

AUSTRALIA/PRODUCTION

AIDA TOURS IN A BIG WAY

With a cast numbering more than 1,250, with over 1,500 costumes and 5,000 props, the International Opera Festival of Canada's *Aida* takes the concept of grandiose opera to an all new high. The innovation of IOF artistic director Giuseppe Raffa, this mammoth open-air production had its premiere before an audience of more than 70,000 at the Olympic Stadium, Montreal, in June of 1988. In December of 88, this colossus traveled down under to Sydney, where it played at the Sydney Football Stadium and in March 89, the show was performed at Melbourne's Carlton Football Ground in Princes Park. It spent mid-April in Vancouver.

The centerpiece of the show is the Sphinx — a 13 meter tall, 4,600 kilogram replica of the actual Sphinx at Giza, Egypt (accurate down to the amputated nose), designed by Tito Varisco and constructed in Canada. The Sphinx stands on

an aluminum frame with a polystyrene exterior. The massive stage measures 80 meters by 50 meters and, besides the Sphinx, supports three pyramids standing 20, 17, and 14 meters high.

Among the mind-boggling numbers involved in putting on this tremendous production are the over 200 behind-the-scenes crew members, the 1,350 light globes, the 1,003,500 watts of power, the 455 litres of water-proof paint for the props, the 12 semi-trailer loads of scaffolding to build the stage, and the 409 litres of face and body make-up, not to mention the pythons, the elephants, the camels, and the horses.

The show next travels to the Tokyo Dome on 9, 11 and 13 July; to Sullivan Field in Boston, 22 and 24 August; the King Dome in Seattle, Washington, 21 and 23 September; and the New Sky Dome in Toronto, 26 and 28 October.

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■ The grandiose traveling production of *Aida*, created by Tito Varisco, is staged on a massive stage measuring 80 meters wide by 50 meters deep, supporting the Sphinx, measuring 13 meters, and a cast of over 1,250.

UK/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

PULSAR CREATES PROJECT SUPPORT

Pulsar Light of Cambridge Limited has implemented a new service for its customers. They are currently supplying dealers, designers and buyers with an in-house consultation service. This support service was established to answer questions about equipment purchase, installation, and technical difficulties. The programme is headed by project support manager Andrew Graves.

Graves states that "project support services will be available to assist installers who are considering the installation of new equipment. In the case of sophisticated equipment such as OSKA or Golden Scans, we recommend that we are consulted on potential projects at an early stage so that the equipment can be installed to achieve the best effect."

Pulsar is also planning on

setting up a "hot-line" to assist lighting operators with any programming or operational problems. Graves says, "It has been our experience that minor operational difficulties can assume unjustified proportions if a direct line of communication is not available between the lighting operator and ourselves."

Derrick Saunders, sales and marketing director, states that

Pulsar will be building a demonstration facility at their office in Cambridge. "We would expect appointed dealers to make full use of these facilities for demonstrating the potential of our products to their clients."

For questions on Pulsar products contact them at Henley Road, Cambridge, England. Telephone number 0223-66798. Fax number 0223-460708.

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