



PRODUCTION 100

The leading concert industry production services 2015

- ◆ artist & crew travel
- ◆ catering services
- ◆ crew companies
- ◆ freight & trucking
- ◆ infrastructure
- ◆ lighting rental
- ◆ rehearsal facilities
- ◆ sound rental
- ◆ staging & rigging
- ◆ video services

Expanding outdoor events mean ever bigger staging solutions



STAGING AND RIGGING

Stages are playing an increasingly central role in show production...

WHILE THE MAJORITY of stages are still simple raised platforms for acts to use as performance spaces, at the pinnacle of the business, stages have taken on much more significance in show production. Spectaculars such as U2's 360° tour and Robbie Williams' *Take the Crown* stadium tour, as well as festivals like Tomorrowland have used stages as an integral part of show creativity, while trapdoors, Kabukis and motorised elements have become more common as acts up the ante to meet fan expectations.

Designing complex staging systems in such a way that crews can quickly build and disassemble them has become a

highly specialised part of the industry. But our voting professionals also recognise the essential role that riggers play in making those artistic visions come to fruition and this year's top ten staging and rigging companies include debutants Knight Rigging Services (UK) and DART Rigging (Germany).

Another newcomer this year hints at the solidarity among the production community. JSA shut down its Russian HQ a year ago in protest over the nation's military moves in Ukraine. Yet despite limited activity over the past 12 months, JSA was selected above many of its peers to be in this year's Production 100.

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JSA Stage Company**JSA STAGE COMPANY**

was founded by Alexander Strizhak as a specialist in providing management services and technical support

for concerts, festivals and other events and quickly became the first professional stage company in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In 2014, with JSA's management disagreeing with the military aggression in Ukraine, it shut down its Russian operations and relocated to Latvia.

Experienced working on large-scale projects, supplying staging and/or as a local production company, JSA is confident it can emulate that success from its new base. With historic clients including the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Roger Waters, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Elton John, JSA is hoping its resurrection will be swift.

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Star Events

IN 2016, STAR Events will have been supplying equipment and services to the events industry for 40 years. The company presents the widest

range of temporary structures for worldwide sporting, commercial and entertainment events, and few organisations can compete with Star Events for its high-end engineering, planning and strategic support. The company offers a full-time engineering and design office with a range of mechanical and structural engineers.

Star Events' experienced staff carefully considers each particular situation to deliver equipment and services that clients can rely on. Whether customers are looking for a mobile stage, rigging services or a creative bespoke offering, Star Events provides them with the tools for success.

Rigging lights and sound equipment on repeat towers has become a common sight at outdoor events

Stageco

HEADQUARTERED IN BELGIUM, with offices around the world, the multiple award-winning Stageco Staging Group continues to deliver imaginative solutions for concert touring, festivals, sports ceremonies and many other live events, indoors and outdoors.

Supported by unrivalled engineering experience, the company's staging systems range from 12m x 8m to 54m x 27m (able to handle 70 tonnes of rigging) and can be configured and reinforced to

meet precise requirements.

Stageco's temporary structures include mix and delay towers, camera risers, seating platforms and many types of scaffold constructions, as seen on the main stages of major festivals such as the Electric Daisy Carnival, Sensation, Tomorrowland and TomorrowWorld.

Remaining at the cutting edge of live production since forming in 1985, Stageco's touring clients include U2, Roger Waters, One Direction, The Rolling Stones, Justin Timberlake, Robbie Williams and Muse.

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Working at heights is a daily risk faced by riggers

Knight Rigging Services



KNIGHT RIGGING SERVICES is one of the leading providers of rigging and stage design in the live production industry.

Established by Sven Knight, 20 years ago, the company's aim was to become the foremost operation of its kind in Britain. However, the company is by no means tied to the UK; indeed, its rigging, designs and crew often travel to other markets internationally to work on events.

KRS is the house contractor for LS-Live Studios, and also is an approved supplier for broadcasters such as the BBC and ITV. At the 2014 TPI Awards ceremony in London, in recognition of an immensely successful year, Knight Rigging Services won the award for Favourite Rigging Company and Sven Knight won the award for Rigger of the Year.

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Dart Rigging



DART RIGGING + PROJEKT is one of the leading rigging and production companies in Germany, that besides rigging takes care of

technical management and the planning of events, including the generation of seating charts and event safety concepts for all kinds of shows, especially touring productions.

Many years of experience in the German and international market, and the technical know-how allow dart to find the right solutions for the most demanding rigging and project challenges. Also load monitoring has become an important part of its services.

The dart team consists of experienced engineers, technicians and skilled workers. All technical staff are certified professionals for rigging and event technology.

