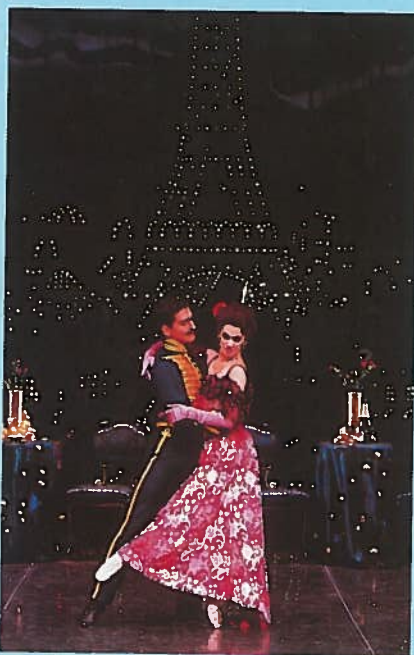


DANCING THE LIGHT AWAY

Taking a show on tour and maintaining your normal high standards of lighting could prove difficult for even the most experienced Company. Fortunately for the Manchester-based Northern Ballet Theatre, it is a problem they have overcome, with Strand expertise.



■ *Graciela Kaplan and Francesco Villicich trip the light fantastic in the Northern Ballet Theatre's production of Liaisons Amoureuses. The Company's tour of the UK, with its new Strand 'touring' Gemini 2+ system included a performance before HRH The Princess of Wales. Lighting design was by Paul Pyant.*

The Northern Ballet's UK tour earlier this year was carried out with the aid of a 'touring' Gemini 2+ system, plus a designers rigger control. 156 ways of Act 6 mux output dimmers were packed into five dimmer flight cases with their own mains distribution and built-in desk distribution system. This allows desk and dimmers to be used anywhere in the world.

The Gemini 2+ was banded over to the company while at Sadlers Wells, London and became a firm favourite with the Ballet's 150-strong technical team.

THE GALAXY LOOKS GRAND IN SWANSEA



■ *As part of the customer service, Strand representatives ran a 'familiarisation' course for technical staff to explain how the new lighting controls can be used to maximum effect.*

When in doubt ask the experts — that is the maxim which has paid off handsomely for Swansea's Grand Theatre, where existing Strand Lighting controls have been upgraded to make the theatre one of the most technically advanced in Wales.

When the Grand's Galaxy control system became due for re-evaluation, theatre technical staff, working in conjunction with Strand distributor Light Relief, of Cardiff, carried out a study of theatres to see what was available on the market.

The conclusion they reached was that the best solution would be to upgrade the existing system to a Galaxy 3. Existing Strand Permus dimmers have been converted by Light Relief to a multiplex operation and additional dimmers can now be provided on stage for complex productions.

The Grand's refurbished system now includes: theatre and standard playback, programmable effects, 20 preset masters, an alpha keyboard, twin colour VDU's, a printer, twin output modules, twin channel modules and full back-up.

One of the benefits of the Galaxy modular approach is that the system has the ability to be upgraded and re-configured. It can also be expanded to control PALS fixtures and colour change units.

Note: The Grand Theatre, opened in July 1897, is considered to have had 'the longest and most distinguished history of all Swansea theatres'. It has been home, at various times, to productions including Sir Henry Irving, Ivor Novello, Jessie Matthews, Kenneth Williams, Richard Burton, Edward Fox, Pat Phoenix and Marianne Faithfull.

TELETHON STINT FOR GALAXY

British television's annual charity fund-raising marathon, the *Telethon*, staged over the May Bank Holiday weekend, owed its lighting excellence to a large input from Strand dealer Luff Light and Sound.

The *Telethon*, which involved con-

tinuous live television, was staged at the London Arena.

Luff Light and Sound provided 24-hour a day cover from its technical staff on-site.

Lighting control was by way of 144-channel Galaxy system.