day, a more dynamic and exciting environment. Witness what has already happened to the old quays

and associated warehouses. Something more appealing and more attractive to tourists than even some of London Dockland's best efforts.

Take, for example, the hotel in which we stayed (£25 for a large room with bath!). The Waterfront Hotel, is a stone and timber converted warehouse and very nicely done. It has its own successful restaurant in the basement and a very popular wine bar semi-detached. On Friday night there was a queue of young people round the block from eight o'clock and the door required supervision to handle the crush. So things can't be all bad.

And according to Leisure Week, there are no less than five new venues opening in Hull this autumn alone: proof beyond all doubt of the validity of the suspicion that, when times are hard, Northerners carry on spending, at least, when it comes to drinking. They had better, or a few people are gonna catch a cold! A town full of Hull and Kingston ravers?

It was for just one such new venue that I had been enticed to the wild and woolly wastes of Humberside on a drizzly October evening. Studio Circus is the result of an unlikely union between an ex-synagogue and local property entrepreneur Stewart Dixon, a catharsis which has yielded a significant place of worship at the altar of pleasure. And its presbytery is a feeder fun bar called Sound City. Be advised, only the clumsy choice of nomenclature conceals the quality of the interiors of these two 1300 and 400 capacity joints.

Straddling Anne Street, on the edge of the erstwhile red-light district (as erstwhile as no less than five ladies of the night were spotted on the three minute journey by car between main road and the club; well at least some gainful employment still exists thereabouts) the twin venture was not realised without a struggle. Tales of planning-do and pitch battles with First Leisure are of less interest to L+SI readers than the fact that Dixon had a less than rewarding experience at the hands of his original lighting designers. It is a serious matter for the rest of us in this unlikely profession that a rare client, who was prepared to entertain the employment of a lighting designer, should be left with a jaundiced view of the art. Happily, the inhouse service provided by Avitec seems to have saved the day in the final analysis, although this in no way gets the rest of us off the hook. Clients should not have to rely on suppliers for the correct design advice, or there is no validity in independent advice. Socalled designers who cannot deliver the goods, should pack their bags and find another pool to fish in, rather than spoiling the water for the rest.

Nevertheless, their failure was Avitec's gain, and there is no doubt that they made the most of it. Indeed through the skill of a young man, and this has to be emphasised as he reminded me of my fast fading youth in a previous article and, to add insult to injury, he has since been pictured elsewhere in receipt



Nuclear fusion. An abstract view of Rice's sci-fi silos.

Photos: Vincent Rice

of 'fatherly advice' of which more later, called Vincent Rice they may even have achieved something of substance. So it is a little sad to record that this first lighting (and sound?) design by Vince, the result of years of frustration as a lighting operator, may also be his apotheosis as he has swiftly moved on to become sales manager of Xylo, the award winning video systems people.

In any event, his scheme for the ex-eglise was certainly a refreshing solution to the client's brief, which was problematic in that it required that the lights form a link between the old viewing gallery and the ground, despite the absence of a load bearing ceiling. So, suspended from the intervening balcony floor are the Trilite constructions reminiscent of missile-silos, or like some science fiction nuclear reactor, emphasised by neon rings stacked to form coiled springs. Immediately, I was reminded of Terry Gilam's Kafkaesque movie Brasil, to which Rice admits to being partial, although the neon hoops are fast becoming an Avitec icon. Remember the Hammy Pally ascending columns?

While the neon yielded continuous colour sequencing above and below the balcony line, 16 of Avitec's new Litemovers (yes, another waggling mirror) mounted on the silos, provided multi-level animation. For colour washes and sequencing, several Lightwave Research ColorPros were employed, the last of the line for Avitec, who have subsequently ceded the distribution to Lightfactor, under protest.

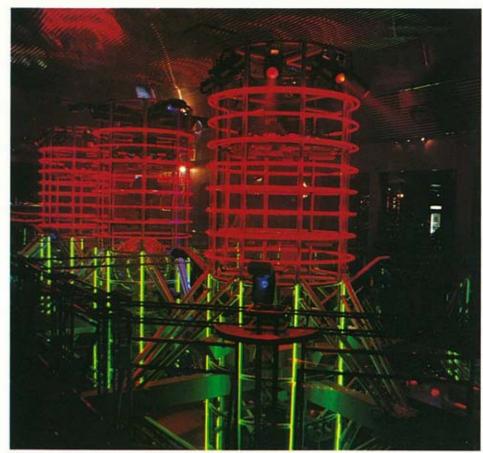
Dedicated directional lighting onto the dance floor was provided by nearly 200 halogen pinspots, with the circular structures giving an ideal home for such devices as Kremesa helicopters, 'dentist' lights and Tangos. And to blow them all away, no less than 16 Optikinetics Superstrobes. So, while the structures themselves don't move, they lurk in sinister suspended animation above the dance area, this impressive array of lighting equipment creates all the movement which could possibly be required in what is really quite a tight space and successfully achieves this in such a way as to emphasise the three dimensional quality of the aluminium shapes forged by the designer.

Any negatives? Well Rice admits to personal doubts as to the wisdom of Avitec's policy which eschews the use of centralised cueing and which has resulted, in this instance, in the active use of no less than ten different controllers. This clash of cultures comes from Vince's prior experience as a lighting operator where he learned the benefits of using an Oska in such a multichannel set-up, as against Paul Dodds' prediliction for frenetic hands-on production. Anybody who has any doubts about the effectiveness of the latter in Paul's hands, hasn't yet seen the maestro at work (as witnessed at LDI last week, where he was awarded best light show for his interpretation of music and light). The man's a virtuoso of the lighting keyboard. But the point is, how many more are there like him out there? Answer: very few. So, while Paul can make it all look great on opening night what happens afterwards? We all know the answer, skilled ambidextrous individuals with the stamina to withstand a six hour arm twisting marathon are in short supply, whereas integrated microprocessor-based controllers can give the closest interpretation of the designer's cues night after night in almost anybody's hands.

As Vincent Rice says: "To programme a



Bottoms up! What you see from the dance floor.



The iconoclastic neon rings: shades of Hammy Pally?

simple co-ordinated effect on the Studio Circus system requires the knowledge of up to six different lighting protocols and the arms of an octopus." As we know, such amphibians cannot survive on dry land.

Moving along swiftly to the sound system, no complaints here at all. Although Vince had gone to Avitec as a sound designer, and his role was reversed in Paul's absence to lighting design, I heard the input of Tony Kingsley in the audio system. Based on Cerwin-Vega B119s and D32Cs for thump and voice and JBL2404s for the sizzle, the dance floor system, with sub-bass below the stage, certainly had them jumping. While the background system, carefully arranged according to the required angle of dispersion using Ramsa A200s and A70S, allowed plenty

of room for reasonable conversation within reach of the dance floor. Indeed without measuring, one had the impression that this was a system which would satisfy the new regs and still do the job intended.

So, to close with the aforementioned fatherly advice. For those of you who are curious to know what I was saying to Vince, it was: "Never use green washes in a discotheque, it makes the people look sick!" Having got that little tease out of the way, I feel sure that Vince's still untried, but evident, skills will be a loss to the lighting industry and a substantial gain to video. It all goes to show that despite extreme youth and irreverance, talent wins through every time. (Personal note: Vince, can we call a truce on the age front now?).



# ORLANDO'S TOURING THEME SHOW

Lighting Dimensions International goes to the capital of the Theme Park Industry

Tony Gottelier sets the Scene John Offord compiles the News

Orlando is the place where the art of the possible reigns supreme over the incredulous and where achieving the impossible is the state-of-the-art.

It starts en route from the airport, where to the eternal shame of Theme Park City USA, and omission on Disney's otherwise immaculate implementation, there are no personal baggage carts. Subsequently you arrive at the first of two toll gates on the express way. Immediately you are made aware that, despite all efforts to persuade to the contrary, these are not the Pearly Gates and that paradise may not exactly lie beyond. Notices appended thereto proclaim, in 60 point Bodini Bold, exactly what the procedure is, if and when, one is apprehended by the police while in the progress of committing a heist. One: 'When instructed by the police officer to do so, you must drop your weapon.' and so on . . . Having just come from NY, where we had become the filling in a cop-felon sandwich while sitting in a stationary cab, and where large rewards are being offered on the back of City buses for those with the temerity to shop a cop-killer, this all had a rather hollow ring to it.

Next, to the convention hotel, where, we had been warned in advance, there was a menageriel treat awaiting us with which even the famous Diving Horse of Atlantic City could not compare. (I know all about the latter unfortunate animal, since losing my shirt a few summers ago attempting to compete with its hypnotic ability to draw an audience, by providing an hourly laser spectacular in a stadium on the same pier. So anything, even the knackers yard, which did the creature down was going to be OK with me).

The story goes that the owner of the Peabody, for so the place is called, was a keen hunter. Of ducks to be precise. Unwilling to rely on wooden replicas and simulated quacking, the bloodthirsty hotelier used live decoys, that is slightly more fortunate ducks with clipped wings. And so much notoriety did these birds achieve in the hotel that they fast became a tourist attraction. So every day at 11 o'clock the wretched creatures are marched from the elevator, along a red carpet to the fountain in the middle of the lobby, where they spend a happy few hours paddling about and making rude noises at the guests. Come 5 o'clock, the entire process is reversed. And God help the unfortunate who produces guano on the carpet!

This performance of such flabbergasting banality



The 'quiet' hall at LDI 90, Orlando, Florida.

is so successful that the duck emblem is firmly planted on all hotel literature, the building itself is similarly emblazoned, the restaurant is calle Dux (sic), the butters are moulded into ducky shapes and everyone locally, with typical American wit, refers to the place as the Duck House. But no toy ducks in my bath! What a shame.

And so, following dinner with those honorary Rolling Stones Mark Fisher and Jonathan Park (no duck on the menu, thank God) and a good night's sleep, to the splendid Orange County Convention Centre, where I was to mediate the sequel to the control protocol discussion started in London at PLASA's Light and Sound Show in September. As this will be the subject of a full report and in-depth piece in the January issue of L+SI, and I don't wish to pre-empt that, I shall confine myself to the more amusing bits.

Unlike the PLASA session, it was decided to eliminate formal presentations from the platform and to turn the whole period over to a debate



Orange County Convention Centre.



The Control Protocol seminar with Tony Gottelier (right) in the chair.



LDI director Pat MacKay gets a pre-award briefing.

involving members of the 400-strong audience. Of course, Americans are far more receptive to this kind of thing than we reticent Brits and, in no time at all, everyone was getting in on the act. Strand's SMX protocol came in for a great deal of flack. Described variously as 'dogmeat' by one panelist, perhaps he is more up-to-date with the diving horse saga than I, and a 600lb gorilla by another, (Jesus, the Yanks have an animal analogy for everything), it was resolutely defended by Strand's Dave Bertenshaw. The revelation that the SMX document was not the final be-all-and-end-all was shock to everyone, especially when it was made known that issue two was in the pipe.

However, a consensus seemed to have been achieved following definition by Charlie Richmond of the current status of the MIDI standard, which was generally considered ideal for desk-to-desk communication, and Bertenshaw's promise to seriously consider taking MIDI on board the SMX transporter. One advantage of SMX not yet having been set in stone, perhaps.

A previous suggestion that DMX could be tweaked to perform its existing role somewhat better, also seems to have been well received as it's certainly not going to go away. And a suggestion from the chair that PLASA should play an active role in resolving these issues in consultation with US and other non-UK bodies was well received. If you are still confused over the roles these various acronyms play, look out for a major article in next month's issue when all will be revealed.

The workshops at LDI were extremely well organised as always by Ellen Lampert and Paula Harris, and extraordinarily well attended throughout. Subjects as disparate as 'Unusual solutions to mind boggling problems', with focus on Mirage in Las Vegas, and 'Moving lights on parade', were covered. The latter, billed as a shoot-out, turned into a minor disappointment when three of the major protagonists refused to participate. Other sessions received the benefit of Fisher Park's great Wall and Steel Wheels experiences. Still others went behind the scenes at Disney-MGM and Universal to see how their own particular brands of fantasy were achieved.

And these same locations became the focus of the evening activities, which play such an essential role in making these shows successful industry social events. At the High End Systems party on the Universal lot on the first night, at which we had our first taste of simulated space travel on the Hanna Barbera 'ride', in cars which rocked and yawed in sync with the high speed graphics animation on a giant screen, but actually went nowhere in a forward sense at all. Nevertheless, it didn't do much for my recently consumed pizza, I can tell you.

It was also our first experience of meeting up with the essential Disney-type experience — the 'real life' characters. Of course, at first you all stand around casting tribal assertions at the mental capacity of the average Yank. Grown adults talking to legless pygmies dressed up as cartoon characters! But by night two, when we had moved on to the Disney-MGM Studios courtesy of a splendid party organised by Pat McKay, publisher of Lighting Dimensions and LDI's sponsors, we were all at it. I saw several grown men of European extraction hugely enjoying opening painted boxes which generated sound effects as soon as the lid was lifted. Belches, farts and farmyard noises, all were relished by all, including myself.

I was also greatly impressed by Disney's attempt to capture the night business with its hugely vaunted Paradise Island. Nobody in Orlando could be unaware of its existence, brashly proclaimed from nightfall by a vast battery of tracking Xenons stretching towards the heavens. I had often wondered what happens to the apparent overproduction of such items in the US, so now I know. Paradise Island is a collection of venues, cheek-by-jowl, including an open air stage, three discos, two of which were excellent, and a selection of themed bars, eateries and shops. Where every night is proclaimed New Year's Eve, and every night at midnight there are fireworks and dancing in the streets. What I found extraordinary was, that considering all were built from greenfield sites within the last two years, the authenticity of the atmosphere in each area was truly astounding.



