

AUDIENCE

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Revealing it all

Madonna's Confessions on the road

Live domi-Nation

Global giant in venues buying spree

AEG-DEAG announce alliance

Joint venture to promote in Germany

Ruud Berends on the European Talent Exchange



This strong alliance involves the most influential parties in European music

newsites

MEXICO Amplifier manufacturer MC² has announced the appointment of Hi Tech Audio, based in Tlalpan on the southern edge of Mexico City, as its Mexican distributor. The company also handles DiGiCo, Yamaha and HK Audio.

ITALY Milan-based audio and communications distribution specialist Exhibo SpA has recently been appointed EAW distributor for Italy. The deal follows the move of Edoardo Ravelli, responsible for EAW at its previous distributor, to Exhibo.

GERMANY Meyer Sound has announced the appointment of Jim Sides as MD of the company's office in Polch. Sides moves to Germany from his previous role as Meyer's sales manager for the Western US region.

TM Audio upgrades Eindhoven's Effenaar

NETHERLANDS A Martin Audio W8LC system and Soundcraft consoles have been installed in a new, purpose-built concert venue in the southern Dutch city of Eindhoven.

Designed by architects MVRDV and developed by Ove Arup & Partners at a cost of €6.9million (\$8.85m), the esoterically-designed de Effenaar replaces the former single-room venue of the same site.

Operating on two floors, the



new complex incorporates a café/restaurant, a 1,200-capacity concert venue, a secondary 400-capacity room with balcony and a small studio theatre.

The equipment was chosen on the recommendation of sound engineer and original technical production manager Jorrit de Kort, who was involved in overseeing the new theatre facilities, alongside theatre specialists Prinszen en Bus.

Jaap Pronk, of installation company TM Audio, turned to another leading sound engineer and rental company specialist, Hugo Scholten of Ampco Pro Rent, to help tune the system in the main room, which has a 20m wide stage, a concrete superstructure and a stage-front lighting bridge.

The solution was a pair of W8Cs per side, stacked with three Blackline S218s to bring the sound image down from the line array.

The line arrays and stage monitors are controlled by XTA DP226 and new DP428 processors, while the front and sidefills are all under BSS FDS336 Minidrive management, powered by Martin Audio MA2.8 and MA4.2 and Crest CA18 amplifiers.

The front-of-house (FOH) mixing console in the main room is a Midas Heritage 2000, supplied two years ago by TM Audio, with a new 48-channel Soundcraft SM20 handling the foldback. Further Soundcraft 40- and 32-channel MH3's respectively occupy the FOH and monitor positions in the auxiliary room.

Tomcat Confessions

UNITED STATES Tomcat USA has provided several custom-made set pieces for Madonna's top-selling Confessions tour.

LD Leroy Bennet's design includes nine custom lighting pod frames with transport dollies, in addition to which Tomcat fabricated five three-foot diameter disco balls. These hang from a central point where they raise and lower several times during the show. 88 Seco

LED fixtures are mounted inside each ball, and in the lower centre of each a Vari-Lite VL500 is mounted to shine straight down.

The skin of each ball was fabricated out of 1/8-inch aluminium, spun on a large metal lathe to create a hemisphere. These hemispheres were then cut and mounted to the underframe of the ball. Each ball was divided into four sections, allowing easy access for maintenance of the fixtures. With 88 LED fixtures and a VL500 in such close proximity.



The skin of each ball was polished to a bright finish while the stem and electrical enclosure were powder-coated black.

JSA's Dark Side in Moscow

RUSSIA Production specialist JSA Company's staging of Roger Waters' Moscow concert on 24 June saw the erection of one of the largest stages ever built in the country.

Located at the lower end of the Vasilevsky Spusk, the stage measured 20 x 18 metres, with a height of 17 meters.

The concert was designed by show director Mark Fisher and full production and logistics were handled by JSA Company, in conjunction with some of the country's leading sound, light, screen and pyrotechnic companies.

Technical challenges included full quadrasonic sound and the creation of a "small town" of dressing rooms, production offices and catering, along with stage safety barriers and a site perimeter ring of lit fences.

The company's president, Alexander Strizhak, said, "We



are delighted that the legendary music of Pink Floyd, in the hands of Roger Waters, has sounded from a JSA stage."

The PA was supplied by Live-Sound, pyro by SPFX and extra screens were provided by Big Screen Service.

Other facilities provided by JSA included tents, barricades, power, sets, rigging and infrastructure.

The company has produced several shows for international artists in Moscow's Red Square over recent years and also supplied the stage for Metallica's 70,000-capacity outdoor in the Estonian capital Tallinn on 13 June.

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