

Production ROUND-UP

BY CARMEN ALLESTUN

IN 1995, EVEN THE DINOSAURS ARE COOL

It's 1995 and you can stock the freezer up with **Ben and Jerry's**, get *Definitely Maybe* blaring out of that stereo, have deep, cerebral encounters with your friends about the linguistic coolness of *Pulp Fiction* or go net surfing on the machine next door ... if you've never heard **Oasis** or seen *Pulp Fiction*, you think **Ben and Jerry's** is another tacky brand of psychedelic toothpaste and you've never fancied fishing or surfing — then never mind, just keep playing the **Phil Collins** albums ... There are plenty of good bands who'll be touring this year, lots of talent bubbling under and some hot tips for success, including **Eat Static** and **Shed Seven**, even the dinosaur tour of 1995 is cool (**REM**) ... Major news in the first week reveals that **Wigwam** employee **Dale Longworth's** band, **N-Trance**, made their debut on the national charts at #6. Could **Dale**, also poised for his first *Top of the Pops* appearance, be following **Noel Gallagher** to superstardom? **Wigwam's Chris Hill** also reveals that he, **Steve Levitt** and other members of the crew have formed a band. Rumour has it that they will be running a naming competition and are also looking for a monitor engineer. **Chris** commented: "I'd rather parade naked through **Harrods** than have to do monitors for us." On the work front they are busy with **The Rankin Family**, **Suede**, **Shirley Bassey**, and in theatre, *Scrooge*, *Pickwick*, *Singing In The Rain* and *Great Expectations*, with four arena conferences, five pantos, and three systems covering the *Celtic Connection Festival* in Glasgow to boot ... Although January is traditionally quiet many companies report steady work. In general, lighting companies seem to be busier than sound — perhaps because it gets darker earlier in the winter! Those that are quiet are seizing the opportunity to recover from the festive fracas and overhaul their systems. One such company is **Concert Systems**, who have just purchased 32 **EAW** cabinets and are upgrading all their J stock to E stock (!) as well as servicing their regular shows.

Kevin Bannerman is "definitely optimistic" about 1995 ... Another person who is looking forward to an evolutionary year is **John Tinline**, who announces that he and former partner **Pete Kellet** have gone their separate ways, with the former contemplating 1995 at the helm of **Encore ... The Spot Co** emerged from one of their busiest festive seasons ever with **Ben Sullivan** and **Peter Miles** taking to the snow-laden ski slopes of France for a well-earned rest before returning for the *1995 LIVE!* Awards. On the tour front they have **Intellabeams** and **Trackspots** sub-hired to **Neg Earth** and **Jamiroquai**, a **Fluke** tour going to Denmark and **Killing Joke** and **The Grid** going out shortly with projection and moving bits. **Torvill and Dean** continue to tie up eight of their **Cyberlights** and **36 Cyberlight CXs**. Conference and exhibition work is also high on the **Spottie** agenda as are dance parties and other one-offs. Those of note include the 50th *Rezerrection* (**LD Gerry Caulderhead**), their regular club nights at the **Astoria** and **Bar Rhumba**, and the *LIVE!* dinner. Rumour has it that they will be holding a party in West London on April 1 ... **Skan PA** reckon that they did the best of the New Year parties in **Megadog** at **Brixton Academy**. **Pete Howard** recalls the mind-boggling lighting and projection effects produced by the creative dynamite of **Hayden Cruickshank** and his **Golden Scans** (the **Colour Sound Experiment**) and **Jasper of The Fruit Salad Lightshow**. **Skan** provided 50K of **Turbo** and 10K of **Black Box** for the event, and bands appearing included **Eat Static**, **System 7**, **Dread Zone** and **The Grid**. Coming up for **Skan** is **Baaba Maal**, the **GMB Dance** tour and rescheduled **Senser** dates ... **Entec's Paul Weber** reveals that **Entec** are providing gear for a **Honda** car launch and are

deep in negotiation for a future major TV awards show. *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* continues for them (**LD Mike Sutcliffe**) as does a **Lee Jeans** promotion in Tenerife. On the performance side they have kit going out on the hotly-tipped-for-success-in-95 band **Gene** (**LD Pip Rhodes**). Next door, **Entec Sound's Bunty King** reveals that *The Word* continues until March and they are also doing the launch party for *Interview With A Vampire* and the **NME Brat Awards** ... One of the longest-running shows on the road — the **Blues Brothers Revue** — loaded out of the **Neg Earth** warehouse for a further eight months. **Neg Earth** also have the **Joe Jackson** tour going out as well as ongoing work for the **London Towers** basketball team. **Bryan Ferry** departs again