Award winner: Coherent Laser.

You could almost eat it! I hugely enjoyed it and would recommend the Adventurer's Club, Mannequins and The Cage to anybody.

Enough of the frivolity and back to the serious work at hand, what about the exhibition side of this now established show? Well yes, serious enough. There were 210 exhibitors this year, and a clutch of highly innovative products to show for it. Among those which caught my eye, and not previously shown at the Light & Sound Show, or Rimini, or refined since then, together with some other highlights of the show were: programmable neon transformer which flows the gas along a neon tube for up to 65 feet from Bertonee of Canada, represented by TEC of Jacksonville; Lytemode's Tivoli competitor, which uses the simple technique of notching a tube to generate high-lit points at set intervals; the Technasound music reactive video system: Lightwave Research's much improved Emulator and their excellent looking 1200MSR Intellabeams; Laser Media's 3-D demo which certainly works impressively now; John Lindsell and Carl Dodds' new show for Clay Paky; only marginally eclipsed by Paul Dodds hands-on craft, for which he was deservedly rewarded later on; Dinner with Ellen Lampert; Ron Bourque looking fit again after his pacemaker operation in London; Beaming Bob Dagger and his Harlequin booth (if only because

he promised me a drink if I gave him a mention).

British interests were well served by the DTI group of stands and Elektralite, who seem to have formed a UK trading group all on their own.

LDI came under a lot of flack for promulgating the idea of introducing a limited number of awards this year. The problem being that there is every chance of upsetting far more people than you please. In the event, this all seemed to go off rather well and, apart from the aforementioned, awards were handed out to Kleigl for their MOSFET dimmer; Coherent for the Purelight mixed gas laser, which has proved such a hit in Laser Grafix' hands in the UK; ex-pat Brit, now Canadian resident, Jonathan Deans for sound innovation, and Coemar for best stand design. Hoffend were awarded 'Gizmo of the show' for their extraordinary self-erecting column, which unfolds from a portable base and was previewed last year.

So there you have it, apart from the mandatory visit to EPCOT, which was, at the same time, exciting and extremely boring dependent on where you were at the time, a potential victim of its own technological innovation if ever there was one, it was now time to wing one's way out, in order to avoid premature servings of traditional Yuletide fare in aid of Thanksgiving Day, spoiling our own annual anticipation of the seasonal feast to come.

Tony Gottelier



### Silverbeam into Production

Phoebus Manufacturing of San Francisco gave pride of place to their 4000W Silverbeam searchlight, and director John Tadesco is pictured above with the unit on demo at LDI. It comes as a single head unit, with or without revolve. New on stand was a 1000W quartz single head static unit and a 1K Silverbeam PSL9 searchlight. Six of these units have just been delivered to Kurosawa film studios in Japan. Phoebus products are distributed in the UK by Arri GB, in Denmark by Kunelco, in Switzerland by Power Light of Basle, and in Germany by Rock Light. The company is inviting distributor enquiries from other Countries.

US: 415 550-1177



### Thomas debut Par 64 9 Lite Unit

With a 9000W capacity, the new Thomas 9 Lite unit affords maximum output in minimum space. Each lamp is independently mounted for focusing and can be wired to separate switches. On stand at Orlando were Michael Garl and Frances Thompson from the American operation based in Tennessee and John Hickinbotham from the UK. The 6 Lite unit can also be seen in picture immediately above the 9 Lite

US: 615 690-5397 UK: 0386-553002



### Roboshop Dry Fogger

Roboshop is one of those highly specialised special effect and entertainment technology outfits that thrives on producing amazing effects at theme parks, right through from sculpting and model making to fog, projection and water technology. Of special interest to the performance industry was their Dry Fogger. The output is composed entirely from nitrogen and water vapour, with no chemicals, oils or alcohol. Two versions are available: stationary units for permanent installations and a portable unit for touring shows.

US: 805 295-8263



### Camelont Expand Worldwide

Camelont AB, the Swedish manufacturer of the highly successful Rainbow colour changer system, has announced an expansion drive into the US and Europe with the opening of a new London office. This will be headed by Michael Goldberg, who has distributed the Rainbow in the UK for the past two years, and all sales and marketing for the Rainbow range of colour changers worldwide will be centralised from London. Pictured on the Camelont stand at LDI is Magnus Anuell (centre), designer of the Rainbow system.

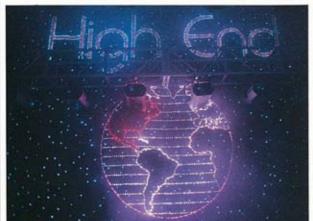
UK: 071-722 6032



### **Power Light Production Partners**

Nicholas de Courten (right) and Felix Riva of Power Light, Basle, Switzerland came to LDI equipped with smart new promotional literature in an endeavour to make their name known amongst American designers and production companies. "We have everything available in the centre of Europe for all aspects of production, from television through to concert touring and industrial presentations," Courten told L+SI. "Power Light's equipment list is international," he continued, Celco and Thomas equipment, etc. We have come to the US to meet the market and prove we can meet their requirements." Power Light made their name on the international scene with the lighting design and production for the successful 1989 Eurovision Song Contest in Lausanne.

Switzerland: 61 701-8228





### **BIGGEST STAND AT THE SHOW:**

### L+SI gets the technical background

High End Systems Inc. of Austin, Texas constructed a 3,500 sq ft stand consisting of a fully draped 40ft by 66ft truss frame and concert roof. Manufactured by TomCat Inc. of Midland, Texas the 2,400 square feet ceiling platform was raised to a bottom trim of 20ft by six truss pillars. The heavy duty aluminium framework supported lighting systems by Lightwave Research from angled truss sections below the superstructure. The High End Systems expanse also contained an additional 1,500 sq ft for hospitality suites and a display stand for the Viper dual beam laser system from Laser Chorus.

Making its debut on the main stage was the Intellabeam 700 HX animated moving light system from Lightwave Research. The system features a more powerful 700 watt lightsource, new selections of gobo patterns, multi coloured pattern effects and full range of dimming. 24 of the moving beam fixtures were mounted in various configurations and were a featured attraction during the choreographed lighting concerts by High End Systems programming director Tim Grivas.

A superior version of the Emulator high intensity laser simulator was also presented. 12 Emulators were horizontally flown at the stand's back wall from a 30 ft span of square truss. Displaying their enhanced pattern capabilities and vibrant colour changing, the system executed precise synchronised manoeuvres. The system's narrow beams create static and revolving shapes with user positioning and function parameters over large areas and for long throw effects.

Two 10ft × 10ft pipe frames supported 16 Color Pro and 25 Dataflash units and were hung upstage on both sides of the booth. An additional 32 Dataflashes were hung in a three-sided arrangement at the booth's centre. A 150ft long by 20ft high fibre optic curtain manufactured by MainLight Industries of Delaware enclosed the exhibit on three sides.

The custom-made 2-circuit backdrop also revealed the High End Systems logo containing over 10,000 fibre tips. Illuminated by 24 Color Pro luminaires, the fibre optic logo was able to produce individual control of letters in dual colour combinations and to outline areas of the globe logo in multi colours. High End also displayed two xenon follow spots from Ushio U-Tech which were outfitted with dichroic colour filters. 14 F-100 Performance smoke generators were used for the arena stacked vertically in upright truss units. A low flying fog effect devised by

RoboShop of Los Angeles, California was used for the lighting concerts, utilising liquid nitrogen combined with hot water vapour (see separate news item)

Used for controlling the lighting systems were the Lightwave Research controllers enabled by a QM-500 96 channel console courtesy of Avolites and the band U2. 12 of the F-100's were externally enabled by 12 channels from the QM-500 for variable flow presets. Additionally, a 108 channel memory console 'The Masterpiece' from Pulsar could also be employed for external enable for all the lighting systems.

The exhibit's audio system was supplied by Electro-Voice of Buchanan, Michigan. The system consisted of two MT2 cabinets for high/mid range and two MTL-4 sub woofer cabinets for low end. The system was powered by EV 7800 amplifiers.

High End Systems Inc (Austin, Texas)

Exhibit manager: Anthony Monday; Technical director: Don Pugh; Light programming: Tim Grivas; Music programming: Rocky Rodd

Equipment/Services

Truss frame and concert roof: TomCat, USA (Midland, Texas); Audio system: Electro-Voice (Buchanan, Michagan)
Liquid nitrogen fog: RoboShop (Los Angeles, California); QM-500 lighting console: Avolites; Xenon followspots: Ushio U-Tech (Tokyo, Japan)
Transportation: Stage Call (La Habra, California); Fibre optic curtain: Main-Light Industries (Wilmington, Delaware)
Intellabeam, ColorPro, Dataflash, Emulator: Lightwave Research (Austin, Texas)

US: 512 836-2242



### Solving Interface Problems

ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.) have a wide range of interface products, and new at LDI were their 32 Out which allows conversion of 32 DMX-512 dimmer signals to Analogue, the A32 Out allows 32 channels of DMX-512 or AMX-192 dimmer signals to be converted to Analogue, and the Converter interface allows conversion from DMX-512 to AMX-192 or vice-versa. Pictured above is one of the headliners in the ETC control range, the Expression, a 250 channel control system for studio, theatre and road show use.

US: 608 831-4116



### Command Cue from Richmond

Pictured above is Command/Cue Plus from Richmond Sound Design of Vancouver running on the Strand Lighting stand with an MX control board. "Powerful multitasking software and brand new Command/Cue microprocessor-based hardware modules work together to create the ultimate in show technology," says the blurb from Richmond. The result is centralised real time command of up to 128 independent cue lists controlling up to 16,000 devices concurrently . . .

Canada: 604 732-1234





### Hoffend and Starliff Again

An expensive, but highly effective lifting system is provided by Hoffend and Sons with their Starlift, first seen (to much amazement) at LDI in Nashville last year. What you pay for is mobility, manoeuvreability and space saving. A complete system of four columns has a load capacity of 80,000 lbs and can be raised 40ft vertically. The triangular columns are composed of three separate hinged links, raised by a rack and gear system and locked together by patented interlocking hooks.

US: 716 229-5998







### Stateside Special from Golden Scans

With a little help from designers and master programmers Carl Dodds (left, above) and John Lindsell, Pulsar's OSKA control produced another stunning Clay Paky Golden Scan display with an appropriately patriotic American theme on the music track. In the picture (left), Pulsar's Ken Sewell is pictured with Ralph-Jörg Wezorke of Lightpower Germany and Julio Savoldi of Clay Paky. From January 1st the three elements join forces for a new Clay Paky and Pulsar GmbH for Germany. Wezorke will be its managing director (see lead news story in L+SI November issue).

On the UK home front Ken Sewell reported an all-time sales record for Pulsar UK in October. And he has high hopes for their new Masterpiece control board as the first production comes off the line. "We'll have to share them out at first," he told L+SI.

UK: 0223-66798



### Vaudeville launched by Dawn Trader

Dawn Trader from Cranleigh in Surrey, England launched two new dimmers and control units in their DT ranges, but the highlight was their new Vaudeville control desk, available in DMX/Analogue in 24 and 48 way versions. Director Clive Cartey is pictured above (right) with Peter Edwards and their new product line-up.

UK: 0403-752775



### Kliegl Scoop Award

Rufus Warren (left) and John Gorman, designers of the K2000 VVO dimmer, pictured with the LDI 'Product of the Year — Lighting control' award. This Kliegl Brothers unit is the first non-SCR-based solid-state dimmer to be brought to market. The use of high-power Mosfet technology makes possible a dimmer which uses no choke, is short-circuit proof, and has automatic current limiting.

US: 516 937-3900





### Tomcat Inc. Win Stand Award

The LDI award for best exhibition stand design was shared by TomCat USA Inc, who teamed up with their California-based distributor TMB, and Coemar of Italy. The TomCat/TMB stand was designed by British designer Neville Lee, and held sway over the 'quiet' hall at LDI.

The structure gave TomCat ample scope to show their larger load-bearing truss components. A 50' × 20' BFT grid supported on four heavy duty towers created a mezzanine level accessible only to serious customers and fun-loving people like L+SI editor John Offord (who wrote that? ed.)

Flown above all this was a huge articulating 'butterfly' built from pre-rigged truss with a 40' wingspan, and movement of the butterfly was choreographed by Neville Lee, Dick Ollett and Alan Martin of Skjonberg Controls, Inc. who provided the computerised motor control system. Pictured above are TomCat USA boss Mitch Clark (left) with designer Neville Lee.

US: 915 686-7029

# Still No 1

It's been some time now since the GE Pinspot became the world's best selling disco lamp. Since then sounds have come and gone. Discos have appeared and vanished.

But the Pinspot is still on top.

Which brings about an interesting question. In such a volatile world how can one lamp reign supreme for so long?

The answer is surprisingly simple.

It's simply that no other disco lamp comes close to matching its qualities. No other lamp is as sturdy or as easy to handle or made to the exceptionally tight tolerances that GE demands. And being a sealed beam unit is also a big advantage. Because it means that dirt, dust or smoke don't stand a chance of getting inside.

Finally, the Pinspot is an honest lamp (which is more than you can say for some). It delivers what it claims to deliver.

The GE Pinspot.

Even after all these years, it's still spot on.

# The GE Pinspot, Still Spot-on.

We don't just sell lamps we sell expertise



GE Lamps United Kingdom & Eire





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Ever since their launch late in 1988, Rainbow Colour Changers have been impressing lighting designers with the quietness of their operation.

