

Hog iPC Debuts on Garbage

AUSTIN, TX—High End Systems' new Hog® iPC console is making its touring debut with the band Garbage. The console is designed to use WholeHog 3 software, but at the same time, it is also backward compatible with the discontinued WholeHog II software.

As the production manager, lighting designer and lighting director, Butch Allen can speak from all points of view over his specification of Hog iPC and Catalyst Pro v3.3 media server in the show—both supplied by XL Touring Video. (The tour is not carrying any automated lighting, choosing to use house lights at each venue.)

Says Allen, "If you know the WholeHog II, the Hog iPC console will seem like an old friend—an old friend that 'had some work done,' so to speak. The new touch-screen monitors are very responsive. I run a great deal of our show 'on the fly' and was afraid to do so before. But now, no worries. Hit a palette and it works. Cool."

"The Hog iPC is a two-seat sports car," he says. "My last tour, Metallica, was a four-



disk monster on a WholeHog II console. Saving the show to floppy disk was the bane of my existence. Now backing up the Garbage show on Hog iPC is a two-second process; hard drive, USB and CDs for archiving the show. No more floppies! I'm free!"

Allen is using the Catalyst Pro v3.3 media server, with one output driving the SoftLED curtain and the other driving plasma screens.

Others involved in the production include Chris Mitchell of XL Touring Video, and programming by Brad Schiller, who documented the programming process in this month's Feeding the Machines column (see page 48).



Electronic Glass: A New Tool for Stage Lighting

ROGERS, AR—Imagine Sunday morning worship or an elegant Easter sunrise service with the feeling of outdoors, sunrises and sunsets—all inside. Brawner & Associates has received a contract for high-tech lighting design for a \$30 million state-of-the-art facility for The Church at Pinnacle Hills. This unique building, to be completed in 2006, will have a 100- by 60-foot glass wall with a daylight view behind the pulpit.

Light flooding from a glass wall creates immense challenges when projecting images on a video screen, telecasting, or lighting a worship service. To control the light levels consistently, the wall will be constructed of electronic glass that sandwiches a liquid crystal film between two layers of special glass. The window consists of 144 panes of 6- by 6-foot glass. Brawner &

Associates is working with the manufacturer to control the opacity of individual panes. The largest installation of electronic glass anywhere in the world, this project has implications for broadcast productions and theater lighting in a daylight environment.

Using its WYSIWYG studio, Brawner & Associates will predict the effect of the sun coming through the wall at various times of the year. The designer built a 3-D model and simulated the textures of the walls to emulate the performance of the "smart glass."

Donnie Brawner, president of Brawner & Associates, says, "This project is full of many first-time technological advances. We are breaking a lot of new ground." Brawner also plans to use custom light-emitting diodes within the glass to control color and mood in the naturally lit room.

Visual Terrain Receives Award

VAN NUYS, CA—Visual Terrain, Inc. was recently given an Award of Merit from the International Association of Lighting Designers for their design work on Morongo Casino Resort & Spa.

"We are very excited to have received this prestigious award from the IALD," remarked Eileen Thomas, project manager and associate principal on the Morongo project. "All the award winners were outstanding projects and to be in such good company is truly an honor."

Reviewed by a panel of award-winning lighting designers and architects, the Morongo design was described by one judge as "crisp and sharp," with simple color composition and no unnecessary complexity.

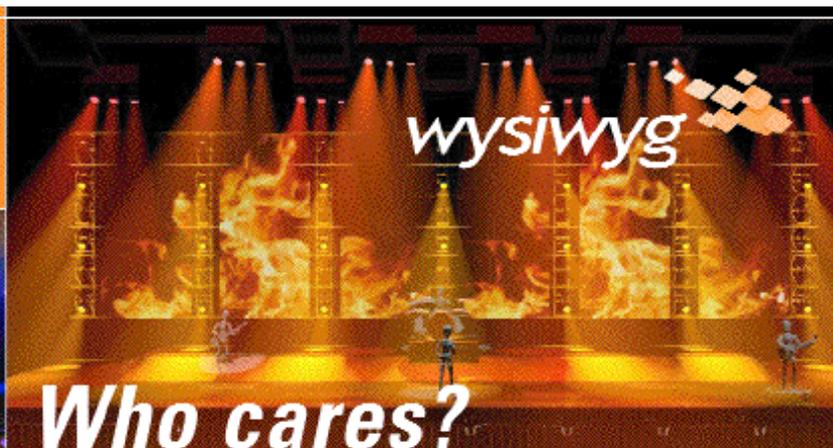
With inspiration from the picturesque desert landscape, the lighting designers were charged with creating a nighttime oasis. The project encompassed lighting the exterior façade and tower, casino and functional interiors, lobby, parking garage, hard-scape and landscape.

"The IALD Awards Program represents the pinnacle of our professional recognition," remarked Dawn Hollingsworth, principal-in-charge of the project. "We are grateful for the trust the architect, The Jerde Partnership, placed in us, and I am very proud of everyone on our team. We also extend our gratitude to the many manufacturers and representatives who worked with us during this project."

Upcoming Events

- LD Assistant Road Show and Training - LD Assistant/AutoCAD Basics and Advanced: May 12-14, Drake Center for the Performing Arts, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (www.ldassistant.com)
- Inspiration East: May 23-26, Charlotte, NC (www.tfwm.com/inspiration)
- InfoComm 05 Conference and Exhibition: June 4-10, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV (www.infocomm.org)
- NAMM Summer Session: July 22-24, Indianapolis, IN (www.nammsummersession.com)

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