

in space; an infrared grid that can be two or three dimensional and locate to a particular position; speed sensors that measure the speed of movement; acoustic and MIDI inputs to detect a voice or music command; and SMPTE/EBU time code reading to trigger from a videotape. There was a lively demonstration at the PLASA show. Drum music from a synthesizer was heard when a drummer used drumsticks to break the infrared beams and, thus, activate the synthesizer. Voila! Drum music sans drums. The system uses the Archimedes, a high-speed microcomputer built by Acorn, and is used for editing effects, keeping performance files, and complete synchronization of multiple effects.

At Pulsar, the Clay Paky Golden Scan is still a winner, having garnered the 1989 Award from Disco and Club Trade International. The Golden Scan is now available for hire in the UK from Mushroom Lighting.

APIAD, the Association of Italian Discotheques and Theatre Equipment Manufacturers, once again showed the high quality and performance of Italian disco lighting. The APIAD-affiliated companies present included Programsistem, which premiered a series of new disco lights. Especially worth noting is the Samauri, a high-powered 400w light. Spotlight srl showcased their new MSH 1200 follow-spot, which gives 50% more light for the same power. Litebeam displayed their new Bunny — eight turning lights with colour changers, Technitron introduced their Confetti Light, complete with 100 small mirrors, and King's Sound demonstrated the integrated Team System disco lighting.

The rest of the show featured mainly hypnotically gyrating disco lights, although Oxtron's Light Conductor — an RS232 addressed architectural lighting controller — was excellent, along with their compact VCA1, a stereo voltage-controlled attenuator allowing quality volume adjustment from a lighting console signal.

A.C.T. Publications, whose Big Lighting Book is still eagerly awaited by many designers in Europe, announced The Big Control Book, a regularly updated information file of control and dimmer units available in the entertainment industry. Alan Chamberlain plans a similar revision service with new information every two months included in the purchase price.

Laser equipment is not often used in the theatre, but the leisure industry generally has now accepted laser installations as an established part of a design scheme rather than a risky new idea. Laser System's range of multi-colour laser controllers has been integrated with their new intelligent light fittings, the Minilight, Coloursweep, and Gyrolight — all use a common data format and may be controlled from central consoles. And when the laser dies, Laser Technics is an independent company which will repair or refurbish the equipment on site or in their workshops, utilizing a vast resource of technical knowledge and operational experience of laser sources and accessories for large and small lasers.

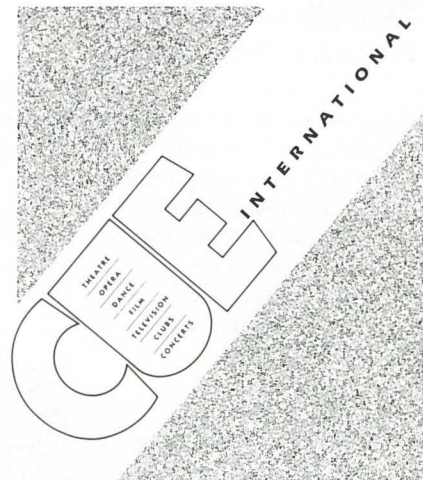
The huge array of equipment on show

Light and Sound 89 proves that the leisure industry is willing to provide ever-increasing budgets to gain the attention of their clientele.

at PLASA Light and Sound 89 proves that the leisure industry is willing to provide ever-increasing budgets to gain the attention of their clientele. It is a pleasant side effect that some of this equipment provides exactly the solutions theatre professionals have been searching for as theatre production grows increasingly technical.

PLASA 89 also introduced a series of seminars on issues relevant to the lighting and sound industries. Experts from the field commented on such subjects as new equipment for disc jockies, the advent of the moving light, trends and new techniques in visual presentation, technology for touring productions, sound installations, and trends in interior design. These seminars offered show attendees an opportunity to meet and question industry leaders, as well as to see new equipment not on the exhibition floor. Peter Wynne Willson won everybody's heart with a small pair of prototype periscope fixtures. Almost like puppets, they move with a decided personality of their own, and can be controlled at will by a remote joystick. A human touch to today's technology.

P.S. Dates for PLASA 1990 — 9 - 12 September at Olympia 2.



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