Capable of scrolling through 11 different colours in one second, the Rainbow offers totally inaudible dramatic lighting effects for the theatre, opera, ballet, dance and television - anywhere silent operation, fast effects and proven reliability are imperative.

Rainbow Colour Changers have been used in

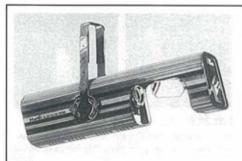
Miss Saigon, Starlight Express and M Butterfly in London and Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables in Stockholm - in addition to many other shows and tours throughout the world.

Our Broadway debut in Aspects of Love is to be followed by other major shows later this year.

If you would like further information on the full Rainbow range including 1K, 2/5K 8 lite and light curtain contact our London office for our latest brochure - you won't believe what you don't hear.



COLOUR CHANGERS



### Roboscan on Tracoman

On possibly the noisiest but still one of the busiest stands at LDI, Tracoman of Miami were showing Martin (Denmark), Lamp (Italy) and Studio Due (Italy) products. The 'big brother' of the Roboscans, the 1020 was launched, which can be used with either an MSR 700 or MSR 1200 lamp. This unit has 2 colour wheels with 9 colours each plus white and can mix across all colours. Similarly there are 2 gobo wheels with 9 gobos each, and primary secondary ones can be mixed to create unique patterns. It has a fully adjustable motorised iris and focus and a high speed strobe facility of up to 9 flashes per second.

Also new from Martin is the Magnum 12,000 smoke generator and Smoke System for computerised control of up to 8 Martin Foggers at once.



From Lampo came the Derby and Double Derby effects units and from Studio Due a range of their current effects including Fly Rays and Top Scan.

US: 305 591-5991



### Lenses from Scotland

First time at LDI, John Moncrieff Limited of Perth, Scotland, were represented by Ken Rae and Jeanette Ray (pictured above). Part of the PLASA group, they displayed various items from the lens range under the 'Monax' brand name. Standard sizes are available for pebble convex and fresnels. Custom-made lenses are a speciality.

UK: 0738 22311



### Astralloy take on Optec

Astralloy of Leeds announced at LDI that they will handle UK distribution of Optec products from the Ness of New Jersey. Pictured above on the Astralloy stand are (left to right): Graham Thomas, Andrew Broitman of Optec, Adrian Brooks (managing director of Astralloy) and Ronnie Rees, advertising director of Disco Mirror who shared Astralloy's stand. UK: (0532) 465331

### New from the Meteor Armoury

The Meteor Sound and Light Company from Madison in Alabama had numerous new club and mobile pieces, but one of the neatest innovations came in the form of a giveaway plan of the lighting effects you'd seen on demo. Note the effect, mark it off on the plan as a favourite, and (hopefully) order it next week.

There was interesting stuff with some even more interesting names, notable amongst which was a 'must see' in Meteor's 'Gattling Gun'. It has eight mirrors with sound animation of both beam movement and colour change. The beam source is a 360W MR type projection lamp through a matched lens train. Automatic control with manual override is provided in the remote control unit, plus variable audio level sensitivity.

US: 205 461-7708





### Words but no Pix

Lee Colortran Inc. announced that it has decided to change its name back to Colortran, Inc. On stand they were showing the Prestige control system (for which there are upgrades on the 3000) and introduced the new 5/50 Series Ellipsoidals. Also new was Scene Master 60 Plus control console which has been enhanced to include up to 120 channels with 120 submasters.

Leprecon/CAE Inc. of Hamburg in Michigan announced a 'Cue Plus' for its control systems which provides expanded console memory of 1000 cues, comprehensive manual or automated colour changer control with 1000 colour scene memories, fully proportional softpatch and complete cue scripting with playback facilities (US: 313 231-9373)

Dove Systems launched three new products. TechPro is a low-price memory control with a host of facilities. Linked with it at the show was the Controlmaster Two Scene 24/Single Scene 48. This unit offers two scenes of 24 channels with AMX and DMX outputs both active at once. As more dimmers are added, the TS-24 jumps to 48 channels of single scene control with the flip of a switch. Also making its first appearance was the Dove Solid State Transformer with built-in dimmer (US: 805 541-8292)

Abstract of Leicester, England, showed a range of effects under the tutorage of Steven Watts and Dane Fleetwood. New was their Syncro Scat 100 C.W. which has an on-board A.G.C. unit and mic. The servo head mirror will move in perfect sync to the beat of music and can be linked up to the SS4 controller to make up a system (UK: 0455-823188)

Secoa had their 'Climber' — the newest innovation in rigging systems (US: 612 546-6313)

In the field of linear optics, Lumenyte of California had four new optics and two new illuminators. Latest is the 'Starburst'. Small cuts are spaced all along the length allowing a burst of light to shine at regular increments (US: 714 556-6655)

For your colour scrollers Luminaire of Hollywood make them for HMI, Xenon and Quartz fixtures. All components are modular and the all-digital system can be operated with any one of 16 basic protocols. Dousers are available as are robotics (US: 213 461-9220)

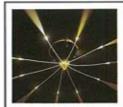




### Theatre Magic's Haze-Master

The HR-3 works on the principal of 'cracking' lightweight oil and was first used on the Siegfried and Roy Show at Las Vegas in late 1989, and developed from there, with an introduction to the market at LDI. The 'machine' is a 24" cube weighing around 125lbs, with castors and extendable handle. The fluid tank holds approximately 2 pints of Nuhaze, which lasts up to approximately six hours of full operation. Theatre Magic are looking for worldwide distributors for this and their full range of products.

US: 614 459-3222







### Swirling Colour from FLY

FLY of Mantova, Italy, were showing their Dream projector and 'Brain' control system, but visual attraction was in their Hydra and Midas effect units. Both units are shown above, and the spinning arms of the Hydra have endless permutations, depending on speed and colour. An indoor 'firework' display for the future?

Italy: 376 372975



### **Electrol Introduce ProPatch**

Electrol's new DMX ProPatch decodes 48 channels of DMX-512 for output at 0-10vDC Analogue. It enables assignment of any of the 512 DMX channels of any of the 48 output channels at proportional (0-100%) levels. Other introductions included a 6 channel solid state relay pack (ND1200) and a 36K, 3 channel power dimmer with load distribution (312KLD).

US: 301 247-4875



### The Short Option from Uni-Par

Uni-Par, the guys with the plastic Parcans, have come up with a short option: their UP-1 and UP-2 units are now available in a short version. Being lighter and smaller they make for great floor lights, and are easier for the mobile DJ to handle. Also recently introduced is their Super 2. It involves a 'Super Module' consisting of a low voltage 75W Halogen MR-16 lamp, and MR-16 socket, an adaptor plate, a combination power supply dimmer and a control jack.

US: 502 898-8962

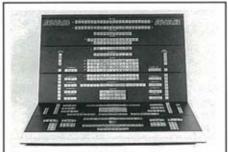


### Laser Productions Dualscan XP

According to Laser Productions they were the only company taking part in LDI who were given the opportunity to demo their products for the Walt Disney Corporation. Four Variscans and a Performer controller were installed at their Pleasure Island complex in the Mannequin Club.

Launehed at LDI was the new Dualscan XP laser simulator — two Variscans in one projector. The company bills it as a unit that has two scanner sets, two colour systems — without any appreciable light loss — at much less than double the price.

US: 305 754-6885 UK: 0527-510281



### Macro Panel for Expert

The MacroPanel for AVAB's 'Expert' lighting control system is a geographical channel selector option. Pushing one key selects the corresponding channel in the Expert, and selected channels are indicated by a green LED in the button. Actual light on stage is indicated by a red LED in the button. A highlight of the system is the possibility of using every key as a Macro key. Further news released is confirmation that MIDI is now fully operational and a track ball available for moving lights — both additional 'Expert' features.

Sweden: 31-179240 US: 415 421-3562



### Major Goldscan Keyboard

Distributed by Lightpower of Germany, the Major Goldscan Application is a customised control system for Clay Paky Golden Scan projectors. It is billed as the most efficient graphical user interface for the control of Golden Scans and runs on IBM compatible PC's. Oliver Rump (left) and Ralph-Jörg Wezorke of Lightpower show the system at Orlando

Germany: 05251-4184



### **Altman's Explorer**

Universe Stage Lighting of New York had Altman's Explorer on demo, which utilises a 1200 HMI lamp, and two adjustable lenses giving variable beam range. Spot focus is 5.7° and flood focus 7.0°. Other equipment on the stand included the Robo Search, shown left in the picture above.

US: 212 246 0597



### Strand Lighting's Mantrix MX

Simply MX to the rest of the world, and first seen at the PLASA Light & Sound Show at London in September, Strand launched Mantrix MX in Orlando for the North American market. It is lightweight, portable, and comes in 12, 24 or 48 channel versions operating 512 dimmers. It offers a full variety of features including instant record and playback memories, two scene preset manual control, plus menu selectable DMX-512, SMX, AMX-192 or D54. There are numerous additional options available.

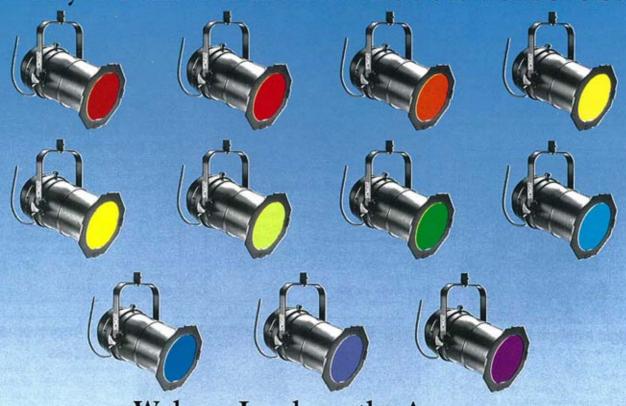
Also on stand was the re-designed and re-packaged Impact consle for the midrange market, the top-end Light Palette 90, and a Taskmaster controlling Parscan II's. Command/Cue Plus is featured elsewhere.

US: 213 637-7500

# **QUESTION**



How do you make this one lantern do the work of eleven?



# Wybron Inc. have the Answer

Exceptional value

Will fit most luminaires (5 sizes available)

Range of mounting plates

220v/240v mains operated, no additional power supplies needed



11 colours end to end in 2.2 seconds (16 colour version available)

Heat management system (ensures proper cooling of gel string)

Easy to control from most lighting consoles (0-10v or DMX 512 input)

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### Rosco show their Coloroll

In addition to announcing over 80 new gobo designs, a complete update of the range, new paints and colour and a video on scene painting, main talking point of the Rosco stand was the prototype showing of their new Coloroll colour change system. 16 different protocols will be catered for and the units will be fully available world-wide from early February, company president Stan Miller reported.

US: 914 937-1300 UK: 071 580-6334



### White Light highlight Projection

London's White Light, fresh from a successful PLASA showing, saw considerable interest in their VSFX variable speed effects units. Bryan Raven (above left) reported many trade houses showing interest and this will be boosted by the fact that eight units will be busy at work on Miss Saigon when it opens on Broadway. Strand are also pushing sales along by urging its use on their Cadenza EP projectors. The CCT Starlette is also an excellent source unit.

UK: 071-371 0806



### Jands launch an Event

Jands Electronics of Australia have now been in the business for 20 years and came up with an 'Event' in Orlando. It appeared in the form of a new lighting control console, available in either 24, 36 or 48 channel versions, with DMX-512 output, a MIDI input, plus a range of peripherals such as a VDU, memory card, and analogue outputs. Jands' Paul Mulholland is pictured above (right) with Marshall Blissett of TMB Associates, their US distributors.

Australia: 02 516-3622 UK: 0494-446000



### Strong International and their Roadie

Strong's spotlight product manager Jack Schmidt had a representative selection of the company's famous followspots, but totally new was their 'Roadie', which utilises an Osram 400W HTI single ended bulb, with separate metal reflector. It has Strong's own variable focal length lens system and a six filter boomerang is available. It is light in weight for ease in touring situations and has an optional floor stand. There is a pattern slot for gobos and mounting clips for scrolling colour changers.

US: 402 453-7238 UK: 0494-446000



### Spotlight's new Vedette 2500

The product drawing the most attention on the Spotlight of Milan stand was their new Vedette 2500 variable beam spread followspot, which utilises an MSR 2500W lamp. It is the bigger brother to the 1200, first seen at the PLASA Show in London in September.

UK: 0494-446000



### **LSC Latest Precept**

LSC of Melbourne, Australia had a major line-up of their control products but centre of attention was their new Precept 48 lighting desk. It follows on from their 12, 24 and 36 channel versions and incorporates extra facilities such as enhanced memory capacity — 192 programmable scenes — and timed cross fades. Pictured above, LSC's managing director Gary Pritchard demo's the board.

Australia: 613 836-9111



Joe Tawil (left) with Robert Iodice.



Explaining the Access updates.



The always busy stand of The Great American Market.

# More Improvements for Access

First stand in the 'quiet' hall, the usual bright display from The Great American Market had Access control consoles front of stand.

Software improvements for Access include Halt/Back for the 48 channel models providing the ability to stop a fade and go back to the previous cue. It is a very useful feature during rehearsals. There is also an upgrade package to convert the 48 channel model to 96 channels. Another addition is the ability to change a dimmer setting in a given cue and have the change track through subsequent cues until that dimmer appears at a different setting from the original one. Finally, there is now the ability to print a cue sheet.

