

Brighter outlook for 'theme' lighting

In this issue of *Lights!* we feature lighting for the 'theme' venue market, where designers are breaking away from tradition to use some of the more technologically-advanced controls available, to obtain stunning effects.

The colourful animal characters created by childrens author Beatrix Potter are presented in storybook settings at a permanent exhibition in Britain's Lakeland where controls are by way of a Strand Premiere®.

This lighting control system – more often found in hotels – enables designers to apply stage lighting principles and create effects by programming the entire sequence on a Personal Computer, fine tuning on site and leaving a complex 'show' to be run automatically or from simple manual commands.

Premiere® now brings the power of professional controls to a much broader range of situations, where mere illumination would be inadequate for the presentation. The same advanced lighting controls are also to be found on another recently-opened 'theme' park in Europe where they have been used extensively in hotels, along with Strand EC90 digital dimmers. Still more EC90 dimmers, deployed with Galaxy controls and large quantities of Strand luminaires, are used on the attractions and live performance areas.

Lights! also takes a look at low voltage tungsten halogen lamps which became a cliché of retail lighting design in the 1980's but has now matured into complete systems embracing luminaires to create theatrical effects in conjunction with dimming and controls, suitable for architectural spaces.

Elsewhere, Francis Reid travels to the Calgary Performing Arts Centre in Canada for *Lights!* and Fred Bentham provides his views on cinema architecture

Many of our readers have asked for more 'how to...' type of information, so *Lights!* introduces a new series, starting in this issue by explaining how to avoid creating 'muddy' colours when dimming. For further help we review Francis Reid's latest 'Stage Lighting Handbook' and Graham Walne's new venture into video-based training.

Finally, once again Strand previews a number of new products.

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By coincidence, the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *The Blue Angel* arrived in London's West End just as the entertainment world said 'farewell' to the legendary Marlene Dietrich. *Lights!* meets lighting designer Chris Parry.



The latest version of Strand Lighting's Galaxy, the Galaxy Nova, is launched with a host of new features. It takes its place alongside this season's new products from Strand, previewed on pages 10-11.



Francis Reid travels west across the Canadian prairies to discover a gem of an entertainments venue in Calgary.

Front cover: Marlene Dietrich as 'Lola' in Josef von Sternberg's 1930's film version of *The Blue Angel*. The movie made Dietrich an international star. The revival of *The Blue Angel* opened in London's West End in May, where award-winning international lighting designer Chris Parry recreated an 'impressionist' feel with Strand luminaires and controls. Dietrich's link with Strand Lighting extended over many years. She boasted her personal lighting designer in Strand's Joe Davis, doyen of the lighting world. Cover story over the page.
 Photo: British Film Institute