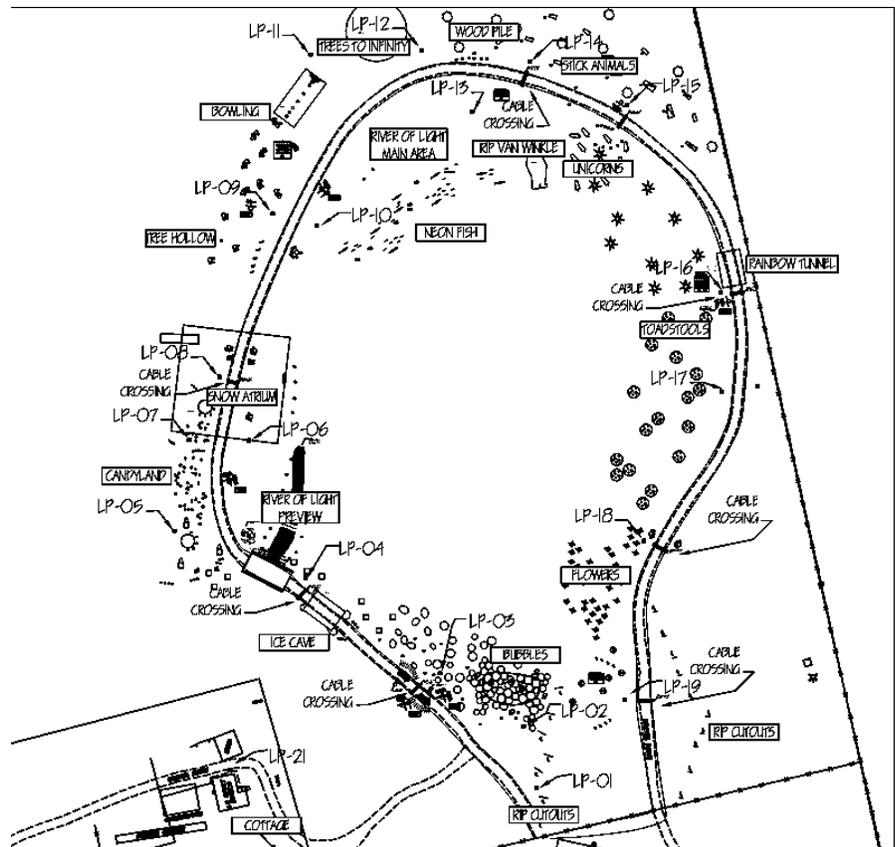


CITY THEATRICAL I N C

SHoW DMX™ Braves the Winter in the Hudson Valley

Washington Irving's Sunnyside homestead in the Historic Hudson Valley played host to the spectacular Winter WonderLights this season. The event, inspired by Irving's tale of Rip Van Winkle, engulfs visitors in a sculpted and illuminated landscape that recounts the visions of Rip's 20 winters of sleep. Jay Woods of Jay Woods Design was brought in as the Lighting Designer for this fun, family oriented event.

The Winter WonderLights site consisted of a half mile walking loop through a densely wooded section of the property. The sculptures along the path were illuminated with a mixture of incandescent, LEDs and LED Christmas lights. There were also special effects throughout including bubble and snow machines. The control position for the loop was located in a greenhouse about 1500 feet from the center of the loop. Four DMX universes were required to control the over 250 Color Kinetics ColorBlast12 fixtures, dimmers and effects in use. There were over a dozen locations



throughout the loop that required a data drop. "I called City Theatrical pretty late in the design process after our hard wired system fell through. They were able to get us equipment to test which verified how well it works and we were then able to easily integrate SHoW DMX into our previous data system design." Jay recalls.

Production Electrician Tim Plummer configured the system so that each of the four Transmitters covered a quadrant of the loop. Because the entire system was outdoors, the Transmitters were placed in site-built, water-tight rubber containers wrapped in plastic. Directional antennas were used to gain both directionality and distance. They were placed outside of the watertight plastic housings.

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The Receivers were also placed in rubber containers with the dimmers and PDS-750 TR™ power supplies. They were fitted with the standard omni-directional antenna. Woods describes, “We couldn’t have put the gear into a worse situation. We put it inside a box covered in ice and snow then asked it to broadcast through a dense forest and over a hill to points that were sometimes nearly 1000 feet away, and on top of that we put into an already busy multi universe wireless environment.”



The SHoW DMX Transmitters in the center of the loop were fed DMX from a GrandMA NSP. The NSP received its data via a fiber optic link from a GrandMA control console. The fiber link was also used to remotely configure and monitor the SHoW DMX

system using the RDM monitor built in to the SHoW DMX Transmitter. “Winter WonderLights required a fast data distribution solution. I was running lighting effects off time code and it was important that they matched up perfectly to the soundtrack out in the event loop. SHoW DMX was so fast and smooth; there was never any lag in the system,” comments Jay on the control system.

Peter Wiegand, the electrician responsible for the network configuration at the site,



explains the environment the equipment operated in. “We were able to keep the system running in the rain, snow, ice, 50 degree days, 10 degree days, with the receiver boxes covered in leaves, snow, ice, or water. No matter how much we abused the system, it wouldn’t quit. Jay Woods concurs. “The SHoW DMX worked, period. No matter what the weather was I never even had to think about the data network. Now that I’ve seen what it can do, I can’t imagine how any data solution, including the previous hard wired system could have worked better.”