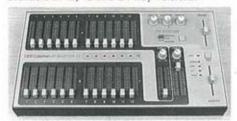
On the staff side, GAM have announced that Robert J. lodice has been appointed director of sales. "Bob's experience ranges from regional theatre to the theme park and leisure industry, so he is well able to relate to our diverse clientele," said general manager Joe Tawil. "In just a few short months with us his energy, enthusiasm and expertise have become important assets."

ssets.

# EQUIPMENT/lews

## Lumo Lighting launches New Ranges

At the recent Photokina exhibition in Cologne, Lumo Lighting launched a range of new products. Alongside the new Status control console, the company showed the BiMaster range of lighting control desks. The two-preset control desks are specifically designed for the smaller venue and are available in 12, 18 and 24 way versions.



The company has also developed a new Universal electronic ballast, which can drive any of the company's 575W, 1.2kW or 2.5kW Super Daylight fresnel heads. Like all Lumo electronic ballasts, the new Universal model is entirely flicker-free but also includes Power Factor Correction. Further details contact Lumo in Bolton on (0204) 73373.

### Farrahs Supply Yamaha

A new 24/4/2 Yamaha sound console, the Yamaha PM 1200 has been supplied to the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury as part of a major refurbishment contract awarded to Farrah Sound.

The PM 1200 was developed by Yamaha specifically for theatre use and includes dedicated applications such as master mute function which permits instantaneous punch ins and outs. The unit, available in a 16 to 32 channel format and its companion, the PM 1800 in a 16 to 40 channel format are available exclusively from Farrahs. Both units are also available for hire. For further information contact Farrah in Kingston, telephone 081-549 1787.

### **Nexon Starflex**



'Starflex' the new lighting effect from Swissbased manufacturers Nexon, is a powerful and tight sealed lightbeam which is projected over rotating mirrors, with position and colour changing in time to the music. Dichroic filters provide intensive light colouring. The discharge lamp is switchable over an external 10 volt signal and a second 10 volt signal controls the shutter. The Starflex does not require a special controller. For further details please contact Nexon Elektronik in Bad Ragaz. Telephone 085-96 96222.

### Tecnation drop Bit Bopper

Tecnation Digital Atmosphere have announced the immediate mothballing of the Tecnation Bit Bopper computer graphics sound-to-light and multimedia entertainment system.

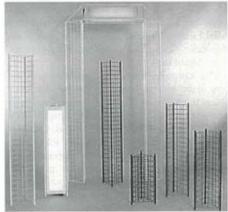
Tecnation say that the decision will enable them to further their ambitions in the field of multimedia based Personal Information, Communication and Organisation technology. The financial cost of maintaining the Bit Bopper project has been preventing research and development in this area as well as being a huge personal strain on all team members.

Kaleidovision, who own one of the only two Multimedia Bit Bopper systems in the world, offer the complete world-wide hire service for all musical events. Tecnation, whilst continuing to support Kaleidovision, will be concentrating on developing the PiCO REVO project. For further details contact Tecnation in Oxford on (0831) 260370.

### **Designer Colour From Clip**

Industry leading space and light frame systems, Trimesh and Trilight — from modular display system company Clip — are now available in five colours as standard. Exclusive to Clip, Trimesh and Trilight are designed to light up any display area — from office and shop interiors to full scale exhibitions and point of sale.

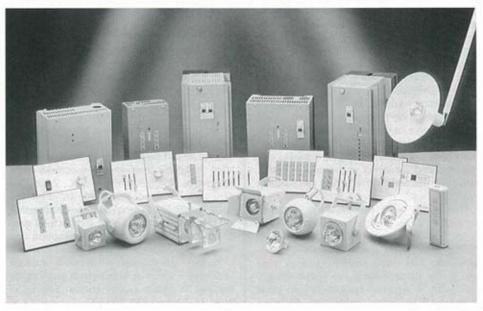
Trimesh provides an integral framework for high level lighting. The only structural spaceframe system to be triangular in shape and with a square mesh 'body', Trimesh's multi-purpose design provides the framework to support additional, point of sale shelf and racking systems as required. Graphics can also be hung from or stretched across the frame.



Complementary Trilight features its own, built-in fluorescent lighting system which shines through opalescent perspex. For further colour, a tinted acrylic sleeve — in stock red, green or blue — is simply slipped over the fluorescent tubing. Designed to integrate with Trimesh sections, messagemaking Trilight is also suitable for displaying banner-style graphics which are automatically illuminated from the inside out by the integral lighting system. Further details on Clip's full product range are available from Clip Ltd, in Wick. Telephone 027-585 2636.

## Strand Homes in on the Range

Strand Lighting, through its range of dimmers, control stations and luminaires claims to provide everything needed for architectural and display lighting schemes. Suitable for domestic, office and retail display uses they are, from left to right. Back Row: 20 amp Unidim; 5A Microdimmer; fluorescent Multi-(manual); 20A Microdimmer; tungsten Multidim (preset) and the Stalk spot, with saucer attachment. Middle Row: Finesse dimmer; 3-gang fader; 1-gang rotary; 1-gang preset; 6-gang fader and master; 6-gang preset; Microdimmer preset and 4-fader; take control and infra-red receiver; and an infrared transmitter. Front Row: preset select and bargraph; Minicube; Bullet; Minispot profile, with an example of a dichroic 12V lamp; Minispot 'Barndoor'; Eyeball spotlight; Cube spotlight, and a 'Wall-Washer' downlight.



### **Image by Definition**



The laser image above is produced from The Definitive Laser Company's multi-coloured laser system, feeding a 20 beam position optical effects head. Graphics, animation and all spatial effects are controlled by Definitive's Imagen computer system, enabling an entire laser production to be pre-programmed in advance. The Imagen can be cued manually, from tape or via a pulse signal from any external source, i.e. Dove or Eagle controller.

By utilising the beam table technology, over 180° of beam coverage can be achieved. Full 360° effects are also possible by a simple modification, prior to arrival on site. After the initial beam alignment, all beam positions are physically 'locked off', eliminating troublesome beam drift.

The company also has available remote mini laser effects heads, whereby the laser beam is fed from the main system via high efficiency (80%), transmission optical fibre cable. This 'shoe-box' sized unit is ideal for back projection of blanked (no join lines) graphics or can be used when a presentation necessitates the laser effects to be projected from an unusual or confined position maybe from inside a car or washing machine! We have recently utilised a remote scanning head to front project an animation sequence for the Prudential new identity.

The company also has permanent demonstration facilities at their premises near Hatfield. For further details contact Definitive Laser Company in Hatfield on (0707) 266778.

### Fostex and the Pink Pig

A Fostex D20 DAT recorder and the Fostex synchroniser package are key to the concept of the new Pink Pig Mobile, the only mobile of its kind, designed specifically for TV and film sound recording.

The Pink Pig Mobile is unique in that it is probably the smallest dedicated multitrack mobile recording unit. Centred around a D20 digital mastering machine, a Tascam 24 track recorder, and an Allen & Heath 32 channel Saber, the studio is installed in an 18ft American Econoline truck, and can run off a

single 13 amp socket.

One major criteria when specifying the equipment for the mobile, was the need for a master source of timecode, in order that sound could be locked to the cameras on multi-betacam shoots. A digital recorder was also required for direct mastering to stereo, especially desirable for recording live classical music.

Due to its size, the Pink Pig is totally accessible, it can even be parked in a regular meter bay. The equipment was supplied by 2001, Surrey-based specialist consultants in pro audio and video equipment, who were also highly instrumental in the system design. For further information contact Richard Wear at Fostex UK Ltd, telephone 081-893 5111.

### R & W Catalogue

The third edition of Raper & Wayman's Professional Audio Catalogue, is now available. People will notice a difference - the cover is now in glorious colour - but its logical, signal path format and comprehensive information on a wide range of audio products have been retained, and it has been expanded to 88 pages to include two new sections covering Audio Furniture and Problem Solvers. The Raper & Wayman price list is now up-dated on a quarterly basis and sent to all recipients of the catalogue. For further information contact Raper & Wayman in London, telephone 081-800 8288.

### Compact Transformers

Lighting Components Limited new generation of toroidal units ranges up to 500vA starting with 20, 35 and 50vA units.



Other than for those units specifically built for connection to low voltage track systems all Lighting Components transformers over 75vA have been designed with individually wound secondaries for each lamp. This has the effect of smoothing the regulation problem of multioutput units and offers an achieved increase in lamp life of around 35%.

All the transformers are constructed using the highest quality materials with each encapsulated in epoxy resin within a case moulded in glass-filled nylon. Where primary and secondary windings are provided these are individually fused and there is an in-built automatic re-settable thermal overload. Connecting terminals and fuse holders are mounted externally on the top of each transformer with a removable transparent cover plate to shroud all live parts. Individual terminal connections are provided for each secondary thus removing the need for additional splitters.

For further information contact Lighting Components Limited, Eastbourne, telephone (0323) 410105.

### Selecon's Low Voltage

The New Zealand luminaire manufacturer Selecon have extended their product range and market with the introduction of their Accent low voltage and metal halide display lighting range.

The low voltage range comprises the Demi-spot and Accent Spot housings for the MR16 lamp and the Accent Profile, a variable beam (26-45\*) profile ideal for pattern projection. Adapting their highly successful New Star range of Minifresnel, MiniPC, Zoomspot 650 and Zoomspot 650 Wide to utilise the 150W metal halide lamp has brought together theatrical performance with architectural standards of lamp life, energy consumption and heat output, claim Selecon.

Further information is detailed in their brochure - Creative Architectural and Display lighting. To obtain a copy contact Selecon in New Zealand on (09) 792 583.

### SkyLight Laser from Coherent

Coherent (UK) Ltd has launched a new family of ion laser systems - the SkyLight series designed specifically for laser entertainment and display applications.

The systems have been developed to meet the demands of the light show industry reliability, long-life, ease of maintenance, high brightness and beam quality, claim the company. The system utilises optics that provide very low beam divergence. They also incorporate Coherent's sealed mirror technology and long life Innova plasma tubes, guaranteeing reliability and requiring minimum maintenance.

The systems are available in two different models - SkyLight 70 and SkyLight 200 providing blue-green output powers from 5W to 30W or red output powers from 1.5W to 6W. The lasers are ideally suited to larger indoor use or to outdoor displays where they can literally 'light up the sky'. According to Richard Gleeson, of Coherent, the SkyLight series also meets the financial demands of the laser market: "By designing this series specifically for display and light show use, high cost components required by other markets are not needed. As a result, SkyLight lasers meet the needs of the market place at a highly competitive price." For further information contact Coherent UK in Cambridge. telephone (0223) 420501.

### Delaire M Series

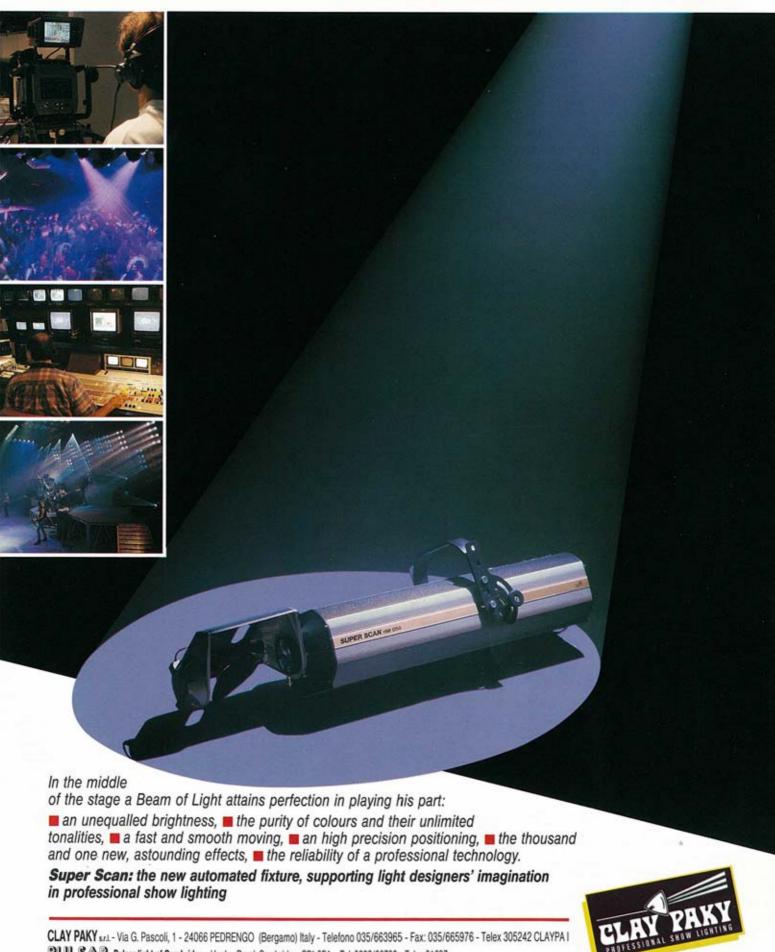


Delaire the European division of Deltron Inc. have announced the launch of their all new Moduflex range of power supplies, available in power ratings from 400-750 watts. The Moduflex has a power density of 6 watts per cubic inch, which is currently twice that of the nearest competitor, and nearly five times the power density of a conventional power

The 500 watt model measures only 63mm(H) x 128mm(W) x 228mm(L) with the 750 watt model only marginally larger. The compact size has been achieved using ultra high efficiency magnetics and advanced manufacturing techniques. All of these new products feature 120kHz Mosfet switching. current mode control, fully isolated and regulated outputs, and comprehensive overload and overvoltage protection. Pricing will be very aggressive say Delaire as they intend to secure a major portion of this mid range

For further information contact Delaire in Co Dublin, Ireland, telephone 353 1 851411.