Wigwam's Dale Longworth: chart success

towards the end of the month with **Liz Berry** and **Dave Gibbon** operating lights (design was by **Jonathan Smeeton**) and **Jamiroquai** is also on the road again, with **LD Ian MacEwan** and his former boss from **Chameleon** days, **Colin Jones** teching. With more gear out on the **Black Crowes**, **Dave Ridgway** thinks "It's not dead out there by any means." ... **LSD** are looking after **The Cranberries** and **Suede**. They did the hugely successful **Oasis** tour (**LD Mike Howard**, **Icon** op **Frank Shields**) over Christmas, a rave at **Wembley** and the **Centenary Square** junket in Birmingham ... **Tiger Hire** regroup with the redoubtable **Jim Parsons** himself off to Japan with **Ride**. The accident-prone **Auteurs** restart their tour, which will keep cheeky tour manager **Mick Brown** out of mischief for a few months ... **Tour Tech's Duncan Marlowe** says they partied so hard over the festive season that they are pleased not to be overstretched, but they do have **Billy Connolly** loading out shortly. **Capital Sound**, who had an excellent year last year, are also easing their way into 1995 with control equipment out on a dry hire for **British Gas** in Athens (no

comment!) ... **The Moving Light Company** have **Faderbeams** and **Pro Spots** on the *Live Bed Show* (featuring **Paul Merton**). They have *Oliver!* continuing *ad infinitum* and a new show at **The Cambridge**, *Mama I Want To Sing*, a gospel musical featuring **Chaka Khan**. Their first West End show of '95 is *Dangerous Corner*, that has gone into the **Whitehall**, and **Bryan Raven** is "looking forward to a busy 1995" ... **Avolites** are up to their eyeballs as their new desk, **The Pearl**, goes into production. **Avolites** consoles have also been specified for **REM** and one of the first orders of 1995 was for a Spanish public TV station who want eight customised TV spec dimmers and a **Diamond II** that will be controlling dimmers and **Vari-Lites** ... **Eat To The Beat** are out with **The Black Crowes** and **Joe Jackson**, and having done their first shoot at **Millenium Studios**, will be doing the *Brit Awards* next month. **Tony Laurenson** won't be tempted into any predictions about the fortunes of the year, but says "two of our big acts are planning to be out for a long time this year so it should keep us off the dole." ... **Meteorites** start the year quietly on the music tour front but have the jewel in the crown of '95 — **REM** (**LD Willy Williams**, operator **Bruce Ramos**... **Villa Audio** have been appointed to provide full production for the forthcoming **Indigo Girls** 14-date UK tour. Tour production manager is **Geoffrey Trump** and FOH engineer **Martin Stansfield**, who will use **Lab Gruppen** amplification, **Soundcraft** boards and a **12K Electrovoice** **Deltamax PA** ... **CPL** ended the year with a string of major shows such as **Status Quo** (**LD Pat Marks**, **VL** op **Fraser Elisha**), **David Byrne** (**LD David Arch**), **Cliff Richard** (**LD Mick Healey**, **VL** op **Derek Jones**), **Gary Glitter** (**LD Chris Clow**, **VL** op **Mark Payne** and **Elkie Brooks** (**LD James Judge Loudon**). Other pre-Christmas shows involving **CPL** were **Sarah Bernhard**, **ZZ Top** and **Take That** at **Wembley Arena** in aid of **Princess Diana's Concert of Hope** charity. They have also been illuminating the *Magic Night In America* season, a massive ice spectacular, in **Moscow's Sports Palace** for 14,000 people per night.