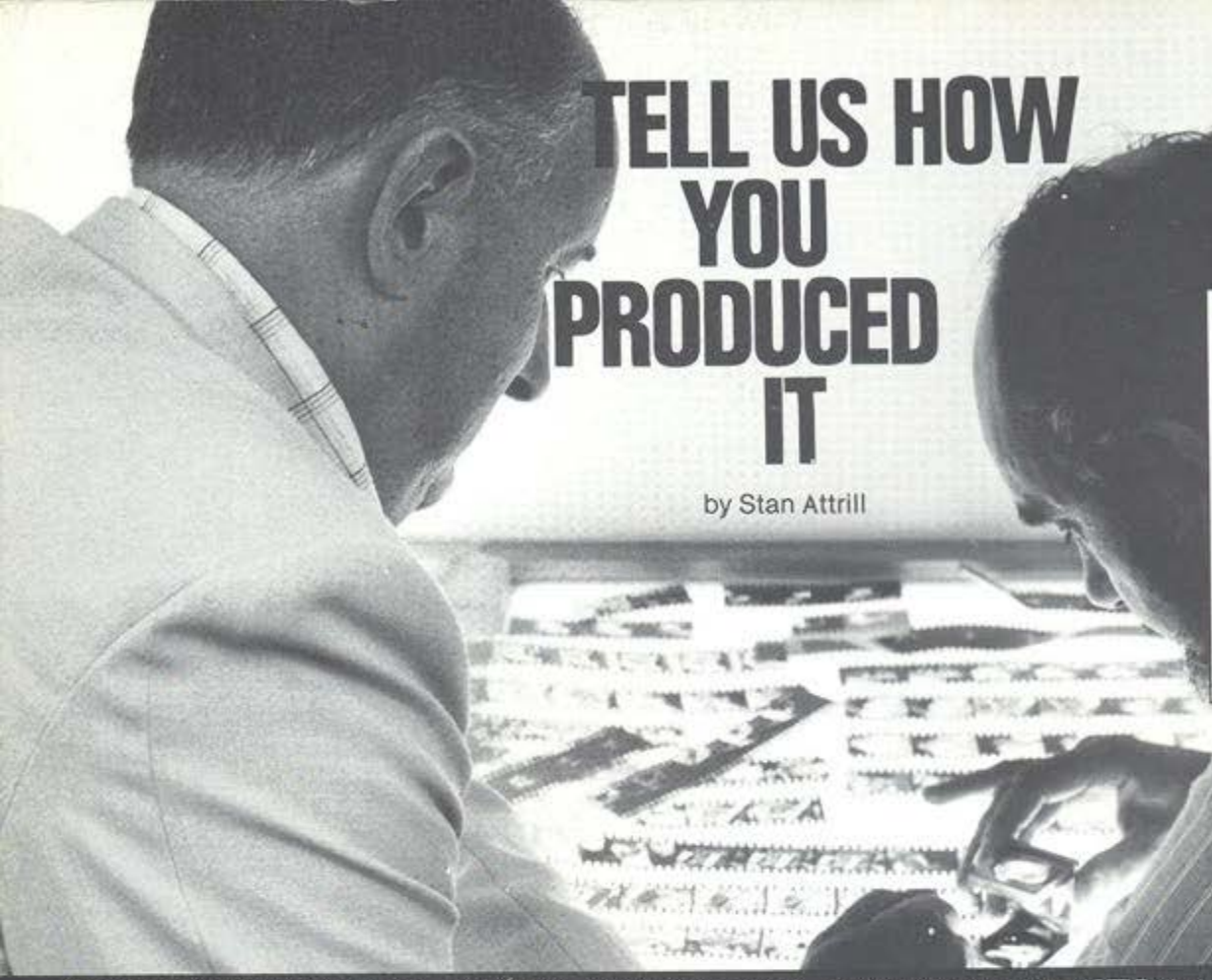
TELL US HOW YOU PRODUCED IT

by Stan Attrill



Stan Attrill, our author, is producer/director at Lee International Audio Visual, Wembley.

We asked Stan to write a short article for TABS, on how the Galaxy presentation was produced.

