

## Pennsylvania High School Auditorium Gets New Lighting System *by Rob Rowlands*

*Industry, Pennsylvania, June 2003.* Flames, sparks and puffs of smoke indicated that the vintage stage lighting system at Western Beaver High School was on the verge of dying. Besides the obvious safety concerns, the system was no longer capable of supporting the thriving drama and music programs of the Industry, Pennsylvania school.

The original system consisted of a slider patch panel with resistive dimmers for the stage lighting and motor-driven auto-transformers for the house lighting. The only point of control was from the floor-standing unit measuring about 8



*The original dimming system with its built in patch panel took up valuable wing space.*

feet long by 4 feet deep, which consumed valuable space in the stage wing. Repair parts were no longer available, leaving the system operating at about 50% capacity and failing fast.

Mr. Enrico Antonini, School Superintendent, contacted the engineering firm of Santangelo and Lindsay, Inc. to design and engineer a new stage and auditorium lighting system. Joe Santangelo and Jim Runatz of this New Brighton, Pennsylvania firm developed a plan to provide for the current technical needs and allow for future expansion and upgrades, while ensuring safety for the students, faculty and audience.

Mr. Santangelo commented, "We knew the dimming and control equipment needed replacing and, after further investigation, found many more deficiencies. For instance, the front-of-house catwalk position was obstructed by a ceiling piece. By removing about 6 inches from the onstage edge and utilizing the height-adjustable yoke of the Strand SL ellipsoidal, we were able to deliver more light than ever to the stage."

Specifications for the system were prepared with guidance from Repco II under the watchful eye of John Bartus who

commented, "We chose the CD80SV for its reliability and durability, while the Series 300 console provides ease of operation and expandability."

The power distribution equipment was in decent shape; simple upgrades included new stage pin devices and additional outlets in the beam position. The existing fixture inventory was a mixture of obsolete and somewhat useable fixtures. The oldest fixtures

were retired to the dumpster, and the inventory was upgraded with Strand ellipsoidals, fresnels, worklights and cyc-lights.

The system was installed by Turney Electric, Inc., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania under the supervision of Mike Patterson. Project management was provided by Dan Polk of Vincent Lighting Systems, which supplied the equipment via distributor Elliot



*The new system provided more space back stage and increased capacity*

Electric Supply. "Everyone on the project truly worked together towards its successful completion. Our client is extremely happy with the results and feel they got a good value,"

commented Runatz. Bartus added, "It will be a long time before the school will either need or want another system".



*300 series 24/48 Console*

*Founded in 1978, Vincent Lighting Systems has offices in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Detroit. The company is comprised of a 50-person team handles lighting sales, rentals and production services. Vincent Lighting Systems provides theatrical, television and architectural lighting for a wide range of customers .*