

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project Name:	<i>Freaky Friday</i> Presented by Coolidge Middle School Drama Department Reading, Massachusetts
Location:	Reading, Massachusetts
Installation Completion:	January 2019
Direction/Scenic Design:	Stephen MacDonald
Technical Direction:	Kevin Gerstner
Lighting Design:	Jack O'Connor; Ashley Spear
Lighting Package:	Barbizon Light of New England
City Theatrical Solution(s):	QolorFLEX® NuNeon™, RGB and Accessories, QolorFLEX RGB LED Tape, QolorFLEX SHoW DMX Neo® 4x2.5A Dimmers, Mean Well Power Supplies, and SHoW DMX SHoW Baby® 6 Wireless DMX



The Drama Department at Coolidge Middle School (CMS) recently presented *Freaky Friday*, their annual musical that involved over 100 middle school students, professional advisors, and volunteers. This limited engagement show was presented at the 900-seat Reading Memorial High School Performing Arts Center.

CHALLENGES

With a SHoW Baby 6 wireless DMX system already in place, the creative team for *Freaky Friday* was looking for a way to create an urban Chicago setting using bright, color-changing LED products that could be controlled wirelessly. With limited transition time between scenes and a cast including 55 middle schoolers and an additional 45 students working backstage, the ideal solution would not only add dimension and visual interest, but also require minimal relocation after installation, and be simple and safe to use in a high traffic area.

The script called for an oversized hourglass that would be “broken” in half on stage. This presented one of the largest challenges of the show to the creative team: Designing a prop that could create a magical effect, while using two separate lighting and wireless DMX control systems.

SOLUTION

City Theatrical’s QolorFLEX NuNeon was selected as the lighting solution to outline the Chicago skyline that spanned the 40-foot-wide stage. The skyline was set in two layers, one at each wireless DMX controlled portal, to add dimension with color-changing RGB LEDs that have the look and brightness of traditional neon, but with easier setup and wireless DMX dimming control.

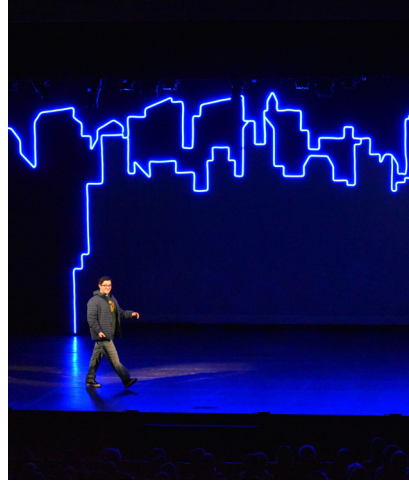
“QolorFLEX NuNeon was ideal for the skyline because it’s bright, the colors mixed beautifully, and could look like one continuous line across the stage.”

- Jack O'Connor, Lighting Designer, *Freaky Friday* at CMS



Learn more about SHoW Baby 6 and QolorFLEX NuNeon at:
www.citytheatrical.com/products/show-dmx-show-baby-6-wireless-dmx
www.citytheatrical.com/products/qolorflex-nuneon





SOLUTION *(Continued)*

In order to create the geometric precision desired for the skyline, the creative team used approximately 500 QolorFLEX NuNeon Plastic Mounting Clips – several around every corner, and one every foot for straight sections of tape.

To create the hourglass prop, the creative team used uncovered QolorFLEX RGB LED tape at the top and bottom of the hourglass to create a ring of natural white looking lights. Inside the glass, they wrapped the same LED tape around a wooden spindle, and covered it with diffusion gel to create a diffused, magical look.

The hourglass was created in two sections, top and bottom, each controlled by its own concealed QolorFLEX SHoW DMX Neo 4x2.5A Dimmer and Mean Well Power Supply. The team used the preexisting SHoW Baby units to control the dimmers wirelessly. This allowed the actors to separate the pieces on stage without any interruption to the effect.

“We wanted to create a magical moment for the audience with the hourglass. QolorFLEX RGB LED Tape gave us the color mixing options we were going for, and QolorFLEX SHoW DMX Dimmers gave us the control we needed.”

- Jack O'Connor, Lighting Designer, Freaky Friday at CMS



Learn more about QolorFLEX LED Tape at:
www.citytheatrical.com/products/led-tape-qolorflex



Learn more about QolorFLEX SHoW DMX Neo 4x2.5A Dimmers at:
www.citytheatrical.com/products/qolorflex-show-dmx-neo-4x2-5a-dimmer