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# ON TOUR

In last month's issue I featured an article written by Louise Stickland and, unfortunately, we made an error in the copy. The sound engineer for last year's The Cure 'Prayer Tour' was not, as we printed, called Chubby but rather Cubby! Again, I stress the fault was ours and not Louise's.

Autumn in London appeared to be a Roy Bennett solo season with four major shows designed by him. I didn't manage to see the Sinead O'Connor show but I did catch the Depeche Mode 'World Violation Tour' and the Janet Jackson 'Rhythm Nation 1814 Tour', both at Wembley Arena. Jane Spiers and John Featherstone are acclaimed designers in their own right and I couldn't help wondering why they were working as operators for someone else. It seems to be rather like giving an artist a paint-by-numbers kit! However, both designers stressed how content they were and why they were particularly happy to work with Roy Bennett. Next month I hope to feature the man himself with his designs for INXS.

This month I've also spoken to Jerry Reinhardt who is operating for the Cher 'Heart of Stone Tour', a show designed by Jeff Ravitz. It was a very theatrical show complete with videos, special effects, brilliant choreography, plenty of scantily clad male dancers and, I'm glad to say, exceptional set design and lighting.

### Janet Jackson

'Rhythm Nation 1814' World Tour **Wembley Arena** 

Lighting Designer: Roy Bennett

Lighting Director:

John Featherstone Vari\*Lites: Gary Westcott

The Rhythm Nation 1814 stage set is an industrial structure comprising of aluminium towers, platforms, staircases, ladders and ramps. The towers support industrial cranes filled with lights, beneath which are platforms carrying followspots. The 12m high towers, in many arenas reaching almost to the roof, are decorated with fluorescent lights set behind metal grilles and contain other lights which rise and fall on tracks. The stage set includes an 8m long telecaster board set beneath a dance platform.

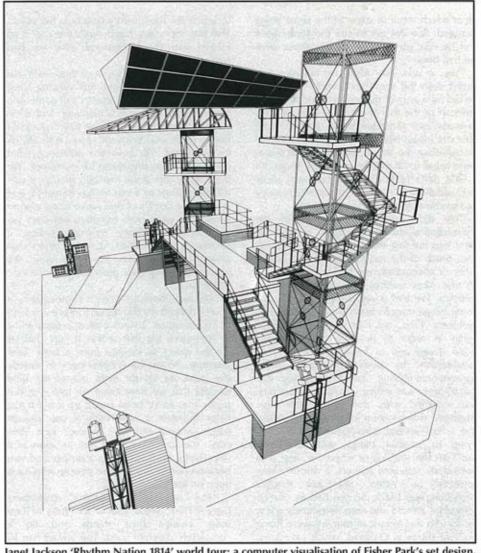
Although the stage is always located at one end of the arena, the set is designed to be seen 'in the round' and the band play, partly hidden, under a central platform. Janet and her six dancers move above, behind and in front of them in a sequence of complex choreographed performances. The open towers and staircases are alternately backgrounds and foregrounds through which the performers move. Most of the lighting is built into the stage set, and it is arranged so that it can be focused on both the artists and the structure.

The first half of the show features songs from early albums and the lighting underplays the stage set but features Janet and her band strongly. The second half features songs from the 'Rhythm Nation' album and the lighting turns onto the aluminium structures which become menacing cityscapes, factory interiors or funky discotheques. Janet and her dancers move through this moody twentiethcentury landscape in a series of dazzling costume changes, lit from unexpected directions by lights concealed behind the grilles or buried in ventilator shafts and revolving cowlings. The telecaster board is used to present abrupt slogans from the 'Rhythm Nation' lyrics.

'Roy got the account through Patrick Woodroffe who was busy with The Stones and Tina Turner at the time," explained John Featherstone. "He then approached Gary and myself. It became apparent fairly quickly that it was going to be an unconventional system because there isn't really a lighting rig. Everything is encompassed in the set itself. It was interesting for me because it was the first time I had been involved directly on the same project as Roy. He works in a very democratic way when he is programming. He has a definite theme and idea of the way he wants things to go, but if you've got any ideas or suggestions he is more than willing to hear them. Also, if he suggests an idea which you think is really rough then he'll abandon it. Roy hasn't any ego problems when he's programming. It's very refreshing for Gary and myself as well as for Shaun our Telescan guy to a certain extent. He didn't know Roy at all before so it took him a while to get used to the idea that Roy really likes to work as a team."

"It's a case of brainstorming together, picking out the best ideas and then bouncing them back," added Gary. "It's similar to what happened on The Cure where we passed ideas backwards and forwards."

"It's better than someone coming in and saying 'this is the way I want it, this is the way it's going to be whether you like it or not', which is an unrealistic situation," continued John. "Roy places a lot of trust in Gary and myself in as much as he set the show up and was around for only the first couple of weeks and at that stage it looked like he wasn't going to get to see the show ever again. So that was why he wanted to make sure we had input because we needed to be happy with everything otherwise there would be a tendency to change things after he had gone. It's best to achieve something that everyone is happy with even though it might not be exactly what you want because then you know the show will actually stay consistent. Obviously, we're working on and developing



Janet Jackson 'Rhythm Nation 1814' world tour: a computer visualisation of Fisher Park's set design.



Janet Jackson Rhythm Nation 1814 World Tour 1990.

ideas which result in some of the show being changed. Roy did get to see the show again and he was very complimentary about what we had done."

"Yes, it was very fortunate because Roy hadn't seen the show for a while and when he did he was over the moon," said Gary. "At the start of the tour there were a lot of back to backs and consequently no time to work on extra ideas, filling in spaces and generally embellishing the songs. Basically what we've done is just to fill out the rest of the songs. It's a little different from a standard rock show because there is a lot of dancing which we've had to choreograph the lights around."

"We didn't get to see a lot of the choreography during rehearsals, in fact, we went into the first show without really having seen much of the run through at all," admits John. "Consequently we had to change a lot for that. Also, another element raised itself in America. We had a video system which was doing image magnification which gave us two problems. One, we had to change certain things in order to produce an acceptable video image and to brighten the show up considerably by putting in some more conventional lighting. The other problem was that all Janet was seeing was that video which was recorded with, not exactly, the most advanced video system known to man. Gary and I had several conversations with Janet trying to explain things such as when Vari\*Lites are strobing or when the stage is in particularly saturated colours, it doesn't show correctly on video. She just thought everything was black. So we had to change quite a lot around and then, fortunately a few weeks into the American tour we were doing multiple shows at Oakland, which gave Janet the opportunity to come in every afternoon

to watch the show with a dancer in her place. She was then very happy with the way it all looked and she understood what we had been talking about.

"When you are on a tour of this length you can say 'right we've got this running now, we're going to leave it exactly the same and we're not going to touch anything' and there are certain merits to that. The way Gary and I like to work, and Roy's the same, is to always be improving. We have the philosophy that we tend to run the show for ourselves. We don't really care if the manager thought it was a brilliant show or if our friends thought it was great, if we don't feel that we've done a good show then we're both bummed out after the gig. We're constantly striving, making it interesting for ourselves, changing little things around and finding new bits in the music. We want to be constantly progressing rather than sitting back.

"Because there is so much choreography it is very difficult for the music to have any kind of improvisation. There's a lot of programming to keyboards etc that makes it very difficult for the music to deviate from a fairly fixed structure. So we have been stuck in exactly the same set list for eight out of the nine months that we have been on tour. I'm not saying that we've been bored by it but it just helps maintain a little edge if you change things around and give yourself new little cues. You have to keep it fun. As soon as it stops being fun it turns into a drudge and you become one of those jaded people who have been on the road too long."

"The Cure was very different," remembers Gary. "They would start a few bars of one song, change their minds and do a completely different song. You always had to be on your toes. With this show you have to

Photo: Mark Fisher, courtesy Fisher Park Ltd.

keep yourself interested. We play off each other a lot, swapping cues and swapping boards every now and then.

"The tour began with three months in the USA and then three weeks in Japan followed by another three months in the USA. We've just spent a month in Europe and tomorrow we are returning to Japan. Whilst there we will go over to Hong Kong for three shows picking up a completely new system. John has done a totally fresh design and we are going to do a more conventional show without the major part of the set."

"We've been very fortunate with a production of this magnitude and the amount of money Janet is generating," added John. "We've taken, with the exception of the Vari\*Lites, the entire set and lighting rig everywhere. That's a great luxury that you don't usually have unless you're working with an artist of this size. However, it means that when they get into the situation where they want to drop in three shows in a different country very quickly we're faced with either trying to recreate a very unique and large stage set using local scaffolding or going for an industrial type, normal rock and roll show which is more run of the mill. In this case we've gone for the latter. There are also limitations to the equipment available in Hong Kong, they have European desks and dimmers but lamp wise all they really have are Par cans. Vari-Lite Hong Kong only holds VL1s so Gary is going to be thrown from a system of 90 VL2s and 4s into a system of 24 VL1s."

"From using a thousand plus cues over the whole show I'm going to a limit of 256 cues so there will be some fast finger work!" Gary said. "It'll be a more basic show but hopefully still satisfying. After that we go back to Japan for a week of shows."

"I think it was a very wise decision not to try to have a conventional lighting system because the set itself, designed by Fisher Park Ltd, is generating such a strong theme on its own," said John. "I think if you had a normal type lighting system hanging there it would detract from the set. We only have 14 Par cans, 60 or 70 8-lites with gel changers and the usual complement of strobes and those kind of devices. The bulk of the system is the 8-lites with colour changers. There are also 36 VL2bs and 49 VL4s. 12 Telescans and 16 spots. I was fairly apprehensive about the number of spots in the beginning because I've never called so many and I knew the difficulties you can get into calling spots on so many dancers. If you are dealing with a band situation it's fairly easy to describe to the operator what you want him to do. When you've got dancers, who for the majority of the set, dress identically and also race about the stage like people possessed, it's extremely difficult to maintain all the spots. I'm glad to have the Edwin Shirley guys running the spots here but in America it was nightmarish dealing with the union crews. Also, in America we were using regular house spots which wasn't really satisfactory with such a high set. In Europe we've got a spot bridge and the video screen has gone."

"We must say thanks to Clair Brothers because they've been very helpful," stressed Gary. "Wherever possible they've raised the PA as high as they can. It's unusual for sound crews to be aware of the whole picture and they understood our problems with spot placement."

The Janet Jackson tour finished on November 16th and in January 1991 Gary Westcott is scheduled to join Roy Bennett on the forthcoming George Michael tour. John Featherstone has designed the rig for Living Colour who are currently touring with Greg Cunningham as the operator. In the new year, John will again be stepping into Roy's shoes and taking over INXS for their American tour. Over Christmas Roy and John will put their heads together to work on Roy's current designs for INXS which will include a much larger system than in Europe.

Stage Design — Fisher Park Limited Lighting Design — Roy Bennett Set Construction — Tait Towers, Inc. Lighting — Light & Sound Design Ltd, Vari\*Lite Inc.

Video - Nocturne Inc.

Audio - Clair Brothers Audio Enterprises Inc.



Janet Jackson World Tour.

### Depeche Mode 'World Violation' Tour at Wembley Arena

Lighting Designer: Roy Bennett Lighting Director: Jane Spiers



Depeche Mode.

Photo courtesy Mute Records

The obvious question to ask Jane was why, after many years as Depeche Mode's lighting designer, was she back on the road with them as an operator for a show designed by Roy Bennett?

"I've been away for two years and you do lose touch. You need to see shows and keep abreast of new ideas as things change so quickly. I wanted to work with Roy anyway so I was totally happy with the idea. We put our ideas together to get the Depeche Mode look and, although I would have done it differently left by myself, new ideas are good mixed with your own. It's a great way of working. It's a new type of job this whole idea of people designing and other people operating. It's about getting a team together and I think it works well but you have to have the right people. I was very nervous at the beginning that I'd feel as though I was having my toes stepped on or vice versa but it was great. The first week of rehearsal we were both very worried about upsetting each other!

"The whole design revolves around, five

pods which move individually. In each of them we've got Vari\*Lites and their raylights and fans. It's nice and sparse, really quick to put up and take down. Each of the pods travels completely with all its colour changers and lamps on. So you put a basic grid up, without any lamps on it and you think all the crew are going to get annoyed because you've got tons of lamps! Instead you wheel the pod units in, put them on motors and they all just disappear up there. It has worked really well especially with the stage set because the whole lighting plot is a mirror of the stage set. Originally, the band were going to get someone to design the stage set and I was going to do the lights but it has worked better with someone doing the whole thing because you get the continuity.

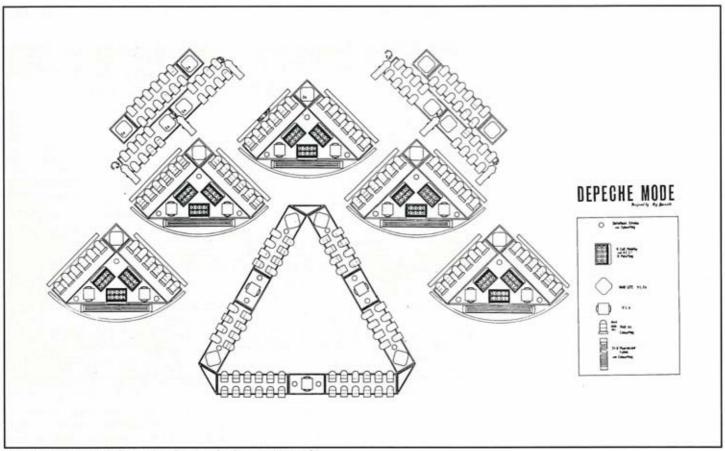
"It's also been really good doing this with Roy because there are a lot of Par lamps and Molefays that I'm in charge of, so it's not as if the Vari\*Lites are doing all the work although they are a major part of the show. Warren Flyn, the Vari\*Lite operator, played a large











Part of Roy Bennett's lighting plan showing the five moving 'pods'.

part in getting it all together. That's a new side of this whole thing of working together because previously on the last tour I operated the Vari\*Lite desk, the colour changers and the normal desk. Now there are three people doing it, including Kathy Ellis on the colour changers. It works fine. It's a new way of thinking and it's quite hard working on a tour to get used to a show and working a show if you're not doing it all yourself.

