



The July 1993 issue of *Lights!* (Vol. 4 Iss. 1) toured the NBC TV Studio in Burbank, Ca. and the CBS Studio Center in Studio City, Ca. Both facilities may be found along a stretch of the Ventura Freeway which could probably be renamed "The Strand Freeway" in recognition of the number of larger studios in the area using Strand dimmers, fixtures and controls.

Taking the Buena Vista Ave. exit of the "Strand Freeway" in Burbank one reaches the Disney Studios in short order. Disney has added a new dimension to portable dimming. At most studios space is at a premium. To defeat the problem Disney has taken 20 foot cargo containers and converted them into dimming rooms. Each container has been refurbished, outfitted with 5.5 tons of air conditioning, fitted with ports for power feed in and loads out, and waterproofed for that rare Californian rain.



The "Strand Freeway".

On Stage 2, the "dimmer room" is installed off the ground (soon to be followed by the transformer) freeing ground space for parking. The second "dimmer room" is ground installed in a narrow land freeing stage space for sets. Both installations have a mix of 2.4kW and 12kW CD80 rolling dimmer racks. Conceivably the "rooms" could be hoisted upon a flat bed trailer and taken on location - the "TRANSportable" dimmer room.

Continuing on the "Strand Freeway" to the next exit (passing

the NBC studios) one reaches the Warner Brothers Studios on Hollywood Way. Warner Brothers is part of the Time-Warner Communications organisation and is one of the largest studios in Hollywood. Once the home of such picture stars as Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson and Audrey Hepburn and the site of films such as "Casablanca", "Petrified Forest", "African Queen" and last summer's big hit "The Fugitive", the studio has over 30 sound stages with all of the technical support services required to sustain an active filming schedule.

In the summer of 1993, Stages 7 and 8 were updated with dimming and control by Strand Lighting to start production on two television series. Bill Hawkins, Warner Manager of Lighting and Grip, his assistant Bob Horton and Gary Anderson, gaffer on stages 7 and 8, selected Strand's new CD80 Compact Rolling Rack for the three camera shows being filmed on these stages. Each stage has a penthouse built 50ft. above the studio floor and

has 4 racks of 2.4kW dimmers and 2 racks of 12kW dimmers. Control in both cases is by Mini Light Palette 90.

The next stop on the tour of the "Strand Freeway" is the mammoth Universal Pictures Studios in Universal City, Ca. Once the home of legends such as Alfred Hitchcock, Universal is today responsible for 1993's mega-hit "Jurassic Park".

Stage 39 has been converted to TV production and Terry White, the manager of Lighting, Grip and Electrical at Universal also selected the CD80 Compact Rolling Rack for dimming. Three Compact Racks of 2.4kW dimmers were mated up with a full size CD80 rack of 12kW dimmers purchased by Universal at an earlier time. Control is provided by a Strand board. The dimmers at Universal are likewise located in a cabin high above the stage.

Our tour of the "Strand Freeway" concludes another 1.5 miles west at the CBS Studio City facility. Strand's Hollywood story continues in the next issue of *Lights!*

LIGHTING A SCHWARZENEGGER PREMIERE IN HOLLYWOOD

An interesting change from reporting the lighting of a movie is to look at the lighting for the premiere. This was the task entrusted to John A Chuck, President of Entertainment Lighting Services (ELS), a Strand Lighting Dealer in Hollywood, for clients Columbia Pictures. The occasion was the Premiere screening of the latest Arnold Schwarzenegger picture, "The Last Action Hero".

Lights! readers unfamiliar with the importance of marketing a movie might be somewhat surprised at the scale of the operation involved for Event Producer, John A Chuck. The credits list would do justice to the entire production of some lesser events, but here in Hollywood these are big occasions in their own right. A quick check reveals a full supporting cast. Production Director, Technical Director, Art and Lighting Director. Then caterers, tents and floors, pyrotechnics, lasers, balloons and figures, scaffolding support, plants and trees, neon, scenery,



The spectacular premiere of "The Last Action Hero."

orchestra, pinball machines, cranes, Mobotron, renderings and lights!

For the premiere portion of the event, ELS temporarily closed off streets in Westwood Village, and screenings were held at Mann's Village and Mann's Bruin Theaters. Red carpet was laid in the streets, which surrounded press pens, where the photo press and television crews battled for advantageous positions to get the best event coverage. Crowd control barriers held back screaming fans, and the event was relayed to them via the "Mobotron" - a huge mobile video screen provided by Sony. Adding to the atmosphere, a larger than life, positive - pressure balloon depicting the bust of Arnold Schwarzenegger's movie character, Jack Slater was installed on Mann's Village Theater. Lighting the event were a collection of Strand Quartzcolor Bambino fresnels, with control furnished by a Strand Mantrix® MX board. All in all, quite an event for ELS, but just one of the many tasks their expertise is called upon to provide.