

LIGHTS!

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SPOTLIGHT ON US

Issue 3 of *Lights!* unashamedly puts the spotlight on new products introduced this Autumn and reviews the progress and application of many others introduced since the 'Strand Spectacular' event of three years ago. Once again there are several milestone products.

Whereas Cantata with its new 1.2kW lamp and unique rotating gate set new standards for professional luminaires, today the new Quartet stands set to follow its illustrious Patt 23 and Pattern 123 predecessors as a distinctive design for the more compact venues.

Strand's new MX control desk packages surface mount electronics within a sleek injection moulded casing, creating a quality bench mark for memory desks that are well within the budget of most stage or studio venues. A MIDI interface enables musicians to call up their own lighting cues.

Strand's Premiere control system now gives the architectural designer a sophisticated programmable solution to dynamic lighting within the built environment. And we chart the progress of EC90, a true digital dimmer, as it begins to enter service with the major television companies and theatres.

Our technical feature looks at SMX — a new digital communications protocol, which will be the essential link between the control desk, dimmers and luminaires with the increasing deployment of distributed intelligence. Also, we have not forgotten the importance of student drama with productions and installations at schools and news from dance and theatre to round off this issue.

Finally, *Lights!*, once again is able to bring special offers to its readers in the form of stencils for lighting designers and a repeat of our popular sweatshirt offer. See page 15 for details.

CLIFF SAYS: LOOK AT THE LIGHTS

Who better to open this year's PLASA exhibition in London than that ageless performer Cliff Richard? During his time as a singer, film, stage and TV star he must have seen more light changes than most.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FROM RUSSIA WITH LUFF

When the English National Opera set off from its London base for a tour of Russia, the company did so in the knowledge that Strand technology was travelling there and back with them — courtesy of Strand dealer Luff Light and Sound.

Luff supplied two Galaxy 2 systems, in specially-constructed rugged flight cases. The Galaxys themselves were adapted to ensure they could withstand heavy-duty use on the tour.

The ENO divided its technical group into two teams. Playing venues at Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, one team remained with the Company, while the other went on to set up the next show.

GEMINI 2+

Since its introduction at PLASA last September, Gemini 2+ with its new *Plus* features has gone from strength to strength. More Gemini consoles have been installed this year than in any other in its history, including such prestigious venues as the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, four systems into Canel Plus, Paris, Ballet Opera De Lyon and BBC Studios in Manchester and Birmingham.

Key to this recent success are Gemini 2+'s new features: 340 control channels, dual colour video displays, increased system memory, non-dim assignment in patch and others. A full colour brochure and specifications are available from your local Strand agent.

● See *Dancing The Light Away* p.10.