"The projection is all done by Anton Corbin who has been with the band for years. I was nervous about it at first but I think it makes a nice break. You can't have a lot of lighting on at the same time.

"I certainly don't have to work so hard on this tour. I don't know if it's usual for designer/ operators not to do as much physical work. I've been with the band so long, I've got to the stage where everybody has been telling me for years that I shouldn't spend all my time doing both. I've found that the show has been better, consequently, and I haven't been exhausted all the time. It makes a big difference.

"I don't think I'd cope very well working with a designer saying 'you do this, this and this'. It has to come from yourself really and Roy knows how to work with people. It's a help to him if you take a lot of the responsibility because he's got a lot of work going on. There seems to be a stigma thing about being the operator because people don't quite know what your position is. It's quite hard with the people you work with as well. I think they get confused and think 'are we meant to change this, this is someone else's design?'. Whereas normally I've always been boss so anything I say goes.

"I can honestly say I care about the show as much as if I had designed it myself. After rehearsals it still took about a month for the show to really get polished up. Once on the road you start adding all the really nice bits and specials and so it becomes very personalised. I've never felt cold about it or as if I was just pressing buttons. It's never felt mechanical. The last time we spoke I was saying how tricky it was to operate the Vari\*Lite desk because that's quite mechanical, you don't get as much emotion out of it."

The World Violation Tour started seven months ago in the USA and was incredibly successful due to the band's immense popularity there. It then travelled to Japan and Australia which Jane describes as diabolical. It was the first time Depeche Mode had played Australia and the gigs were particularly small and, with Roy's show being designed on a grand scale, things were obviously difficult. Jane attempted to produce the same sort of show scaled down but unfortunately it ended up looking like a 'migraine'. To add to Jane's embarrassment her husband, friends and family flew over from New Zealand to watch the show. Fortunately, a very successful tour of Europe followed culminating in three Wembley shows and three NEC shows.

"The first night at Wembley we had quite a quiet audience but other nights were very good," explained Jane. "There were a lot of technical problems to start with but I won't tell you about them! To give you an idea it started off with the curtain not opening at all and it sort of went downhill from there.

"I returned to this business partly because I ran out of money but also because I don't want to totally lose touch with everybody. I was very nervous about coming back and starting again having been totally away for so long. It took me quite a while to settle in. There isn't any work in New Zealand, where I come from and now live, although I did work in theatre there. I could have stayed but it would have meant working seven days a week so I wouldn't have seen much of my family. (Jane retired temporarily to have a baby — Lawrence — who is now 18 months old). I'm hoping to move to America next

year with my family. That way I'll try to get as much work as possible in the States and air flights are so cheap there my family will be able to fly about to see me. I'm not ever going to go away for a long period of time and not see them at all. I'll fit them into it. In New Zealand it's too expensive to fly anywhere, whereas in America it's easy to fly to places like England. Hopefully, it will work because I don't want to give up for five years and then suddenly think I can't go back to it because I've lost contact with everything. Even being away for two years I've found I've moved away from all that.

"Lawrence, my son, is totally happy with me being away, I'm the one who gets upset! I've been on tour for seven months and I've only managed to get home twice. The first time he acted as if I'd only been down to the shops and he didn't double take when I left. I'm going home next week and I'm getting more excited by the second. So many people on this crew have children the same age so we all feel the same way and everybody loves getting their photos out."

Depeche Mode Crew Steve Rusling, Graham Osborne Tommy Booth, John Bull Firmin Moriarty, Cathy Ellis

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The illustration opposite is taken from part of a CAD analysis of Coventry Cathedral, where Bose have just supplied an entirely new speaker system.

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94 學問 93 3 92 91 90 Sound Consultant Sound System Software Ken Dibble of The Sound Practice, Rugby. Coventry Cathedral (Direct and \$1, Dev. 1.6 dB Mean: 93.8 dB

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wouldn't he?



### Cher 'Heart of Stone' Tour

Wembley Stadium

### **Lighting Director: Jerry Reinhardt**

Jerry Reinhardt grew up amongst the casinos and cabarets of Reno and Lake Tahoe, USA where his father designed slot machines for a living. He then went to college to study theatre because he wanted to be an actor. Deciding that he was allergic to starvation he then went to graduate school to study design and after that he was a college professor for three years. Wanting to make a little more money he began working for a lighting company where he met people who liked his work. Eventually Jerry began to get his own accounts and now he is a freelance lighting designer/director for a number of different people.

"I took the academic road as opposed to working my way through the clubs," explained Jerry. "I had a lot of experience doing operas and legitimate theatre before my first rock act which was Englebert Humperdinck. I think that it's important to bring a lot of theatrical conventions and emotional, dramatic qualities from theatre to rock and roll. Rock is the last, large avenue of live audiences as we're so jaded by TV and video. The emotional response you get from a live audience is tremendous, you're not separated by some other medium.

"Jeff Ravitz is officially the lighting designer for the Cher show although he tends to think of me as a co-designer because of the collaborative effort throughout the programming process. He relied heavily upon my input and we seem to have a rapport that works very well. Jeff is fabulous to work with, in fact, he was only at one show before turning the entire project over to me.

"This is not a typical rock show - it's a spectacle of sorts with lots of dancers and video clips. The way we approached it was more like we were lighting vignettes and we separated each number as its own little act with its own little story. We also tried to make the look glamorous and very spectacular. Any design depends on the music, some of the music demands that things look very symmetrical, some demands asymmetry. It was just a matter of going through the music and breaking it down structurally to see where, musically, there should be a visual enhancement or embellishment. Certain tunes and certain notes will give you a feel for what type of colour you use, what type of direction and movement. It was a long process of sitting down and dissecting the music. Music is like an abstract language which people respond to emotionally. Lighting is an abstract language as well and if used appropriately it can either enhance or detract. I think we've come pretty close to appropriateness with this.

"It's a Morpheus Lights rig with a combination of moving lights and fixed lights. Basically, we have 26 PC spots, 75 PC beams, 20 Lekos and over 1200 Par cans. We're utilising some colour faders and some ministrips for lighting the set and far cycs. It's a pretty basic rig with a combination of conventional equipment and Pan Command equipment and it's quite versatile. The main difficulty we encountered was trying to adequately light all the areas on the stage because of the multi-level set. There were physical obstructions from the set itself which made our job a lot more difficult.

"Originally Cher went on tour last year with a different set and lighting designer but they were not happy with the results so they scrapped it. They then hired Jeff and myself along with Kim Kofack who designed the set which was constructed by Show Staging of Los Angeles. If I had designed the show myself I would love to say that I would do the same but I wouldn't. However, there are certain portions of the production that demand a type of look and I'm sure I would come up with a lot of similar things.

Jeff and I coincidentally use a similar palette in our colour choices.

I lean towards Pan Command because I'm familiar with it. I was contracted by their company to write their operators manual. I like Telescans and, whilst doing a TV show in Holland, I used a new instrument called a Superscan which works on a similar basis. It has a nice 1200 HMI lamp source and I was very impressed with the way it looked.

"I've been lighting designer for people like Al Jarreau and David Sanborne and, more recently, Wendy & Lisa whose music I really enjoy. I think that they are very up and coming and they give me the opportunity to work with an avant garde act. I've also worked as board operator/director on a number of different acts — Neil Diamond, Huey Lewis & The News — which I co-designed. I've worked on various projects like the Liberty weekend in New York and The Marlboro Country Music Festival. Recently I worked with the superstars of the Bolshoi Ballet for about three months and it was a real treat. I love ballet

and I think it's a wonderful medium to utilise lighting because lighting is so sculptural. It was beautiful.

"I recently lit the opening ceremony of a new convention centre building in Portland, Oregon. It had two 320ft glass towers and I used lasers, strobes, moving lights and colour faders to the music. I paint a lot of watercolours and I consider working with lights is painting as well, and I find it very gratifying. I'd love to do more theatre if I had the opportunity and there was a way to make a decent living. It's difficult to get theatre jobs. I don't really separate opera from ballet from rock and roll because I think the same approach should be taken for all. Whatever the foundation is — the libretto or the music or the movement — it all needs embellishing."

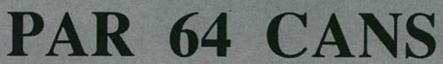
The Cher 'Heart of Stone' tour started last March and will finish on December 4th in Las Vegas. Six days later Jerry Reinhardt will be on tour again as lighting director for Debbie Gibson, a show designed by Peter Morse. Next summer he will be designing a touring jazz festival.



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# **DISCOTEC** — **DUSSELDORF**

## David Neale reports from Germany

With the economic and political map of Europe now re-drawn the expectations of Discotec 90, in Dusseldorf, which ran from 5-9 November were high.

The new markets of the East were lining up to attend an exhibition in the 'West' as equal partners. In the July edition of L+SI Freddy Lloyd told of the virtues of the new markets in an article headed 'Go East Young Man' (a point taken up by the Dusseldorf Fair authorities in a snappy press release entitled 'Overview of the economic situation in Germany's discotheque sector'). So it was with anticipation of better things to come that I made my way to the show.

The first news to break at the show was the announcement by two of the leading European players Clay Paky (Italy) and Pulsar (UK) that they were setting up a joint venture (covered in depth in the November issue of L+SI).

Meanwhile, on the Clay Paky & Pulsar GmbH stand it was very much business as usual. Carl Dodds and John Lindsell of Making Light Work were demonstrating a new light show, based on American composers. The show was, in fact, a dress rehearsal for the L.D.I. show in Orlando (see the review on pages 38 to 48).

AHA GmbH is another new company formed by two ex-members of Avitec

Carl Dodds and John Lindsell with long-time friend, OSKA.

Germany, Joseph Lasek and Peter Danne. The two were proudly showing off their latest creation, in the form of a massive Green field development just outside Cologne — a discotheque called 'M'. At the show itself the company were displaying Trilite structural systems.

UK products could also be seen on the Light Effects stand who were representing Le Maitre, Optikinetics Adda Super Cases and Citronic. Light Effects launched a new controller for the Golden Scan. They claim the controller — Light Control System — is an easy to use, low cost controller.

Uli Petzold of **LMP Lichttechnik** spoke of the bouyant market in Germany reporting shipping 150 Intellabeams this year alone. LMP also represent Le Maitre and other UK manufacturers.

Zero 88's main display was on their German distributors stand — **Neuphone** — although their products were to be seen on a number of other stands including LMP.

NJD had a large presence on the Steinigke Ton — Licht Effeckte stand (don't they have long names) with a display of controllers and disco consoles.

Zitrone had the most visual of stands, inside the Martin Pro Group and were catching a lot of attention with the 'baby' 804 projector proving the show winner.



The light control system from Light Effects.

Also on show for the first time was the new moving light effect, the 10/10.

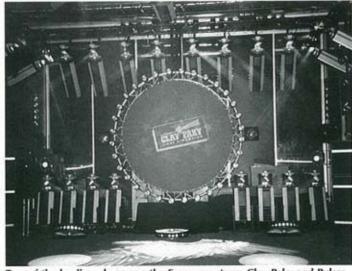
With a comprehensive sound representation most major international names were on show including JBL, Bose, Toa and Hill Audio. The organisers were proud of the noise limitation, keeping sound levels around 70dB.

Overall the show was a success for the German market — but its timing is under some discussion. As a bi-annual show it falls in the same year as Showtech, Berlin and Photokina, Cologne — and there is always Frankfurt. One vistor suggested they move the whole show east to Leipzig. Whether this happens is up to the German industry — but looking long term they have without doubt a golden opportunity to expand out to a central European market.

Freddy Lloyd said it, and many more will repeat it before the decade is very much older: If you're looking for new markets 'Go East Young Man!'.



Zero 88's David Catterall on the Neuphone stand.



Two of the leading players on the European stage, Clay Paky and Pulsar.



All systems go for the Clay Paky and Pulsar joint venture. Pictured left and far right are Julio Savoldi and Pio Nahum of Clay Paky with (second left) Ken Sewell of Pulsar and Ralph Jörg-Wezorke of Lightpower.

# REPRODUCED SOUND

# Ben Duncan reports on the sixth 'Reproduced Sound' conference, organised by The Institute of Acoustics (IOA) in association with SCIF, APRS, AES and ABTT

As is the norm, this year's 'Reproduced Sound' conference was held at The Hydro Hotel, overlooking Lake Windermere. Over 150 delegates were present, embracing audio equipment, manufacturers, broadcasting organisations, electro-acoustic consultants, installers and academics.

### CADmongering

The first day was largely given over to talks on acoustic CAD (Computer Aided Design) software used to predict and plan the optimum location of speakers in rooms. The session was organised by SCIF under the provocative banner 'CAD - Tools or Toys?' The day's debate was kicked off by Fred Ampel, editor of the US journal 'Sound & Video Contractor'. In recent months, he'd allowed competing US purveyors of CAD software to conduct heated arguments in the magazine's editorial column. In his paper, he asked 'Can the industry viably support so disparate programs, with mutually exclusive data sets and incompatible software? And is "this lack of unity . . . denying credibility to the whole universe of Electro-acoustic CAD programming? If no one can agree on standards for measurement, does this leave the results of all the programs in doubt?"

