Facts and Figures at the New Bolshoi

Theatre Area:		25,000 sq. meters
Stage dimensions:	30m X 25m	
Grid height:		22m
Lighting Bridges (Sophits)		7
Seating Capacity:		960
Control and Dimming:		
Control Consoles:		2 Strand 550i
		1 Strand 520i
Network Data Racks:		5 Cabinets
Stage Dimmer Racks:		14
Houselight Dimmer Racks:		2
3kW Hi Rise dimmers:		1152
5kW Hi Rise dimmers:		144
3kW Non dims:		108
4kW Non dims:		108
Stage Lighting:		
Profile Spots:		232
2kW PC's	74	
650W PC's		20
5kW Fresnels		10
Beamlights		76
Coda 4 - 1kW		146
Coda 1 - 1kW		10
Orion ground row		24
Automated Lighting:		
Toccata Pirouettes	20	
Standard Pirouettes:		34
Beamlight Pirouettes:		42
Colour Scrollers		300

To see a light plot of the theatre in PDF format or a riser diagram of the electronic systems at the Bolshoi please visit www.strandlighting.com and select the Support Tab and Newsletter. Under Newsletter you will find a download directory for two Bolshoi drawings.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

by Shirley Jensen

Her Majesty's Theatre is a 950 seat provincial theatre in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. Built in 1876 it is the oldest purpose built theatre in Australia. It still retains many of the original workings; from old paint frames, to timber pulleys and been through a series of renovations over the years.

Stuart McKellar took over the job of Technical Operations Manager 2 years ago after having toured shows into Her Majesty's over many years. He saw the need to upgrade the technology and bring it in line with most other theatres in Australia. Having learnt to operate on one of the first Strand 430's in Australia at the Victorian Arts Centre, Stuart had become accustomed to its operation. "So when I took over at Her Majesty's I decided to investigate the cost of the 530i. This is where I started my upgrade plan - desk first, then DMX systems and then Lamps. Bytecraft is company that I have dealt with for a good 10 years, so I approached both their sales and service team for advice and help."

"We spent many months of talks and meetings, deciding which way we needed to go. First we upgraded our old daisy chain DMX system to a patch system and completely re-wired the whole building with 2 streams of DMX. We also added cat5 connections to all points so we can upgrade to nodes when money permits. We installed all the cables and all terminations and fit-off's were done by Bytecraft Entertainment's Service Department."

A Front elevation of the theatre

Next came the lantern upgrade. The theatre has a very small front of house slot and Stuart wanted to get a 5 colour wash from the position. "I found that the SL fitted in beautifully" says Stuart, "because of its size. We had a trial unit and I had my crew play with it and give their views. It was all hands up, saying we love them. Decision made. They found the output to be high and commented on the great finish and size. We love the 360° rotation of the yoke."

"With Bytecraft Entertainment's help we added to our lantern stock and upgraded the theatre to the highest possible standard. Without them it would not have been possible."

The upgraded lighting system includes:

Strand 530i   750channels
Strand 301 backup
Strand 24/48 200 series desk
40 x 15/32 SL's
4   x 10' SL's
1   x 5' SL's
24 x Cantata 1.2k Fresnels

These has been added to the existing lamp stock of 70 profiles and 35 1kw Fresnels. "In the coming years I see us replacing at least 40 of the old profiles with SL's." says Stuart. "We are very happy with both the service and back-up Bytecraft Entertainment and Strand have delivered to us. It was always pleasing to know we had the support and the generosity of the team at Bytecraft - Steve, Shirley, Janet, Darren. Not once did they make us feel like we were a country venue or a poor cousin to the big city. Thanks guys!"

" Where to now? We will have to wait and see the next gadget to come out of the Strand factory!"