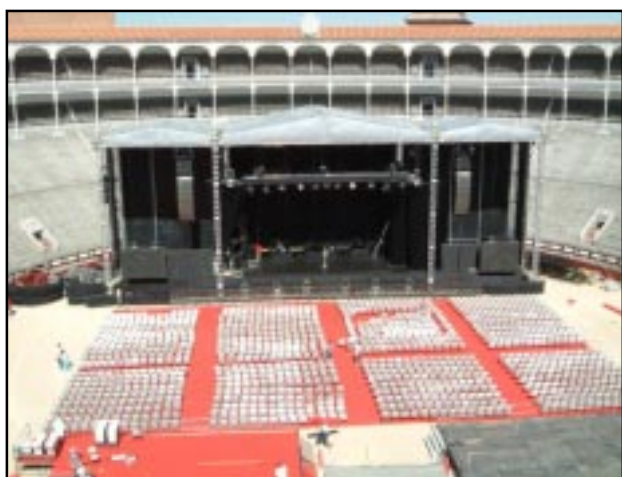


# TSG News - August 2005

## Company News



**New Roof for Spain,** Nacho Acha-Orbea from Entertainment Equipment Supplies based in San Sebastian, Spain has recently delivered an outdoor roof system and 2 stages to Kultuperalia based in Madrid.

The roof system is 19 x 16 metres with PA wings both sides measuring 9 x 7 metres. The roof is flown at 14 metres trim on 15 metre high towers. The main roof grid is designed to support 12 tonnes and each PA wing 7 tonnes. Under the roof we have supplied an Arena Deck stage variable in height from 1.55 to 2 metres in height occupying an area of 395 m<sup>2</sup>. The stage is rated at 8kn/m<sup>2</sup>. The stage comes equipped with handrails, 2 sets of variable steps and sloping ramps. The stage area is also equipped with side and back walls made from the same silver outside and black inside PVC polyester fabric as the roof cover. In addition there are 6 off 9 metre high scenery doors which allow sets to be rolled on and off stage.



The roof system is being used in the bull ring in Madrid to allow the venue to become a multipurpose facility when not being utilised for its' main use. Kultuperalia intend to stage a variety of events from flamenco to opera. The roofs modular stage allowing the diverse range of configurations required for the differing uses that it will be put to. In addition to this equipment Total Solutions Group have been contracted to provide an Audience stage covering 310 square metres with an adjustment range of 0.65 to 1.1 metres including 4 sets of variable height access stairs and handrails.

The whole contract was dispatched within 6 weeks of the order being placed which perfectly demonstrates the ability of the manufacturing team to deliver the goods on time and in budget. A fantastic achievement by all involved.

**In the heart of Europe,** Total solutions group are pleased to announce the appointment of dBLux as their distributor for Austria and Germany. They replace Focon Showtechnic who are no longer involved in selling the products. dBLux are based in Dornbirn in western Austria close to the German border. They have two representatives based in Germany who cover the north and south. They can be contacted on 00 43 (0) 55725339 and their truss specialist is Thomas Heinzle



## News in Brief

**The ABTT** show at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June provided an opportunity for Total Solutions to discuss products and services with the theatre community in the UK. On display were Slick and T2 trussing systems and the range of training courses on offer to theatre technicians. These include the well known 3 day rigging training course, one day work at height training following the introduction of the Work at Height Regulations and inspection training courses for users of rigging equipment.

**Wolverhampton Civic Hall** took delivery of their T2 Grid in July and training was provided by Chris Higgs.

**The New Guy.** We would like to welcome its newest member to the sales team, Mr Nicholas Croft. We believe he will be an asset to the company and so please feel free to call and pester him for all your trussing needs.



## Product Focus

In April's Product Focus we covered Slick's big boy truss – Megabeam. In this month's issue we take a look at Total Fabrication's big boy truss. Extra Heavy Duty, or EHD to it's friends, is a forkended trussing system that is designed for use in large rooftops where a smaller system just wouldn't be able to cut the mustard. The rooftop comprises an EHD grid raised up on legs made of TFL 18" Tower. Capable of spanning up to 30 metres with 1700Kgs load uniformly distributed, rooftops made out of this system can be sized to accommodate the largest of outdoor events. Total Fabrications have sold numerous EHD rooftops into North Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.



## Safety Focus

May was a busy month again for Total Training, 3 day courses being delivered at the training unit at the factory and offsite at the National Exhibition Centre. Their senior riggers attended the course to formalise their knowledge as part of the 'Big Picture' training initiative at the NEC.

Earlier in the month, both Chris Higgs and Eric Porter attended a meeting at PLASA's offices in Eastbourne to progress the National Rigging Certificate. Total Training is a key player in this scheme with Safe Working Ltd. and PLASA's Nicky Greet and Ron Bonner. We learn the certification scheme is gathering momentum and should be launched later this year, more news when we have it.

Much of the month was taken up with ensuring training course notes are up to date with the Work at Height Regulations. We decided to wait until the legislation was passed before reviewing our documentation, although the changes from the draft regulations were relatively few. The main change was the abolition of the '2m rule' favoured by the construction industry as the governing factor in providing means of fall prevention. The new Regulations rely on a risk based approach – if a fall could occur from any height that may cause an injury effective means of preventing the fall must be provided. Where this is not possible, means of mitigating the consequences of a fall should be used. The regulations also specify features required of equipment used to gain access or work from, inspection regimes and the duties in relation to the planning, organising, training and supervision of work at height.



Chris attended the John Watts Memorial Lecture (in memory of the late John Watts, safety advisor to the Dome and RSC) entitled 'Is training academic?' at the Concert Artistes Association in London. A distinguished panel spoke of their experiences in designing and delivering technical training in the workplace and at academic institutions. Representatives from theatres, drama schools and technical theatre were in the audience to discuss technical training being a fundamental part of developing standards, safety and employment prospects in the theatre industry. Training can help in many areas apart from improving safety; insurance, profitability and productivity also benefit.



## Character Profile

For this month's character profile we take a look at Machine Shop Foreman Neil Jancey AKA Noggin. He was born in a stable in Worcestershire and raised by horses until the age of seven when his lack of flowing mane and tendency to occasionally walk on two legs saw him move in with a human family. Since then he has never looked back – probably due to his discovery that a Steak and Kidney Pie tastes better than a nose sack full of oats! Such is his love of pies that he has gained a certain notoriety amongst his colleagues as a portly gent who in all likelihood ate all the pies. One of TFL's "on-site specialists" Noggin often travels down to help with installing and making last minute modifications to Stage Sets and other bespoke structures. When not on-site you can usually find Noggin in the Machine Shop making sure that all holes are drilled, all slots are slotted and all threads are tapped. He is also our resident expert on making T2 Mobile Anchor Points.