JBL were the first company to release CAD design software: their CADP-1 appeared in 1982. Henrik Staffeldt, technical consultant for JBL at their European HQ in Denmark, discussed the technical details behind JBL's new CADP-2 software, due for release early in the new year.

AcoustaCADD is Altec's program. First released in 1988, and revised this year, it's exclusive to the Mk.VI family of companies meaning it supports Altec, EV and University drive units. John Lapphere, manager of Altec's AcoustaCADD division alluded to the narrow dividing line between CAD as tool or toy. He illustrated how a given program is regarded as a tool until it's superseded by a competitors, whence it becomes a toy by comparison. And how in an effort to make a given program embrace other people's products, accuracy is likely to be degraded, because the accuracy of other maker's speaker data may not meet the standards required. "The larger manufacturers have data in 5" increments and the others only have 10" data. We modify our program to accept all three formats. We have diluted the accuracy of our simulations. The calculations are completed faster, but we find . . . (the results) . . . are only valid 50% of the time. We know it's correct 50% of the time — we think it is a tool. They know it is wrong 50% of the time — they think it is a toy."

Unlike the other PC-based software, Bose's

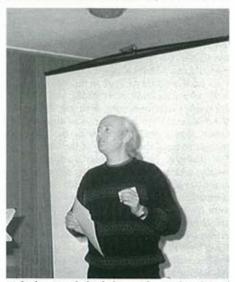
Unlike the other PC-based software, Bose's Modeller 3 program runs on Apple Macintosh systems. Bose's Ken Jacobs described how there were no functions in Modeller which favour the use of any particular manufacturer's products. Bose are happy to supply other loudspeaker manufacturers a copy of their utility program and a guide for measuring and preparing the data. The program goes on to respect users' individuality: unlike some others, Modeller allows you to control the program flow, rather than forcing you to follow the predetermined design strategy. You control what kind of calculation is made, where it should be made, and how it is to be viewed, when complete. The main calculation options are direct field, discrete reflections and statistical reverb. Calculations can be made at single points, groups of listener positions, or over arbitary areas. The program also models STI (Speech Transmission Index), a measure of intelligibility.

John Prohs of Ambassador College, California, described the PHD program. It's intended for the design of systems where speech intelligibility and uniformity of direct sound coverage are the most important criteria. Accordingly, noise levels are considered and semi-reverberant sound levels are predicted, with consideration given to the absorption of direct sound at the first reflection. Being aware that it's often difficult to aim speakers correctly, PHD provides an original viewpoint. The idea is to look into the room from the speaker's position; you get a fisheye view of the room, as if the speaker were a lens! The advantage of this scheme is that shadowing and overlap are immediately apparent. It also helps the designer to keep the sound coverage focused on the audience, so knowledge of room reflections (places where you shouldn't be pointing) is less important.

European efforts were represented by NexoCAD and the work of an East German genius, Dr. Wolgang Ahnert. Eric Vincent (from APIA, the acoustics consultancy who collaborated with Nexo) wasn't able to attend, so Sam Wise (a UK electroacoustic consultant) stood in. Nexo's program majors on the interactions of multiple loudspeakers. It employs advanced mathematics to compute room absorption using 3D calculus. Temperature and humidity are allowed for and the program can be oriented towards speech and music. But it doesn't presently allow for background noise.

Dr. Ahnert's program was developed over the last decade in East Berlin, using a Sinclair computer. The benefit of using an obsolete machine with so little memory is that the software writer has to work very hard; the lines of code have to be extremely slim and efficient. The upshot is a computationally efficient program which runs fast when it's converted and loaded into a modern PC. Today, Ahnert's work has become Renkus Heinz's EASE program. With the benefit of an explicit mathematical discussion, and very fast speaking direct translation, complete with all the verbs placed at the end of the sentence, Dr. Ahnert lived up to the stereotype of the Germanic scientific genius. His work allows loudspeaker data to be viewed in many different formats, from plain directivity charts, to Isobar graphs, and interference between drivers can be modelled. The program also supports exports and imports to and from AutoCAD.

The session finished with a discussion, where users and loudspeaker manufacturers were able to tackle the team of CAD designers. Peter Barnett was concerned about the implied accuracy which was sometimes false. He warned users to be wary of (for example) 1dB step viewing, when the program gave no warning that the real tolerance of certainty is far wider. In the ensuing discussion, all the programs were criticised for omitting tolerances on both the loudspeakers and (far worse) on the materials absorption data. JBL pointed out that



Malcolm Hawksford from The University of Essex spoke on advanced alignments for loudspeaker crossovers.





Richard Small (left) and Laurie Fincham of KEF described the Archimedes Research Project into psychoacoustics.



A seminar in progress in one of the smaller rooms.

their drive units had to be run-in before measurements could be made, whereas Dave Martin (whose famous PA enclosures have been employing JBL drivers for 18 years) disagreed. Tony Andrews of Turbosound made the point that without exception, existing drive-unit data bases were frankly fraudulent, as they all assume that drivers would then make a nonsense of predictions for clustered drivers. Some programs claimed to be able to model interaction, but their realism had yet to be proven. Other delegates raised the objection that diffraction effects weren't modelled at present.

The global conclusion was that acoustic CAD modelling is useful for presenting customers with easy-to-grasp pictorial representations of the proposed scheme(s), and was equally a useful tool, but only in the hands of expert acousticians and sound designers, and that a lot of caveats were in order.

### **Audio Electronics**

David Birt, from the BBC's Design & Engineering Department discussed electronically balanced line interfaces, with an emphasis on their performance in complex installations. Measurements made on transformer and active ('electronically') balanced input circuits were compared. With both short and long (500m) input lines, the transformer coupled option displayed a significant hump above the audio band, enough to have audible effects. The transformer gave better common-mode rejection (to hum) at low frequencies, but the active circuit was superior for rejecting radio frequency garbage, above 100kHz. The inability of 'transformerless' circuits to cope with large common mode voltages, typically induced by mains cables running alongside signal cables, was highlighted. A modified balanced input stage, proven by the BBC over the past 12 years, overcomes the problem by presenting a low impedance to common-mode (noise) signals. David Birt then turned his attention to other practical requirements. First, suppression of RF garbage, picked up from adjacent video cables or nearby radio transmitters. And second, protective components for preventing damage to actively balanced input stages, when the equipment is turned off - the susceptibility of unpowered electronics to damage is a topic that's not normally mentioned.

Mark Sandler and Jim Goldberg of Kings College, London, reported on their ongoing development of a digital power amplifier, using PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) techniques. Such schemes involve opening Pandora's box; having settled on PWM, there are many different ways of going about it. In the author's paper 'Comparison of PWM Techniques for digital power amplifiers', they looked at the differences in distortion that would be produced by the competing modulation schemes, using computer simulation, so no actual circuitry has to be constructed. The conclusions reached were that no one scheme was the clear winner, and much would depend on the kind of switching used. So all the potential schemes would need further, parallel investigation; and the work continues.

S.P. Leigh, B.M. Cheetam and P.H. Mellor at Liverpool and Sheffield Universities respectively, presented a contrasting paper 'The implementation and performance enhancement of a completely digital power amplifier'. The authors' paper began by highlighting the extreme switching speeds needed to resolve all the details, and pointing out that the introduction of extra distortion was inevitable. They then proposed a sampling process which would minimise the distortion products, as well as reducing the ideal switching rate for 16 bit resolution, from a monstrous 6GHz (i.e. 6000 million transitions per second) to a more reasonable rate of 90MHz, using ECL logic. The conclusion is that a low cost Class D 'digital' PWM power amplifier having a bandwidth and dynamic range that's suitable for vehicles and Public Address is feasible. But did the researchers not know that Peavey (in the USA) and Harrison Electronics (in the UK) have been making amplifiers of this kind since 1987?

### Install Advances

Paul Doany of Dar Al Handash Consultants (based in London) presented 'A comparison of STI and ALcons applications in speech intelligibility analysis'. The aim was to compare two different kinds of calculation, which manipulate data on reverberation, time delays, S/N ratios and the like, to predict the intelligibility of speech. The author highlighted the absence of any agreement on the acoustic parameters that affect speech comprehension. ALcons (Articulation Loss of CONsonants) works in the 2kHz band, makes no allowance for early reflections while percentage values (%ALcons) mean different things to different practitioners. The AI method uses signal to noise ratios to predict articulation over the full audio band, but is only effective for noisy places. The S/N method relies on the room's impulse response at 1kHz. It's not reliable for predictions, but could prove useful for objective measurements. More information can be gained by crunching the information gained with HEDC (Hybrid Energy Decay Curve), a heavy duty computer program. The STI (Speech Transmission Index) method takes the full speech bandwidth into account (250Hz to 8kHz), and is useful in measurements, but again not so easy to use in predictive analysis. It can employ computer simulation, using statistical ray-tracing. The conclusions reached were that the STI and ALcons methods only agreed with one another in the extreme cases of pure reverberation (T) and the presence of a direct soundfield (D/R). Moreover, the advent of computer simulation would enhance predictions with STI, but not so much for %ALcons, which is anyhow preferred for its simplicity.

Peter Barnett's paper 'A practical assessment of speech intelligibility' reiterated the fact that the predictability of speech intelligibility is uncertain. After reviewing the theory, the author demonstrated a direct contradiction, where the %ALcons was compared with a commonsense appraisal of a given system's signal to noise ratio. He also warned of the dangers of misinterpretation, again highlighting an example of a %ALcons calculation which opposed common sense. Overall, it was evident that %ALcons calculations are adversely affected by uncertainties and small percentage variation, in reverberation times.

Peter Mapp (freelance acoustics consultant) and Peter Barnett went on to deliver a joint paper entitled 'Audio power and dynamic headroom requirements for PA and electroacoustic reinforcement systems'. Their discussion was mainly concerned with the prediction of power requirements for good intelligibility, amidst varying ambient noise levels. The computations have to take account of reverberation, loudspeaker efficiency, and the peak-to-mean ratio of the programme. The authors reached the conclusion that rules-ofthumb, stating X watts per person, were not unreasonable. And that the largest area of uncertainty is in the allowances for programme content, and the transient output capabilities of the power amplifiers. They also noted that it was common for 25% of the total amplifier power to be redundant.

Steve Jones of BJ Auditorium Design described the design criteria behind the installation of the new sound system at the Wembley Stadium complex. There was understandably a strong emphasis (after the Bradford disaster) on life safety evacuation announcements, reliability, and flexibility of the routing and zoning (for matches) and in the delay components, for concert sound.

For such a complex system, with 128 output channels spread across the stadium, it was clearly essential to have a user-friendly interface. In turn, the control centre has a touch sensitive graphical representation of the areas. The 55kW of amplification provided 95dB (over the full audio band, i.e. like 'C' weighting) in the main pitch area, up to 99dB in the main terraces (both with a variation of +/-4dB), and 97dB in the smaller executive suite, with just +/- 3 dB of variation. When a band played through the system during the FA cup final, the SPL was enough to quell the chanting of the supporters. The multiple, localised delay speakers were initially met with scepticism by some touring sound engineers. But tests with PA Rental companies proved that the engineers' fears were justified. Steve Jones attributed this to the use of horns giving controlled coverage, as well as the acceptability of a difference of up to 50mS between the arrival of the primary (local) and secondary (main PA) sources. It seems that the late arrival was just timed right to add a richness to the sound, rather than smearing it, or echoing. Overall, the delay system has reduced the need for such high SPLs from the PA on



Richard Walker of the BBC discussed sound absorption techniques.

stage. In turn, complaints from Wembley's inhabitants have reduced, from 189 in 1987, to 121 so far this year. In both cases, 11 concerts had been held.

David McAlpine, from the University laboratory of physiology, Oxford, updated our knowledge on the 'Biology of hearing and noiseinduced hearing loss'. The slide show included pictures of damaged hair cells, and graphs, showing how a damaging stimulus (e.g. a 120dBSPL 3kHz tone!) caused loss of sensitivity from the frequency of the stimulus, to an octave or more above. McAlpine went on to question the validity of the Health and Safety Executive's 'noise' legislation, which is based on the 'Equal Energy Hypothesis' (EEH) and associated scientific data that's at least 25 years old, and not entirely in accordance with the latest research. In particular, irregular transient bursts of high level sound have been found to be far less damaging than continuous stimuli having the same total energy, in essence because the ear has time to recover between times.

This category clearly includes a good deal of music, and these findings back up the intuitive, common sense opinion of the majority of UK sound consultants, who can't see any justification for the present legislation and its failure to differentiate between industrial noise and entertainment.

Dave Bell (of Harris Grant Associates) and Ben Duncan described the design of a low cost SPL data logger. Using an advanced data compression algorithm, it's intended to store up to one year's worth of minute-by-minute SPL readings on a single floppy disc. Harris-Grant Associates initially proposed the equipment for recording studios, so that the studio managers can sleep at night, knowing that hard copy evidence of complying (or not) with the Health & Safety Executive's nearly one year old 'noise' legislation, is being collated automatically. Ken Dibble pointed out that the same equipment would be invaluable for club installations, as well as to PA rental companies.

