

# PRODUCT NEWS

## Magic Lantern at the New American Theater

The first US installation of TBA Technology's low voltage Magic Lantern stage lighting will be at the New American Theater, in Rockford, Illinois.

The New American Theater Company is moving into a newly-converted building in the town center, and have ordered a rig of 80 Magic Lantern Zoom Profiles and 20 Fresnels. NAM have chosen to use Magic Lantern's full networking capability, and will be using an ETC IDEA console to drive the Magic Lanterns.

## Communications Protocol

TBA Technology have announced that Magic Lantern will operate on the same communications protocol as that used by Colortran on their control systems, and this was done in good faith, based on previous assurances from Colortran that they were in favour of the advantages which would stem from such compatibility.

Regrettably, Colortran have recently changed their position, and steps have been taken to change the data communications protocol used on all TBA products. Magic Lantern will therefore be compatible with control systems manufactured by Avab Elektronik, Electronic Theatre Controls and of course TBA's own controls. Users of Colortran systems will have to use an interface to get into Magic Lantern.

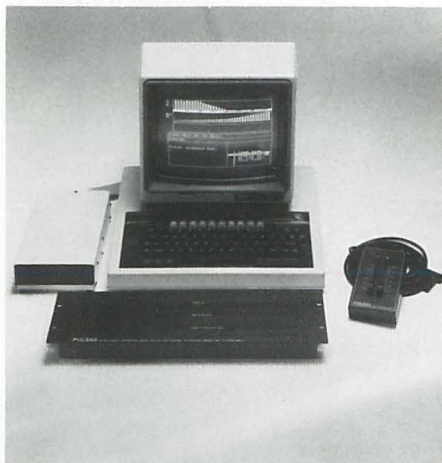
## The Intelligent Interface from Pulsar Light

The Pulsar Intelligent Interface will link most computers direct to dimmer packs old and new which use 0-10v control signals. In practice this means most dimmers available.

Incorporating a micro-computer itself it needs only a standard single-code screened cable to link to your computer via a Cannon socket. Each interface will drive up to 36 channels of dimmers. Interfaces can be daisy-chained together so that one computer can control over 500 channels of dimmers.

Pulsar also offer a sophisticated program for the BBC micro, designed especially for schools and small theatres. With capacity for up to 36 channels, this software package consists of some 30k of optimised machine code and Basic, read in off floppy disc (a minimum disk system is required). These fully integrated, menu-driven programs include—

'TUTOR', the disk-based manual. This program leads the new user through the system, explaining how to use it best. It also includes more in-depth descriptions of each command for reference purposes. Thus a rapid introduction to the package as a whole



is achieved enabling the operator to make the change from manual to computer-aided lighting control with the minimum of trouble.

'EDITOR', is the program which allows the setting up and adjustment of cues and cross fades during rehearsals. Up to 120 cues (of 36 channels) may be held in memory at any time, along with a specific cross fade associated with each. The fade is selected from 4 main types (automatic and manual), and has various options such as dipless or highest takes precedence. Cues themselves are set using a special hand-held slider unit that plugs into the BBC's user port, allowing independence of the computer's keyboard while plotting. The graphic display gives very clear indication of program status, including bar-graph mimics of both current output, and of a specified cue, thus allowing blind plotting. Each cue has an alphanumeric label of twelve characters, defined by the operator, and the labels of the ten consecutive cues around that currently displayed are always shown.

'DISK MANAGER' allows the storage of the cues defined on disk. Up to 1000 cues may be stored on a minimum disk system, and for shows requiring more than 120 cues, extra cues can be read in, in a few seconds, at some convenient point, thus allowing a theoretically maximum of 1000 consecutive cues in a single show! The cues are organized into files on the disk, so that several shows can be easily held on a single disk.

'PERFORM' is the program that allows the greatest convenience whilst actually cycling through the cues during a performance. Using the same graphic output as EDITOR, all the important controls are on the hand-held slider unit, allowing fade starting, freezing or accelerating of the automatic fade, blackout, control of manual fades etc. this makes the smooth running of a show much easier.

**Strand Lighting Worldwide**  
Rank Strand Limited and Strand Century

Inc. already managed as a worldwide business announce a further step towards complete integration by operating as one company trading as Strand Lighting.

This rationalisation of Rank's lighting activities at home and abroad takes in Rank Electronics Asia Limited, operating in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia whose lighting operations now come under the direct control of Strand Lighting.

Strand Lighting in the U.K. will continue to be based at Brentford, West London with its manufacturing plant in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. Strand Lighting in the U.S.A. is based in Los Angeles, with additional sales offices in New Jersey and Toronto, Canada.



## Chip off the old block

That famous workhorse the Patt 252 Effects projector goes into honourable retirement. Its successor is a bright (nearly twice the intensity) new lightweight Cadenza Effects Projector. A full range of disc type moving effects available includes all those listed for the old pattern 252 — that's good news in these days of planned obsolescence.

## Showtech '86 Berlin 13-15 May 1986

This is the International Trade Fair and congress for entertainment technology, equipment and management. Congress speakers include Prof. J. Svoboda on Entertainment Technology — pre-requisites for performance and implementation. Otto Zwicker — Management of shows and events. Jochen Perrottet — Entertainment technology qualifications — training and examinations.