

TSG News - January 2007

Company News



The **Royal Shakespeare Company** instructed Total Solutions Group to design, construct and install a bespoke bridge system for their new Courtyard theatre in Stratford on Avon. TSG worked together with the RSC and theatre consultants Charcoalblue to design a safe system of work and the incorporation of the T2 system was deemed to be desirable for this application. The 100 or so metres of bridges are a working platform which is intended for the movement of personnel to various areas of the technical gallery level along with the deployment of lighting, sound and other scenic elements as necessary for the varied performances. Of the total amount there are 40 metres of bridges which are movable. The 4 moving bridges, which are over the stage area, are supported from Verlinde BGVC1 hoists and are controlled from a Kinesys motor control system with individual local bridge control pendants for a safer obser-



vation of these moving bridges. There is a system of bumper bars and steps to accurately guide the moving bridges to their upper most position. Each bridge has 5 bars which can be used for supporting equipment. The lower lighting bar is situated below the floor of the bridge which is accessed through opening hatches in the bridge floor which run the whole length of the bridge system. The other bars are either side of the bridge and are at regular handrail heights but are adjustable should the need arise. The design is a safe system of work and to this end there are gates at various strategic points and other internal gates which can be fitted temporarily where trap doors are intended to be left open for performance reasons. The top section of the bridge has an evolution of the T2 Touring truss with a built in T2 extrusion for the lower chords and round tubes for the top chords. Inside this truss is continuous cable tray for neat routing of cables as required. Total Training were brought in to train the new staff members at the Courtyard and to assist with the RSC's working at height policy.



Having been awarded the contract to build the **MUSE** set we had 5 weeks to bring Tom Lesh's concept drawing to reality.

We worked closely with the sound and video boys firstly to integrate the huge base speakers inside the stage front and the elevated wings allowing the speakers to come in last and de-rig first without altering the stage.

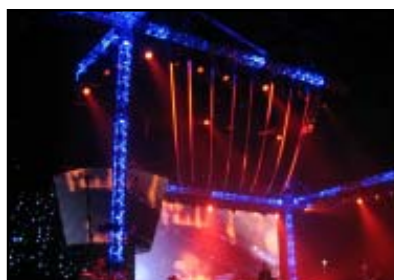
The video integration called for the drum riser fascia to be made to house Mi-Pix LED units and to do the same with a huge satellite structure over the drum riser. The drummer basically appears as the satellite rises from the drum riser.

All the riser decks and some of the stage decks were covered in Perspex with an accompaniment of

lighting fixtures within the risers themselves.

The third aspect of the project saw an elevating "B" Stage 4.9m x 2.45m made from 2 lifts integrated into the custom stage decks.

To finish off the set we supplied custom drapes from shark tooth gauze with black Molton backing for the stage, wings, thrusts and "B" stage.



A most unusual project! The brief was to make some wings for Kylie each of which is 6 metres opening out into a fan shape 5 metres high. The effect was stunning as we incorporated fine material from Kylies dress designer in Italy stitched very carefully to make the wings shape. The whole wing set had to basically appear from the floor behind Kylie and pivot to their open position centred from a hub decorated with suitably shiny parts. This was all wrapped up and air freighted to Australia in time for the continuation of the tour.



Product Focus

Super Mega Truss, is the new boy on the scene. Forming part of the Total Fabrications range of products it has the largest load capacity of them all. The truss system is designed to be as compact as possible whilst retaining the enormous capability to minimise transport costs. The truss is a forkend jointed system to reduce build times and to maximise capacity. Uniquely, the truss system has also been designed to have loading capacity when turned on its side. With a rating of 6600Kgs uniformly distributed on a 30mt span with adequate lateral support and even 5000Kgs over the same distance in its 'wrong' orientation, this truss is not for the faint hearted.

News in Brief

Reynolds Sound and Lighting took delivery of a **TFL Roof system** back in October with the first artist non other than INXS. The system is an 18mt wide roof using Total Fabrications EHD Truss for high load capacities.

Fentura eat more XO truss.... Fentura continue there love of TFL XO truss by ordering another 40 x 3mt sections in time for the boat show. The only downside from Total's point of view is that its another 40 section to meticulously inspect next year when they ask for there annual truss inspection :(

The **weights and volume** calculator is now up and running on the TSG website for all standard TFL and Slick products. The page is an on-line database designed to hand more information to the customer on-line and is ideal for transportation calculations.

Safety Focus

After 8 years and having issued over 2000 training certificates, Total Training have just opened a new training facility at the Birmingham site.

The 200 square metre area is presently split into two, a large classroom for rigging theory and desk based training such as inspection of lifting equipment and a two level steel grid structure that allows trainees to learn theatre and arena rigging techniques in a controlled but realistic environment. A third area, a 'safe zone' for work at height training is under development and will be brought into use in early 2007.



Character Profile

Ian "Royal Albert" Hall is Mr.Slick, and not just in a sartorially elegant fashion either.

Now the worlds leading authority on all things Slick, it's a far cry from the questionable guidance given by his Careers Officer at school, whose suggestion of becoming a rag-wringer for a one-armed window cleaner cut no ice with a boy reaching for the stars. In the comfort of his Staffordshire home, Ian takes no prisoners as a ruthless keyboard warrior engaged in World of Warcraft. He'd have other interests if only there was time after all that fighting. This affable chap, who may soon be adding Grecian 2000 to his weekly shop, had an early taste of showbiz whilst still a mere schoolboy. The young and raw vocal talent of this child prodigy won a BBC Nationwide singing contest as part of a small ensemble showcasing their talents to win over such luminaires as Peter Skellern, Barbara Dickson, and the focal point of Ians first adolescent fumbblings, Sue "Desert Island Discs" Lawley. If you have any technical enquiries that the Design Office don't seem interested in answering, Ian's your man