AFTER we first unveiled Galaxy, we were so pleased with our new board that we decided to try a new method of introducing it to our customers — by using an Audio Visual programme. I should explain here that Audio Visual (or AV as the knowledgeable call it) is a method of electronically controlling three or more automatic slide lanterns linked to a sound and effect tape. Photography, sound effects, music and commentary are all combined together to make a new and very 'strong' medium of expression. There is an electronic interlock so that the slides, as they mix, cross fade or superimpose can never get out of order or out of synchronisation with the sound track.

Incidentally, this programme will be on show every hour at the ABTT Trade Fair, and it will be shown by our dealers overseas at shows and exhibitions. It is also available on video tape (professional standard) for showing to T.V. customers abroad. ►

Great, I thought, when Strand asked me to put together a ten to fifteen minute, triple projector tape/slide presentation, on the new Galaxy memory lighting control system.

What a subject; multi-image galaxies, universes, things from outer space, futuristic sci fi. Look out, Stanley Kubrick and Stephen Spielberg.

Following ten years as an Electronics Engineer in the RAF, Vic Gibbs joined Strand in 1968. Having set up the memory system installation and service department he moved to R&D in 1971 where he helped design the M.M.S., Compact and Lightboard systems. In 1976 he joined the Studio Lighting Sales Department and has been responsible for a number of TV lighting projects in the Middle East. He is currently the Area Sales Manager for Strand Lighting in the Middle East and Asia.

RTM VEHICLE

by Vic Gibbs

RANK Strand were awarded a Contract towards the end of 1980, for the supply of a Mobile Television Lighting Control Vehicle, for use by RTM in Western Malaysia.

The vehicle being equipped with comprehensive Video and Audio facilities in addition to Lighting Control and Dimmers.

The vehicle chassis is a standard Bedford unit, with specialist coach building by Gowerings (M.V.C.) Ltd.

The vehicle is divided into 3 main areas, the forward compartment being the operational control room. The centre compartment being the dimmer and output cable storage area, and the rear the power input cable area. The rear roof area is reinforced for use as a camera or follow spot platform, and in addition the top rail of the fold down guard rails can be used as a luminaire rigging barrel.

Access to the first two compartments is via steps stored below the doors. The control compartment houses a 96 channel Duet and Video Display Unit, four monochrome, and two colour monitors plus a wave form monitor, back up pin patch and non dim controls, video and audio switches, clock, talkback unit, low power distribution unit and air conditioner controls. The air conditioners being mounted in the luton section.

The central compartment houses 30 ways of 5kW Tempus dimmer packs, high power distribution and 1.5 kilometres of output cable.

The rear compartment houses two 16 metre power input cables, one being a plug and socket type for connecting to a generator, the other cable being suitable for connection to a sub station supply, the first cable can then be used as an extension if required. These two cables are stored on powered winding drums fed from the technical services battery.

To give maximum flexibility of use, the lighting system can be operated in four different modes.

1) On Vehicle — Full power is brought to the Vehicle and Luminaires plugged, via the output cables, into the dimmer packs.
2) Duet derigged off the Vehicle — The vehicle then acts as dimmer room. 100 metre control extension cables being carried in the rear compartment.
3) Dimmers derigged off the Vehicle — The vehicle now acts as a Control room and uses an auxiliary low power input for services.
4) Duet, Dimmers and Power Distribution derigged — and being used remotely i.e. in a theatre. The vehicle can then be used as a monitoring and video switching control room.

Special allowance has been made for Malaysia's climatic conditions, all doors and lockers being triple sealed. Duplicate Air Conditioners are fitted, and a pull-out sun and rain shield can be rigged at the back when the rear doors are open.

Skirt lockers are provided for storage, technical and vehicle battery access and for technical feeds. No luminaire storage is provided as these will be carried in a separate simple tender vehicle. ●

1. Control Compartment showing the Duet and V.D.U. monochrome, colour and wave form monitors, pin patch, switchers and talkback unit.

2. Dimmer Compartment showing the Tempus packs with cable access lockers below, deriggable high Power Distribution unit and some of the 1.5 kilometres of output cable.

3. Rear Power input compartment showing the motorised cable drums and one of the input cables.