



LIGHTING THE LORD MAYOR'S COACH

How do you display a huge light-and-heat-sensitive priceless antique theatrically, yet still manage to please the conservationists? This was the problem facing the Museum of London's electricians and lighting contractors Donmar when they were called on to light the Lord Mayor of London's State Coach, on permanent exhibit at the Museum.

Their solution was to use 18 Strand Quartet PC's fitted with 650W tungsten halogen lamps, controlled by Strand 20A Unidim dimmers. This allowed the 'seamless' overlapping necessary for lighting such a large exhibit. It also met the Museum's need for light levels to be under 200 lux.

The State coach, built in 1757, is covered in gold leaf and oil paintings. Now used only for state occasions it is kept for most of the year on blocks in a large water tray in the Museum. This maintains humidity levels and so prevents coach timbers from drying out.

STRAND TOUCHDOWN AT SUPERBOWL



Gloria Estefan rises to the occasion.

Aspectacular Halftime Show starring singer Gloria Estefan plus a cast of 1300 performers, brought a touch of winter magic to Superbowl XXVI in Minneapolis in January, seen on TV by millions around the world.

Three stages, including two scissor lifts, and four truckloads of scenery provided the centrepiece for the show at The Metrodome Stadium. Lighting control was by way of a Strand Lightboard M and CD80 dimmers.

During the performance, stadium lights had to remain on, so art director Jim Waters made extensive use of show lighting to add the necessary sparkle.

Chasing lightstrings adorned the side stages and grew out of the orchestra pit as the centre stage scissor lift hoisted Gloria 30 feet above ground.

The Lightboard M was selected by David Johnson, of show designers VEE Corporation, for its ability to load and run complex effects, allowing lights to chase and zone, in addition to having full manual override and cues at the touch of a button. Dimming was via CD80 packs located on the sidelines.

David told *Lights!* 'I used Strand equipment because I wanted a system I could trust. When you only have one performance for a worldwide audience of millions, you want everything to work perfectly!'

Editor's note: Just in case you missed it, Superbowl resulted in a 37 to 24 win for the Washington Redskins over the Buffalo Bills.

GOOD-NIGHT, JOHNNY! HELLO, JAY!

As *Lights!* was going to press the USA was saying 'happy retirement' to legendary chat show host Johnny Carson.

Over the coming weeks, Carson's Tonight Show 'home', Studio One at NBC-TV, Burbank, will see the installation of the first Strand CD90 digital dimming system sold in the States, as part of a complete refit for Carson's successor, comedian Jay Leno.

CD90 won the prestigious Product Of The Year award at last year's Lighting Dimensions International show in Reno.

During the seven-week studio refit, which includes installation of a Strand Light Palette 90 control desk, the show will broadcast from NBC's Studio Three.

Jim Riendeau, manager of staging services at NBC, told *Lights!*, 'We have a two-week down time during the Olympics when we will transfer the set back to Studio One.'

'CD90 was chosen because it is a state-of-the-art smart dimmer. We are expecting great things from it.'

LET THERE

Major alterations to St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark, South London proved the ideal opportunity to upgrade lighting of the main worshipping areas.

Strand Cantata F fresnel spots and Cantata 18/32 profile spots were used by lighting designer Anthony Easterbrook to highlight special features in the sanctuary, together with altar, ambo (reading desk) and



St George's Cathedral, Southwark.