

CITY THEATRICAL I N C

SHoW DMX™ Controls Grand Central Kaleidoscope

The main terminal of Grand Central Station was awash in color and light this holiday season. Once again the magnificent transportation hub in New York City treated commuters with the annual Grand Central Kaleidoscope. Artistic designers ARTLUMIERE, Inc. were invited to encore the hugely popular installation again this year. Bestek Lighting and Staging served as the lighting production company for this holiday celebration.

The lighting rig consisted of two large truss platforms spanned over entrances on the main floor of the terminal. Each truss housed four PiGi projectors and six VL3000 Spots. Due to the high level of foot traffic in the terminal, it was not feasible to run data cables from the control position to the two trusses. In addition, there was a very short installation period, and the labor to run cables up and over the ceiling of the terminal was prohibitively expensive. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority had specific requirements pertaining to the reliability of this highly visible project. A reliable and robust wireless system for transmitting the DMX control was required.



The production team from Bestek contacted City Theatrical about SHoW DMX as a solution to their challenges. Bestek president, Van Allen Rice said, “Based on the prior success we have had with City Theatrical gear we thought it a good idea to move ahead with SHoW DMX to replace the hard wired system we used in the past.” The wireless system included two SHoW DMX Transmitters fitted with directional antennas and two SHoW DMX Receivers. The show was controlled from a tracking backup enabled GrandMA passing data through one NSP. The NSP sent ArtNet data to the two Transmitters where it was transmitted as wireless DMX. The directional antennas were used to ensure that the data was focused in the direction of each tower without polluting the entire terminal with unnecessary RF.

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Kevin O'Brien used the RDM functionality of the SHoW DMX system to verify signal strength at the receivers remotely. A dedicated laptop could log on to each Transmitter, discover the Receiver and report back on its signal strength.



discover the Receiver and report back on its signal strength. "The performance of the SHoW DMX system has been outstanding. At one point we counted 38 other networks running and we never had a single glitch." Kevin states. The system took less than an hour to install and configure, and worked hassle free throughout the season. When asked what he thought of SHoW DMX,

Kevin O'Brien replied, "In my opinion SHoW DMX can't be beat for its quality, price and ease of use".



