

THE DIGITAL THEATRE COMES OF AGE

In this issue of *Lights!* we examine another Strand landmark step in the evolution of lighting control desks. The advent of GSX as our new entry level memory system adopts the approach familiar to users of Personal Computers, where application software is available separately from the hardware platform on which it is to operate. This enables the user to choose a system which both meets his needs and his budget. The foundation software package which we call Genius can be bought in sizes to suit the small school stage up to medium size professional venues, but without compromising the level of functionality. Extension software packages are available for specialist features. Kaleidoscope - for control of colour scrollers and effects and Communiqué - for advanced communications. As we say - now there's the soft option.

The arrival of GSX with Genius completes the line up of products which enable an affordable "digital" theatre system to be available at all levels, when linked with LD90 digital dimmers and Strand's System Wide Control. We have produced a colourful poster to illustrate the new age of the "digital theatre".

Another landmark - this time for *Lights!* - is the launch of a German language version. Until now we have published in English and run an accompanying version for the USA and Canada. We extend a warm welcome to our new readers in Germany.

Reporting from Germany we have news of two major projects. The MMC TV studio in Cologne and a "digital theatre" - the Hannover Drama Theatre. In England we continue Strand's long association with the rebuilt Savoy Theatre, from Hong Kong there's news of a Premiere architectural system in Central Plaza, Asia's tallest building, and from the USA there are items on the NASA visitor's centre, and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Following the success of the "Euro System" last year, we are pleased to announce its replacement for 1994 - the new "Strand System". The aims are the same - bringing you the basics of stage lighting at affordable prices - but Strand System extends the programme with new products and opportunities.

You will find plenty of news about the latest products, being unveiled around the world in 1994, and for the first time in *Lights!* we have included a reader enquiry card for further information.

There will be plenty of opportunities to view Strand Lighting products during 1994 at some 22 trade shows and exhibition venues around the globe. Plus *Lights!* readers are offered the unique opportunity to own the new "Strand on Show '94" T-shirt, with Strand logo and listing all these world wide venues!

Finally, a word of thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire in the last issue. Your views are appreciated.



The St. Martin's Theatre - Home of London's longest running stage play, Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" - has just been re-equipped with Strand products by Playlight Hire Ltd. The photograph shows Maev Alexander, Paul Bacon, Pamela Lane, Nicholas Courtney, Beth Tuckey, Richard Brimblecombe, Michael David and Nigel Fairs in the 1993/1994 production.

Lights! is published in three editions - English, North American and German - with a combined print circulation of over 35,000 copies.

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Incorporates TABS - owned and published by Strand since 1937.

© 1994 Strand Lighting Ltd. Vol. 5, Issue 1. ISSN 0958-7217

Strand is a registered trade mark of Strand Lighting Limited and Strand Lighting Inc. Produced by: Barrie James West Associates, and printed in England.

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Front cover: Gemini Command Module at the NASA Johnson Space Center. See feature page 8.

Photo by: Paul Hester.