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All Access



FOR OVER 20 years, All Access has been a force in the industry as a one-stop shop for live event production and staging with offices in the heart of the US entertainment industry.

All Access has continued its global presence with offices in the United Kingdom and Australia, since 2009, in order to make their proprietary Versa Stage system accessible to clients worldwide.

Using the Versa Stage system, All Access can

design and build staging better, faster and safer. The company's latest Versa rolling stage is one of the strongest and safest fully modular touring stages available for hire worldwide, and while the company's prominent focus remains that load capacity should meet strict global constraints, under-stage areas have increased in size for quick costume changes and technician pathways.

All Access also provides kabukis, lifts, mobilators, toasters, turntables, snifters, and other electromechanical stage effects.

“ Our voting professionals recognise the essential role that riggers play in making artistic visions come to fruition. ”

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Megaforce



SINCE 1992, MEGAFORCE has become one of the most competent, reliable and innovative companies in the business and has

established itself as a force to be reckoned with in south-west Germany, supplying open-air events and tours.

The creation of a podium workshop and in-house trucking company, marked the start of Megaforce's successful "all-in-one" philosophy. In 1999, the company designed, engineered, and produced its own stage, the RBB, which became an instant hit. Designing an arched roof stage helped the company's reputation grow and Megaforce became an industry pioneer as the company's structures were chosen for international tours and events.

Today, Megaforce is one of the leading staging companies worldwide.

Show Group Production Services



SHOW GROUP PRODUCTION Services (SGPS) has over 30 years of experience providing innovative concepts and creative problem-

solving to the live entertainment, touring music industry and other events.

With today's increased demands on technicians and designers, SGPS created ShowRig to specifically service the rigging needs of the production industry, and to apply all the engineering, design and fabrication experience it has amassed in these markets.

The company carefully analyses each project's requirements, allowing it to design systems either using components from the SGPS extensive off-the-shelf inventory, or to fabricate specific equipment to meet these needs.

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

STAGECO

FROM WERCHTER TO THE WORLD

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IF YOU CAN IMAGINE IT, WE CAN BUILD IT.



Stageco designed a roofless stage for Coldplay's 2012 'Mylo Xylo' stadium tour

“ At the pinnacle of the business, stages have taken on a much more significant part in show production. ”

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Brilliant Stages



BRILLIANT STAGES HAS its origins in a business that was formed over 30 years ago. The company has a reputation for delivering custom set

design and fabrication projects within the touring and cruise ship industry.

Brilliant's client list includes prestige acts such as the Rolling Stones, U2, Muse, Take That, Lady Gaga, AC/DC, Simply Red and Pink, and the company has been supplying stages and sets to the cruise industry since 1997, along the way gaining a vast knowledge of the theatres and venues aboard ships.

The company has also expanded into other markets, working on complex projects outside of touring, within the public domain. From custom video walls through to extreme engineering, the company takes extraordinary concepts through to creative solutions.

Tait Towers



TAIT TOWERS DESIGNS and constructs some of the finest live equipment in the world, employing a passionate team of experts who understand

set and stage creation in its entirety.

Since 1978, Tait has expanded globally and claims to be the world market leader in staging, scenic design, kinetic architecture, LED integration, show control and automated rigging. Boasting a workforce of more than 600 employees, Tait approaches projects with a philosophy that the spectacle of the opening night is equally important as a quick, safe and efficient load-out.

Among its various claims to fame, Tait Towers has supplied the staging for 19 of the world's top 20 grossing acts, and historically partnered with US space agency, NASA, to put the lyrics of U2's *Beautiful Day* into orbit.

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Welcome



The Production 100 was launched last year to provide decision makers in the live entertainment touring business with a resource they can turn to when looking for specific production specialists. Rather than simply grasp a few names out of the air, or charge those listed for their insertions (as some other publications do), we decided to turn to the people who know the industry inside-out to ask them to nominate their favourite suppliers.

That process was universally applauded, so once again, we asked 100 professionals – mostly production managers – to name their most trusted contractors across ten key sectors.

“Once again we asked 100 professionals – mostly production managers – to name their most trusted contractors across ten key sectors.”

Rather than being a chart of winners, the companies in each of our ten sections reflect the most trusted suppliers and experts in their particular sector – at least, according to our pool of voting production professionals.

In the inaugural Production 100, I suggested that those operations that didn't make it into the book should plan their charm offensives on production manager clients to make sure that they made it into the 2015 publication. And with a churn of more than 40% in company listings, it would appear a large number of contractors may have done just that. As for those who have dropped out of the reckoning in the last 12 months, the same rings true – impressing those who buy their products, services or expertise in the coming year could result in being named one of the world's top 100 production specialists for 2016.

Gordon Masson, Editor

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**PRODUCTION
100 2015**

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