

Welcome to the creative world of PixelRange

Flaming Lips UFO

Psychedelic popsters the Flaming Lips are currently on tour with a UFO set piece that has to be seen to be believed! The concept created by the band is an amalgamation of innovative DIY solutions and Oklahoma City-based lighting and rigging specialists Toucan Productions.

Owner Robin Alvis has known band leader Wayne Coyne for several years and was intrigued when Wayne called him and asked him if he had read a news story featuring the band in *Rolling Stone*? Robin hadn't seen the magazine, so Wayne came to see him and showed him the article.

During the interview Wayne had been asked what was in store for the band and he had suggested that for the upcoming tour the band would arrive on stage in a giant UFO, play the gig, get back in and take off! A few days later, the reporter asked Wayne to sketch his concept - which he promptly faxed over and was published.

Robin explains: "I hadn't seen the sketches until Wayne showed them to me! We discussed some ideas of how we could construct the UFO and decided on a 30' and 2-9' Thomas circle trusses interlocked with sofftrails and 12 x 12 GP truss. Wayne made the balloon and skin himself."

A number of LED fixtures were considered for the UFO but nothing compared to the brightness of a PixelLine 1044. Wayne also loved the effects and working alongside lighting designer Pope, 40 PixelLines were specified amongst a battery of other fixtures including moving lights & strobes.

Two Avolites' Pearls control the show - one for the main rig and one for the PixelLines. The show is designed and programmed by Wayne and Pope, who sit together and bounce ideas around until they



Photographs © Michelle Martin-Coyne
Special thanks to the Flaming Lips & Toucan Productions

come up with the most unique creations.

Toucan had to rent in the batters for the tour as they did not have any in their inventory, but since then they have purchased some and they are currently on the Shiny Guns tour with the same lighting designer - Pope.

Robin enthuses: "I first saw the PixelLines at the LDI tradeshow and was blown away. They have been a great investment and we get requests for them daily."



Rocking with Jet

A steamy Brixton night was the ideal atmospheric setting for Jet's hard driving rock 'n' roll, with the Aussie rockers celebrating the release of their second album.

LD Andy Hurst, a relative newcomer to the Jet team - finds the band's attitude refreshing. The band hadn't thought too much about lights before, but once Andy came into the equation, they asked him to build 'a show'.

He inherited the album backdrop of steely greys, and decided to dress the set riser in contrasting red velour drape for a more finished look which also added depth and texture to the stage.

The set was divided into three sections. The first a hard-fast-mean rock 'n' roll approach and the second a softer acoustic feel. The third revealed 24 PixelLine 1044s on moving pods suspended from the rear truss, all on an IBEX motion control system.

The PixelLines were driven via Andy's own PixelDrive computer, triggered by a WholeHog II console and a wing which he operates himself.

All the lighting was supplied by PRG.



Photograph © Louise Stickland & special thanks to TPI magazine

Strutting with the Pussycat Dolls



Show photograph © Louise Stickland & rig photograph (top) © Scott Warner

Originally a burlesque LA dance revue, the Pussycat Dolls have developed into an A-list phenomena with the likes of Gwen Stefani and Christina Aguilera queuing up to join in the Doll's flirtatious show for a night.

Lighting designer Scott Warner has worked with the band since March and they have been performing shows all over the world. The lighting rig has developed along the way and now boasts a battery of Martin fixtures and 35 PixelLine 1044s.

Scott actually first discovered PixelLines purely by chance. He explains: "When we first came to the UK I was using a different LED fixture that wasn't available in the UK. The rental company asked if I would like to try PixelLines - and I was hooked!"

He wanted a clean look with a disco feel and was happy that the budget allowed him to create a stunning show that would complement the sexy movement of the band. He enthuses: "I feel the 1044s give such a unique look to my truss configuration and I've been so pleased with the PixelLines - I'm adding PixelEights and PixelPars to our next leg of the tour."

Scott embraces the development of LED fixtures for touring and comments: "LEDs integrate perfectly with the moving lights and makes the rig look hi-tech - well, at least to the most important aspect of the show - the audience. I'm amazed how far lighting has come."

The lighting for this UK tour was supplied by Bandit Lites.