

Saudi Festival Hall Completed

A prestigious Theatre and Festival Hall complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has been completed and handed over by the Tele-Stage Group of companies.

The 800 seat Community Centre Theatre and Festival Hall at the Diplomatic Quarters is the most modern complex of its kind in the Kingdom.

Theatre installation included a three section hydraulically operated orchestra lift, two single section main stage lifts of similar design, and a large six segment electrically-powered acoustic stage enclosure designed to 55db attenuation. Upper stage machinery included seventy five computer-controlled point hoists, motorised lighting bridge and towers and various curtains and screens.

The Festival Hall included an electrically-powered acoustically treated telescopic wall that can divide the large hall into two separate function areas to be used simultaneously, complete with projection screens and other facilities.

Lighting for both Theatre and Festival Hall is supplied by Strand Lighting.

Stage machinery supply was a collaboration between two companies, Tele-Stage supplying the mechanical equipment and expertise, with Hoffend & Sons Inc. providing the micro-processor control in the form of a Micro Commander. Micro Commander is a sophisticated rigging and machinery control system specially developed for theatre use.

The heart of the stage lighting installations are two Galaxy memory systems. These control a range of PIP dimmers and Strand luminaires.



The Theatre

In the theatre the control is a Galaxy 2 Arena system with a 144 channel electronics crate, Alpha keyboard, printer and 14 inch colour VDU. There is a pod mounted dual floppy disc drive 240 channel pin patch and standard effects panel.

There are five 24 x 25 amp PIP dimmer modules with outputs distributed to auditorium lighting bridge, FOH booms, portal bridge, portal towers, (capable of moving in and out as a false proscenium), fly gallery and stage level dip boxes.

The specification that the Tele-Stage Group had to work from stated that the lighting system should be designed to cope with 'all types of events from classical theatre to conferences'.

To meet this specification Strand luminaires of various types have been employed but mainly the Cadenza and Harmony models, ranging from the Cadenza 9/15, through 12/22 and 19/32 to Harmony 15/28 and 22/40. The Cadenza PC luminaires added a most useful instrument to the rig.

The auditorium lighting bridge is equipped with three Solo 1kW CSI follow spots with two Solo 2kW on the fly galleries.

The auditorium bridge is supplemented by ten Pollux 5kW luminaires for extra 'punch' when video is being used.

The Festival Hall

The control in the Festival Hall is once

again a Galaxy 2 Arena system. This is as in the main theatre except housing 96 channel electronics crate with 120 channel pin patch.

There are two racks of 24 x 25 amp and one rack of 12 x 25 amp PIP dimmers.

Because of the totally different lay-out and requirements of the Festival Hall there is only one permanent lighting position and this is the bridge.

This bridge is equipped with a mixture of Cadenza 19/32 and Harmony 22/40 luminaires. The remaining luminaires, plus 2kW Solo's are distributed around the performance area using Hercules Stands and the well proven folding braced stands to give complete flexibility.

The complete installation was carried out by the Tele-Stage Group employees with Andy Quinn starring as the project manager ably supported by Lionel Prosser as the electrical supervisor.

The commissioning of the lighting controls was undertaken by Strand Lighting, featuring Philip Lehman on 'Scope'.

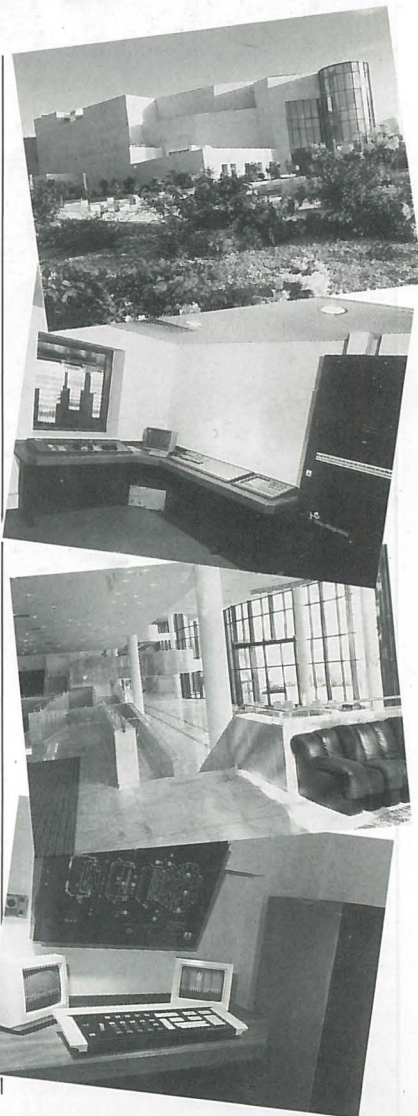
Photography courtesy of Tele-Stage Associates (UK) Ltd.