### Loudspeaker and acoustic developments for monitoring systems

At Southampton University's world renowned Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR), Philip Newell (whose past lives include stints as a top recording engineer, and owner of a seaplane taxi service), Keith Holland and F. J. Fahy have been studying how horn loudspeakers can be improved. They presented two papers. The first demonstrated the benefits of making horns of circular cross section, devoid of the abrupt discontinuities that plague horns used for installation and PA, which need rectangular and other complex profiles for directivity control. The 'Axi-symmetric' horn profile seems to obviate the sonic qualities that have given horn loudspeakers a characteristic



Balanced interface design was on the agenda for David Birt of the BBC.

sound, but its use would be limited to small rooms, notably for monitoring. In the second paper 'Do all mid-range horn loudspeakers have a recognisable characteristic sound?', Phillip Newell described a series of well designed tests. used to prove that the frequency response of a loudspeaker mattered much less than the loudspeaker's time response. With double-blind testing, using non-musical sounds, listeners were able to infallibly identify electrostatic speakers. The tests were also able to show that horn loudspeakers could be made to sound indistinguishable from direct radiator types particularly if they were of the axi-symmetric kind. Also, the material that the horn was made from couldn't be disguised, although it could be made inaudible. So a metal horn would always sound metallic, if it was audible at all; it would never sound like a wooden or plastic flare. The research also produced the conclusion that while all the horns suffered air overload above some 125dBSPL, distortion consequent hardening of the sound was plainly academic, as all the direct radiator speakers had burnt out or otherwise disintegrated before they reached such levels!

Keith Holland and Phil Newell also presented a workshop session, entitled 'Esoteric Loudspeaker Cables: Do they really deliver their promises?' This involved playing back R-DAT recordings of a mic'd-up speaker system, made with different loudspeaker cables in place. There were some obvious sonic differences. Still, the authors were keen to point out that one can't go jumping to conclusions. A specific, exotic cable may change the frequency response of the system, introducing a slight loss or gentle rise. As some of the cables cost up to £100 per metre, this represents a rather expensive form of tonal equalisation! As anticipated, the research confirmed that the differences between cables was much less marked in an active system, where each speaker cable passes a limited frequency range, and only has to interface with the complex reactance of the drive-unit. Newell's conclusions were at heart pragmatic. Esoteric cables may be justified in difficult installations, but bog standard cables of adequate cross sectional area will be fine so long as the amplifier is conventional and is located at most a few feet from the speaker(s). There is no guarantee that exotic cables will continue to sound good in the long run; makers and reviewers never discuss (nor test for) longevity. Cable direction had an effect in some instances, but nobody could explain why. The authors' further pointed out that some monitor speakers with complicated passive crossovers can draw maximum currents in excess of 100 Amperes, which would over rule Malcolm Hawksford's work, which showed that audio interconnects



Peter Mapp calculating PA levels.

should be around 0.6mm2 (about the size of BT phone wire) for bass and treble frequencies to remain in synchronisation. Finally, the large number of different metal-to-metal contacts between the power amplifier's output transistors and the voice coil in a typical installation seemed like it would swamp out the benefits of exotic conductors and platings.

Malcolm Hawksford (Lecturer in Electronic systems at Essex University) considered new, advanced alignments for loudspeaker crossovers which would minimise lobing effects and also yield simpler circuits. In another paper, Malcolm Hawksford was joined by Richard Greenfield (an Essex graduate) to compare digital equalisation techniques for loudspeaker systems. Two Japanese manufacturers, TOA and Yamaha, have already launched Mk.1 processors using digital techniques. The paper set out to compare FIR (Finite Impulse Response) and IIR (Infinite Impulse Response) techniques. They concluded that a hybrid FIR/IIR combination offered the best results.

Laurie Fincham, Richard Small and A. Jones of KEF described Archimedes, a co-operative psychoacoustics research project, funded by a European body, which involves KEF in partnership with the Acoustics department of the University of Denmark and B&O, the Danish Hi-Fi manufacturer. The objective was to quantify the subjective influence or 'feel' of room acoustics, to help speaker designers. The test set-up was predictably sophisticated, employing a computer controlled simulation of any kind of listening room, in an anechoic chamber.

R. Walker (BBC) and Courtenay Nicholas discussed diffusors and absorbers for recording studios and control rooms, respectively. Walker showed how the BBC had fabricated a low cost, wideband diffusor with random element lengths. The random lengths are generated using crafty formulae derived from prime number theory. Assuming they become commercially available, the panels, which are relatively low in cost, would be of interest to installers who are working with architects, particularly as the upside down, 'skyscraper model' effect would be aesthetically pleasing in a wide range of modern architectures. Courtenay Nicholas showed how his company, Acoustic Engineering Services (AES) Ltd., had developed modular sound absorbers, which were affordable by 'incremental' and community radio stations operating on tiny budgets. Not only did the hardware have to be extremely cheap, but also the installation time had to be cut to the bone.

Copies of the proceedings handbook are available at £40 (members) and £55 (nonmembers) from the Institute of Acoustics, PO Box 320, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1PZ

# PLASA News



Chris Sogno (pictured above with PLASA Chairman Kevin Hopcroft) on the PLASA stand at LDI in Orlando last month is to leave the Association before the end of the year. Having relocated to London she will pursue other interests in the 'city'. She will be replaced by Jan Weir.

## Quality Meet

PLASA is organising a seminar covering Quality Management Systems and the British Standard BS 5750. In addition to reducing costs, this standard is accepted as a symbol of quality by customers both at home and overseas, and is a very useful marketing tool. Linked with a tour around the new International Convention Centre, the seminar, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, is planned for January 22nd. The cost is currently set at £25.00 for a single ticket, and £40.00 for two representatives from the same company. This will include a buffet lunch. Further details will be available from the PLASA office shortly.

### **Exhibitors Update**

Details of the DTI support for Sound and Light 91 taking place from July 10th-12th in Singapore have now been received at the PLASA office. The basic price of £106.00 per square metre leads to a cost of £1590.00 for a standard 15 metre square booth, to include space, shell, carpet and display aids. Travel grants of £1250.00 per company are available with the cut off date fixed for the 29th January, 1991. Please contact the PLASA office as soon as possible for an application form. The DTI have withdrawn their offer of sponsorship for the PLASA group

to SIB/Magis in Rimini. The minimum number of companies was not reached before the publicised cut off date.

### **Exhibition Diary**

### SOUND 91

February 5-6, 1991 LONDON - Heathrow Penta Hotel, Enquiries: SCIE 4b High Street, Burnham, Slough, Bucks SL1 7JH. Telephone: (06286) 67633

February 16-19, 1991

PARIS - Bernard Becker Blenheim, 22-24 rue du President Wilson, 92532 Levallois-Perret Cedex. Telephone: 331.4753.5000. Fax: 331.4756.1267

### **AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

February 19-22, 1991

PARIS - Herman Wilmes, Zevenbunderslaan 142/9, B-1190 Brussels, Belgium

### U.S.I.T.T.

February 20-23, 1991 BOSTON - 330 West 42 Street, Suite 1702, New York, NY 10036, USA

March 2-6, 1991

FRANKFURT - Enquiries to Annabel Williams at the PLASA Head Office. Telephone: 0323 410335

### LIGHT FAIR

March 5-7, 1991 CHICAGO — 240 Peachtree Street, N.W. Suite 2200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Telephone: 0101.404.220.2215 Fax: 0101.404.220.3030

### SIB/MAGIS

March 24-27, 1991 RIMINI — Tony Andrew, Knights Management Services. Telephone: 0323 442747. Fax: 0323 840014

Date and venue to be fixed 4 Great Pultney Street, London W1R 3DF Telephone: 071-434 3901

### **EXPOMUSICA**

May 16-19, 1991 MADRID - IFEMA, Avda de Portugal, s/n Casa de Campo, 28011 Madrid 1101 Telephone: 470.10.14

June 5-7, 1991

LONDON — A.P.R.S., 163a High Street, Richmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1AY Telephone: (0923) 772907

### SOUND & LIGHT SHOW and PRO AUDIO ASIA

July 10-12, 1991

SINGAPORE - Enquiries to Annabel Williams at the PLASA Head Office. Telephone: 0323 410335

### LIGHT + SOUND SHOW 1991

September 8-11, 1991

LONDON - Enquiries to the PLASA Head Office Telephone: 0323 410335

### VISION & AUDIO 91

September 15-18, 1991

LONDON - Emap Maclaren Exhibitions Ltd, 840 Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey CR2 2BH Telephone: 081-660 8008

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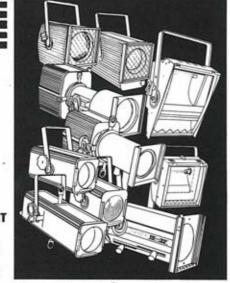
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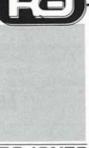
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# **VIEWPOINT**

### Jackie Staines on

# The Future of Job Training

Where better to learn a trade than on the job training? This must surely be true of learning the art of lighting design. Perhaps this accounts for why the regional repertory theatres are full of young people wanting to learn. Young people who can go to tradeshows and demonstrations, flick through endless magazines and brochures to make themselves fully aware of the technological developments in the industry around them but spend their lives working with history. To us, Vari\*Lites, Golden Scans, dichroic filters, lasers, intelligent dimmers et al are merely pretty pictures in magazines. They are so out of reach; both in the opportunity to get hands on experience of these things and financially. More money gets spent on a rig of a dozen Vari\*Lites than on our entire year's production budgets.

So, that lack of finance leads to the history. I'm not old, neither do I work in museums but I've used pageant lamps and acting area floods, focus spots and resistance dimmers. The first lantern that I ever focused was a mark I Pattern 23. Here I am 15 years on still focusing mark I Pattern 23s.

OK, not all the gear is ancient, but some of the modern stuff is horribly unreliable. It can be very bad for the nerves when there are 480 memories in the Gemini and you just know it's due for its monthly crash any day.

Lack of money doesn't always mean lack of quality or imagination. Indeed, inventiveness is the way of life in the rep. Making gobo rotators (six years before they turned up in the DHA catalogue), cardboard animation disks and gobos from lithographic plate might all sound like a complete bodge to those of you lucky enough to be able to buy or hire exactly what you want. Far from being a bodge, not only does this painstaking work get the show on, but it also offers a great sense of achievement to those technicians with blister-ridden fingers.

If one of the qualities of becoming a lighting designer is an 'aptitude for absorbing the possibilities and limitations of various technologies' (Francis Reid, L+SI October 1990) than where better a training ground than the regional reps where, apart from the budgets, nothing is done by halves. You'll soon learn both the possibilities and the limitations of not only the equipment, but also of the theatre and yourself when you have two shows running in daily rep with an hour or so, maybe two, turn around between them, or anything up to ten

different shows a week at the height of the season.

There are now many colleges running various courses in theatre studies which touch to a greater or lesser degree on lighting and sound techniques but I think that most students and ex-students (myself included) would agree that they have learned far more from hands-on work experience either since leaving college or whilst on college secondments. Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking the colleges, it's just that stage time can be scarce and resources limited.

Hands-on learning experience is what everyone needs. How else can those magical, mystical all-singing, all-dancing dichroic-varilaser-scans become reality to people in the poorer end of the market or the high tech lighting computer programmer's learn about life before the discharge lamp? All the more reason for Francis Reid's lighting laboratory.

Perhaps even our employers will schedule time off specifically to visit the laboratory to extend our knowledge, not only of the advances in technology, but also of the techniques being employed by people in similar, or even completely different, situations to our own. A place to discuss our own findings and problems with people that not only speak the same language, but might be able to help. When you've got a niggle about your board or racks, there's little point in chatting about it over a cup of tea in the green room when you could be discussing it with the boys from R&D who work for the major manufacturers.

I still believe that the regional rep is a good place to learn about lighting and also sound, but working in a small subsidised theatre can lead to feelings of insecurity. Pick up any copy of 'The Stage' and somewhere on the first two pages there will be a horror story of a regional theatre's financial crisis. Impending gloom: is it going to be us next?

The distribution of the arts council funding is a critical element in the survival (or otherwise) of a subsidised regional theatre. Bailing out the Royal Shakespeare Company might be great news for Barbican lovers, but it could cast a spell of certain death for any, or even many, of the regional theatres. All the more reason for the availability of training elsewhere.

With a healthy bank balance of arts council and local government funding, where is the money most needed? Not staff wages, not employing 'stars', not redecorating the front of house and public areas, but on safety. Safety of the public and staff alike.

Much health and safety at work is day to day common sense. Don't block the fire exits, don't use ladders when there's no one else in the building, keep your first aid kits well stocked etc. But with new and ever stringent regulations cropping up all over the place, not only are these regional training centres hard pressed to keep up, they're often illegal as well.

New wiring regulations alone are enough to leave us trembling. How many theatres have earth bonded the lighting grid or flying bars? stopped using trailing cables and grelcos or, God-forbid splitters? changed all their 15a duraplugs for blue 16a IEC connectors?

It's not that we won't change or can't be bothered, (after all, the safety regulations should be of benefit to us all), but that we can't afford the overheads involved in doing the work or going dark long enough to get it done.

If then we are approaching the demise of subsidised regional reps because they are being priced out of existence, where are these young technicians and lighting designers going to train if there are no regional centres? Maybe next time you advertise for a keen, inventive, budget-minded and knowledgeable worker, there will be no reply.



Jackie Staines has worked at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round in Scarborough for three years and currently enjoys the position of chief technician/lighting designer. Prior to joining the company she worked as an electrician for national touring companies and receiving houses as well as smaller fringe venues. She spent some time in London as a sound operator for 'Noises Off' and trained at Croydon College. She now feels most at home in producing theatres.

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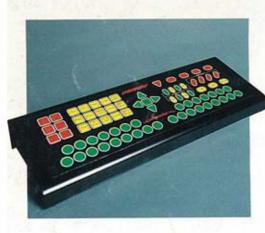


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