



White Light:
Creative Solutions. Technical Excellence



CASE STUDY
The Dragone Theatre - Lighting Installation

Installing Brand-New Lighting System



KEY INFORMATION

- **THE CLIENT:**
MELCO PBL ENTERTAINMENT (MACAU) LIMITED
- **EVENT:**
The opening of the Dragone Theatre in Macau
- **PRODUCTION TEAM:**
 - Simon Needle - WL's Special Projects Director
 - Steven Chamberlain - Melco PBL's Director
 - Luc Lafortune - Dragone's Lighting Designer
 - Simon Fraser - Ptmarmigan Consulting Ltd
- **BRIEF:**
Design, engineer, supply, install, project manage, and fully commission a complete theatrical lighting system
- **PROJECT TIMELINE:**
 - Planning: 2 years
 - On-site Prep: 1 years

The House of Dancing Water is a 270° theatre-in-the-round based at the Dragone Theatre in Macau. This \$250m show features the world's largest commercial pool, which contains 3.7 million gallons of water- enough to fill five Olympic-sized swimming pools. Eleven elevators, eight of which weigh ten tons each, transform the aquatic stage into a dry, solid floor in less than one minute, to present a 20m diameter stage., making it a unique performance space.

Above the stage is a complex system of 40 high-speed track and trolley winches for aerial acts and scenery transportation. Having worked on a vast range of theatre installations, WL's role was to provide a theatrical lighting system along with the control system and networks, a cue light system, running lights and rigging hardware to the venue

The project was a creative partnership between Lawrence Ho, Co-Chair and CEO of Melco Crown Entertainment, and Franco Dragone, the Theatre's Artistic Director. Led by Simon Needle, WL worked closely with the artistic team to provide a complete lighting solution which was both practical yet would allow them to fulfil their creative ambitions.

Due to the huge scope of the project, WL spent over a year planning the intricate design and another year on site to create an exact system fitting for the space.

Working with GDS for Custom-made Solutions



THEATRICAL LIGHTING SYSTEM

The theatrical lighting system for the Dragone Theatre consists of Strand Lighting EC21 dimmers located in seven separate control rooms strategically placed around the venue to minimize long runs of cable. All dimmers are connected via the proprietary Strand Lighting network VisionNET. From the dimmers, circuits are run out to a wide variety of socket locations including multi-pin facility box connections. The careful positioning of sockets allows an incredible amount of flexibility for lighting designers.

ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING CONTROLS

Using Strand Lighting's VisionNET system, the architectural lighting throughout the building is controlled via a wide range of touch screens, push button wall stations and lighting control consoles. In the auditorium, the system is designed to either take commands from the production's lighting control console or touch screens dotted around in strategically-placed positions for access by users, maintenance staff, or cleaning crews. The foyer and other public areas are controlled by a similar system, allowing focused control.

RIGGING HARDWARE SOLUTIONS

The Dragone Theatre, with its circular shape, abstract performance area, and dominating pool of water poses many challenges when trying to find positions and methods to rig lighting fixtures. The solutions WL provided included curved bars, lighting towers, truss positions, and catwalk-mounted brackets. The rigging materials used ranged from standard hook clamps to bespoke metalwork and multi-purpose brackets with special care given to water-proofing and structural integrity.





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