— Client:
Riyadh Development Authority

— Consultant:
Spearplan, West Germany
— General Contractor: Dumez

— Specialist Contractor:
Tele-Stage Group
E. A. Juffali and Bros.

— Theatre equipment:
Tele-Stage Associates (UK) Ltd.
Hoffend & Sons Inc.
Strand Lighting Ltd.



Ten Scene Christmas Trees in Canada

by Phil Bernard

A picture is worth a thousand words, but Phil Bernard is, as always, capable of a few more; especially about this project.

The shiplike design on the pier known as the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, is now a familiar world landmark after its debut as the Canada Pavilion at EXPO '86.

The fine tent-like 'sails' form the roof of the main hall and became an interesting framework for an Environ 2 lighting project last year.

For the 1987 Christmas season, Westsun Lighting was asked to present a design which would show off the structure. From the basic triangular shape of the tent-like



'sails' was derived the shape of the traditional evergreen tree (incidentally a mainstay of the British Columbia economy).

With a few lighting baubles added to the body of the seventy-five foot high symbols, we have decorated Christmas trees on a grand scale. The dimmers? Well, each side of the Centre is fed from a permanently installed 7759 Environ 2 cabinet, each handling close to 40,000 watts through a combination of 2.4 and 6.0 kW modules.

Why dimmers? What the picture does not tell you is that we added a 7401 Programmable Master station on the front end and created a ten scene auto cycle programme depicting the dressing of the trees for Christmas. Now, besides the obvious benefit of central control, seven day

programming, and savings in lamp life, we were, through the magic of presentation, telling a story that both enhanced the public image of the Centre and accented the building design.

The 'auto-cycle' feature of Environ 2 cycles presets, using programmable 'fade' and 'dwell' times, which produces a subtle pattern of dissolving events symbolising an expression of the holiday season. With programme changes each year we hope to tell a far greater story through the Environ than could ever be present in a static system.

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SMX - The Complete Lighting Interface System

SMX, Strand Multiplex, is a revolutionary new protocol which will liberalise the lighting entertainment industry by eliminating the need for additional control boards.

At the ABTT Conference (UK) in April this year, one of the major problems highlighted by the chief electricians was that equipment bought from one manufacturer could not 'talk' to equipment bought from another manufacturer. This meant that if a combination of lighting effects was required a corresponding number of control boards was needed. This in turn meant more operators had to be used and invariably the exercise became too expensive to contemplate.

The problem of communication, or rather lack of it, has arisen as each manufacturer has taken advantage of the latest techniques in the computer industry to ensure their product has a competitive edge. As equipment has become more sophisticated with the addition of motion or special effects, ie. PALS or Parscan 2, existing communication interfaces have been unable to cope with the quantity and type of messages that need to be relayed. A new method of communication or protocol needed to be created.

Strand R&D departments around the world have been working for the last two years to create a protocol that will answer all these needs. Strand is offering this protocol, called SMX, free to the industry.

Lighting and Sound International will be printing an article written by D. Bertenshaw, Strand's European R&D director, explaining SMX in more detail.

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A Message from Richard Harris

This edition of Strandlight marks the last under Richard Harris's editorship. He leaves the lighting industry with our best wishes to pursue a career in sound.

"Eight years is a long time. I took over the Editorial Chair of 'TABs', which transmogrified itself into 'Strandlight', in 1981. It has been a task lightened by pleasure, both in its doing and from the many friendships and interesting acquaintances that it has brought me around the world.

But all things change. After twenty-five years of lighting involvement I have now turned from light to sound. I have accepted the post of Marketing Manager with a manufacturer of sound mixing consoles.

As this company operates world wide and as a great part of their business is in theatre sound, many readers may well come across my tracks from time to time. So perhaps it is 'adieu' rather than 'farewell'.

I shall particularly miss my editorial visits and the letters to the editor, but I am still involved in the theatre, and still involved on behalf of a good company."

Strand Lights a Museum

A combination of theatrical and architectural lighting was called for with Strand Lighting's prestigious project to light the new National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford.

The museum includes re-creations of photographers studios through the ages, exhibits tracing the history of cinema, theatrical sets illustrating film and TV lighting — including a TV news studio — and also houses the Kodak museum.



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