

The entrance of Paramount Pictures Screening Theater.

Strand Library

## PARAMOUNT PICTURES SCREENING THEATER

**P**remiere® lights premières at one of the world's most prestigious film and television studio's new screening theater.

When Mark Bauserman, Executive Director, Electrical Engineering for Paramount Pictures Studio Group searched for a lighting system for the new 500 seat Paramount Screening Theatre at Paramount Pictures, he had several non-negotiable goals in mind.

First, the system had to dim incandescent, fluorescent, low-voltage, and cold-cathode loads with an absolute minimum filament noise. The solution, Environ 2 dimmers with custom dual in-series chokes.

Second, the system had to provide control for a variety of different events, including screenings, première parties, VIP presentations, and press conferences. The solution, Strand Lighting's Premiere® controls. With audio-visual interfaces in the projection room (timed to seamless curtain opening in 16 seconds), a producer's command post, master

and entrance stations, lobby control; plus portable, podium and console receptacle stations the theater is completed with ten circuits of stage lighting and Strand luminaires.

Third, the system had to meet electrical and safety codes. The solution, UL listed Strand Emergency Transfer Cabinets connected to the UL listed dimming system to provide emergency power transfer.

Mark especially notes that, "the ability to off-line configure the Premiere® system and change it at any time with a disk load is really beneficial."

Strand Lighting is proud to know that when directors, producers and stars sit back in their plush seats and watch their latest creations, surrounded by the very best in projection, sound systems, acoustics, and environmental control... they will also have the very best in lighting.

Allen David Leibow with Wheel, Gersztzoff, Friedman, Shankar Inc. was the lighting design consultant. Architects were Gensler and Associates.

## AN AMPHITHEATRE WITH A DIFFERENCE AT BURNING HILLS

**M**ention amphitheatre and you might think of ancient Greece, but not of the Bad Lands of North Dakota. Neither would you perhaps make an immediate connection with the 26th President of the United States of America. But then "The Burning Hills Amphitheatre", home of the Medora Musical is an unusual, if not unique enterprise.

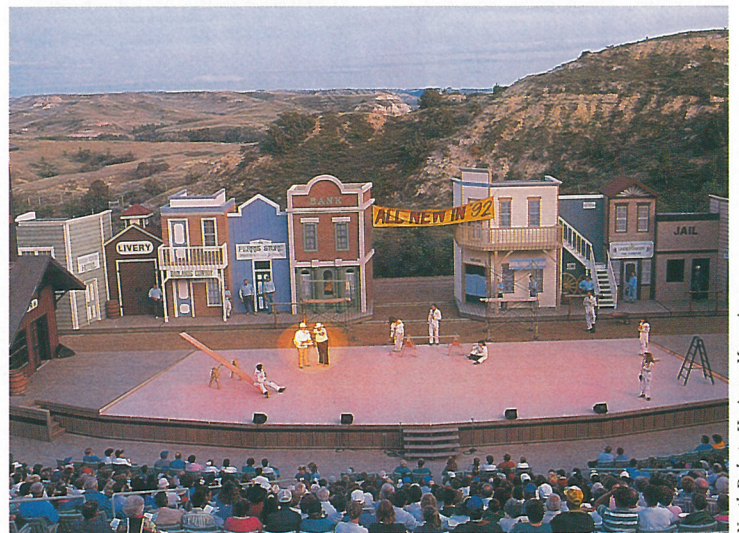
For over thirty years, hundreds of thousands have witnessed the retelling of the legend of Theodore Roosevelt and his fabled Rough Riders at The Burning Hills Amphitheatre. A two hour action-packed celebratory performance in a Broadway style song and dance show, enables visitors to experience something of the spirit and life style of this famous American President. The show itself is described as a mixture of song, dance, comedy, Western heritage and tradition.

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation had ambitions "to build a larger, modern, more comfortable Amphitheatre, to install state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems and provide special effects with a new set and stage." Today replacing the 26 year old former Amphitheatre is a \$4 million "high tech. engineering masterpiece." With seating capacity for 2800 in 'stadium style' individual seats, the audience can now reach the natural bowl from the hilltop parking lot by way of an escalator which descends the equivalent of seven stories. Caretakers of Medora - The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation - took no chances in design and construction, appointing Bismarck architect Don Barsness to co-ordinate the engineering responsibilities. One aim was to blend everything into the surrounding hillside.

The challenge to the architect included stabilising the sometimes slippery clay hillside, correctly positioning the sound system towers and developing the escalator system. Hollywood set designer, Rene Lagler did the original design work up. The set opens to reveal the backdrop of the hills, lights are concealed in the water tower and the railroad depot to keep true to its historic theme. The lighting and sound systems have been described as "technical achievements that gives the Amphitheatre both concert hall acoustics and the ability to bathe a nearby hillside in rich light to create moods for the musical."

Ed Duepner of Strand Lighting's representative agency, Luma Sales of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was to provide the lighting equipment comprising Strand Lekos, controlled by a 48 way Lightboard M with color monitor and remote focus, CD 80 dimmer racks, plus Environ 2 dimmers and control stations. Construction took place during the winter months for a scheduled opening in June 1993.

Strand Lighting and Luma Sales were picked by the owner, architect and electrical engineer after careful evaluation of similar projects and discussions with both technical and lighting directors. The remote location and demanding environment dictated that only a manufacturer with the highest recommendations would satisfy the requirements. In Strand Lighting they found a company that met their needs. The people and equipment have provided backup and service to meet every requirement. The added safety factor of having backup cues stored in the dimming rack eliminates almost all our worries about the show going on.



The dramatic setting for the Medora Musical.