

all access

On the road with Carmen Allestun

All signs point to the Autumn season building up to a healthy pace. The anticipation of election fever also seems to be infusing the music business with arch-rivals **Liam Gallagher** and **Damon Albarn** at last agreeing on something – the fact that they both want to see a Labour government in power...and so the campaign begins to motivate the traditional apathy of the youth vote.

It's all go at **Neg Earth** this autumn who have equipment out on the following tours: **James Last** (LD **Carl Burnett**), **Ocean Colour Scene** (LD **Pete Wilson**), **Galliano** (LD **Steve Hall**), the **Fugees** (LD **Jimmy Pettinato**), **Jamloquai** (LD **Phil Freeman**) and the live stage show that precedes the latest **Disney** blockbuster – **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** – in Rome and Madrid. Up and coming and on-going work includes **Erasure** (LD **Dave Byars**), the **European Snowboarding Championships** (LD **John Dipple**), **Michael Ball** (LD **Jon Pollack**), the **Unforgettable Country Music tour** (**Jeff Metzger**), **Tricky** (LD **Angus McPhail**), **Skunk Anansie** (LD **Mick Thornton**), **Basketball** (LD **Tommy Tee**), **Riverdance** at Hammersmith Labatts Apollo and in Chicago (LD **Rupert Murray**, operators **Dennis Gardiner** and **Darragh McAuliffe**) and the infinite **Blues Brothers Revue** (LD **Patrick Woodroffe**, operator **Rene**) and assorted classical spectaculars. They are also doing a bunch of one-offs for **Serious** (formerly **Serious Speakout**). New gear includes 18 Cyberlights, 18 Studio Colours and a fourth Whole Hog II.

SSE's current work features **Tori Amos** (FOH **Mark Hawley**, monitors **Marcel Van Limbeek**), **Metallica** (FOH **Mick Hughes**, monitors **Paul Owen**), the **European Snowboarding Championships** (FOH **Mike Stewart**), **Lightning Seeds** (FOH **Simon Machan**, monitors **Ed Hallam**), **Sepultura** (FOH **Nino**), the **Good Food Show** and the **Starlight Awards** with **Barry Bartlett** mixing FOH on both the latter.

Lite Alternative's Paul Normandale has just returned from South America and the last leg of the current **Bjork** world tour. The company is also servicing **Suede** (LD **Phil Wiffin**), **Incognito** (LD **Max Conwell**) and **Paul Oakenfold's Perfecto** club tour (LD **Glen Johnson**) together with numerous industrials.

Fineline have just finished the **Australlian Doors** tour (LD **Pat**) and have **Reef** (LD **Reuben Pinkney**) and **These Animal Men** (LD **Nick Ayres**) out. **Gary Wilmot** has just extended until Christmas for **Fineline**, while the **Prudential Roadshow** and the two-week **Mozart Festival** in Bath are in the pipeline. A huge student ball via **Middlesex University** at Ali Pali with a spectacular line-up including **Shed Seven**, **Dreadzone** and **Let Loose** is just one of their many one-offs. **SKAN** will do PA on that one, and lighting will fly from a massive ground support system.

Meanwhile, **Pete Skan** is out on the **Megadog** tour and **Eat Static** dates (currently using a **Tiger Hire** PA) and **SKAN** themselves have systems on **Reef** (FOH **Clive Goodwin**, monitors **Simon Higgs**) and **Incognito**. **Tiger Hire** will shortly be embarking on some cool acid jazz with the **James Taylor Quartet** tour with **John Martin** mixing FOH and **Mike Stewart** on monitors.

Back 2 Front have just completed an interesting project – painting logos on to an **Orbit** stage for the **European Snowboarding Championships** in Berlin. They've also provided a backdrop for **Death By Country**, a TV comedy series starring **Rory McGrath**, and others for **Let Loose**, **Head** and **Sinnymallinky Records**.

Brit Row's current acts include **The Cure** (FOH **Jon Lemmon**, monitors **Bryan Olson**), **Heathcliffe**, **Pearl Jam**, **Jamloquai**, the **Manic Street Preachers**, **James Last**, the **Chemical Brothers**, **Squeeze**, **Barbara Dickson** (FOH **Dee Miller**, monitors **Steve Flewin**), **Tricky** and **Jackson Browne**.

LSD have a formidable list of acts this month, including **The Beautiful South** (LD **Simon Sidi**, operator **Tom Nulty**), **Classical Spectaculars** in Europe (production manager **Steve Nolan**, LD **Durham Marengli**), **The**

Cure (LD **Roy Bennett**, director **Gary Westcott**), **Def Leppard** (LD **Butch Allen**), **East 17** (LD **Peter Barnes**), the **European Music Awards** at Ali Pali (LD **Allen Branton**), **Eros Ramazzotti** (LD **Billy Bigliardi**), **Icons** on the recent **George Michael MTV Unplugged** show at Three Mills Studios, **Kiss** (LD **Bryan Hartley**), **Let Loose** (LD **Beamer**), the **Lighthouse Family** (LD **Andy Liddle**), **Michael Jackson** (LD **Peter Morse**, op **Merle McLane**), **Pearl Jam** (LD **Keith Wissmar**), the **Smash Hits** Docklands show and tour (LD **Tom Kenny**), **Tina Turner** (LD **Roy Bennett**, operator **Mac Mosler**) and the **Afro Celts**, a new **Virgin** band (LD **Patrick Woodroffe**, op **Dave Hill**).

Concert Sound are providing systems for **Sheryl Crow**, **Joe Cocker** (FOH **Rob Collins**, monitors **Kerry Lewis**), **Erasure** (FOH **Andy Whittle**, monitors **Alan Bradshaw**) and have **Michael Ball** (FOH **Geoffrey Hooper**, monitors **Steve May**), **Tom Jones** and **Chris de Burgh** leaving the warehouse shortly.

Wigwam are flat out as usual; tours include **East 17** (FOH **Mike Dolling**, monitors **Graham Blake**), **Boyzone** (FOH **Pete Turner**, monitors **Moose**), **Suede** (FOH **Steve Phillips**, monitors **Graham Lees**), **Neneh Cherry**, **The Rankin Family** (FOH **Brad Fox**), **The Hollies** (FOH **Pete Turner**, monitors **Ian Hopkinson**) plus the **Hunchback of Notre Dame** pre-screening show in Madrid and Rome.

Canegreen are celebrating producing their first swag since 1984 – **Yan Stile** comments that they have been too busy to get round to it for the last 12 years!! **Neneh Cherry** (via **Wigwam**), **Let Loose** (FOH **Brandon Reece**, monitors **Martin Kiersley**), **Galliano** (FOH **Stuart Kerryson**), **Victoria Wood** (FOH **Ian Wheaton**) and the **Fugees** (FOH **Horace**, monitors **Seamus Fenton**) are all among Canegreen's contemporary clients. Future tours include **Jethro Tull** – dusting off the pension books (FOH **Andy Glass**), the **Unforgettable Country Stars'** arena tour in November (FOH **Mick Williams**, monitors **Robin Fox**) and a TV show with **Blue Nile**.

DBN Lighting have **Dodgy** (LD **Andy Moore**) and **Lion Rock** (LD **James Murray**) who are supporting the **Chemical Brothers** on tour.

Concert Systems have just finished **The Prodigy** tour where, in true to decibel legend, every venue commented that it was "the loudest gig yet", featuring 64 EAW boxes. They've also just finished the **Bluetones** (FOH **Stephen McEldon**, monitors **Darren Scully**) and are loading out the **Beautiful South** (FOH **Pablo Knight**, monitors **Chris Trimby**). The **Perfecto** club tour continues for the rest of the month with **Colin Meek** mixing FOH. November 5th is always a big night for **Concert Systems**, and this year they again provide a 60K system for the mid-Mersey **Liverpool Fireworks Spectacular**. They also have a regular **Southport Soul Weekender** coming up – apparently this is the gig the crew fight to get on, as such a good time is had by all!

Creative Technology has just finished the **Joaquin Cortes** shows at the **Albert Hall** where the man himself was reported as being the star of video as opposed to stage! The CT Video crew worked with **Steve Nolan** and **Rachel Holmyard** from **Chromatic Productions** who put the world touring show together; the next stop is Mexico... Another CT event is **Heathcliffe** in Birmingham, plus slide and video projection for the forthcoming **MTV Awards** and a new show for **Levi's**.

PSL's current acts include **East 17**, **Smash Hits**, the **Boo Radleys** and **Kenny Rogers**, while Stateside they have **Tori Amos**, the **Smashing Pumpkins** and **Ozzy Osbourne**.

The **Vari-Lite Europe/CPL/Brilliant Stages** service various elements of multifarious tours and events. A small selection of these includes **The Cure**, **Metallica** (LD **John Broderick**, set designer **Mark Fisher**), **Celine Dion**, **Kula Shaker** (LD **Rob Gowler**), the **Scorpions** (LD **Patrick Woodroffe**), the set for **Erasure** (designed by **Dave Byars**), **Eddie Izzard** (LDs **Amanda Garrett** and **Mark Henderson**), **Sting** (LD **Nick Sholem**), **Status Quo** in Europe (LD **Pat Marks**) and numerous theatre and industrial undertakings.

