

Spring 2007



© Ralph Larmann on behalf of Procon

44 universes of DMX turned night into day.

Where no show has gone before

"Asian Games" were not only sporty record-breaking thanks to grandMA

Fireworks lit the sky, a gigantic video-wall displayed a fantastic travel through space and time. To describe the 15th Asian Games Opening Ceremony at Khalifa Stadium Doha, Qatar, you have to use superlatives. With a budget of over 190 million dollar the ceremony was more than three times as expensive as the opening show of the Olympic Games in Athens.

More than 40,000 people watched it live in the stadium, many more on television all over Asia. Four grandMA full-size, four grandMA light and 22 NSPs for the 44 DMX universes were the powerful workhorses with which lighting designers Fabrice Kebour and Andrew Doig, as well as their associate designer Steve Shipman, created the groundbreaking event – including pre-programming and backup.

45 nations competed during fourteen days to win gold, silver and bronze medals. Network and Console Technician Paul Collison and programmers Jim Beagley, Romain Labat, Roger Ray and Maran Persoons did their very best to give the competitions a good start. They divided the grandMA system into four sessions: 1. Alpha Spots and Conventionals, 2. VL3000 spots, Cameleon Lyre and TP6 projectors 3. Searchlights 4. Mac 2K Washes. Each grandMA console had an identical console as a backup which was also used for pre-programming. The Element Labs LED video-screen that towered over Khalifa Stadium was 165 metres wide along the curve, reaching 39 metres at its highest point. It was comprised of 20,000 individual Versa RAYS, which, if laid end to end, would span 58 kilometres. 762,000 individual LEDs were used, with a pixel pitch of 77 milli-

metres in both directions.

The lighting equipment consisted amongst others of 105x Alpha Spots 1200 HPE, 84x VL3000 spots, 10 Cameleon TP6M 6kW projectors, 32x Biglite 4.5kW, 382x Mac 2K Wash and 372 Par 64. "Bytecraft suggested the use of the grandMA control system after it proved so reliable and robust for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne only eight months earlier," explained Paul Collison.

Paul Rigby of Bytecraft and Philby Lewis of D.A.E. Lighting were Production Managers, the equipment was supplied by Bytecraft Entertainment, Procon, Syncrolite and Cameleon. The event was produced by David Atkins Enterprises. Vince Haddad from Show Technology Australia delivered MA system design support.



dimMA goes Australia
QPAC installed one of the largest
dimmer systems ... p. 2



Flexible and powerful
network technology
MA Lighting introduces the 2Port Node
and 2Port Node onPC ... p. 4

Going digital

dimMA system installed in the Queensland Performing Arts Centre

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) has recently installed a large dimMA system into their Concert Hall. Show Technology Australia, who realised the project, opened an office in Brisbane to assure local support.

The installation consists of seven MA Digital Dimmer Racks, each with 72 circuits, distributed throughout the Concert Hall. This rack distribution went away from the traditional central dimmer room design. A large saving was made with the cabling infrastructure, as the racks are now closer to the outlets. There are four racks with four Network dimmer Proces-

sors (NDP's) in the ceiling, two behind the side lighting positions each with a back up NDP and one in the basement with a back up NDP. Each rack has a redundant processor capable of controlling 144 dimmer circuits.

QPAC's Manager Lighting, Doug Brimblecombe praised the support of Show Technology: "The installation, commissioning, testing and training all went smoothly ensuring our first client in 2007 had a seamless show.

The in house team of technicians are very happy with this install which is the backbone of their



craft and are looking forward to experimenting with this flexible technology."

Eye-catcher: the Concert Hall of the QPAC.

QPAC is in Brisbane and has four theatres in one complex. The Concert Hall is home to The Queensland Orchestra and hosts a large variety of productions such as acoustic and amplified concerts,

comedy, graduations and award presentation events. The MA dimmer installation will make the process of staging all the different genres a simpler and easier process.

grandMA video discovered the essence of Tango

"Tango X2" presented in News York the best of 18 years dance choreography



After being famous for 18 year the Argentinean Tango X2 Company of Miguel Angel Zotto presents its moving history with a spectacular show.

Piece by piece it traces back the most important choreographical moments of the past shows. Recently Tango X2, which features a world class cast of two singers, six musicians and 16 dancers, was

shown in New York City's Center Theatre. Andrés Mattiauda, Technical Director and Lighting Designer of Tango X2 uses grandMA video, one grandMA full-size, grandMA onPC and a NSP as backup for lighting the show.

"The grandMA is the only system that offered us the possibility to control in sync the lighting and video of our existing images. We



could also operate the sound via MIDI triggered by the console in a safe and reliable way. The result was a perfect synchronism between the light, video and sound with the grandMA and grandMA video," relates Andres Mattiauda, together with the operator and programmer Ariel "Gato" Ponce.

The stage set is a multi-media design by Tito Egurza. Andres

Aesthetic: A whiff of South America touched the City Centre Theatre

Mattiauda worked to develop the technical set details, Daniel Ridano worked as permanent MA Lighting consultant and Antonio Agra as commercial support for stage+tech, MA Lighting's exclusive dealer in Argentina.

grandMA pico – console that makes even small theatres big

MA Lighting has expanded its grandMA range with a new member – the grandMA pico. The new console is specifically designed for the use in theatres.

Thereby the grandMA pico is similar to the grandMA micro. The hardware of the new console however has been optimised for the needs of theatres. Similar to the bigger consoles of the grandMA range, a number-pad, a Go-plus, a Go-minus and a pause key are all present.

The grandMA pico also offers a colour touch screen, 1,024 DMX channels and the free visualisation and pre-programming software



grandMA 3D. Additionally it is also possible to connect one remote and up to four grandMA video stations.

The console utilises the same syntax, windows and menus as the larger consoles. Because of its tiny footprint the grandMA pico is perfect for smaller theatres.

New feature for grandMA video: Pixel Mapper

You can use your grandMA video either for VGA- or DMX output with the same effect capabilities as known from grandMA video. The grandMA video Pixel Mapper allows the output of videos and images to any desired DMX-Matrix. This feature enables the presentation of videos and images to any DMX-controlled LED. All videos, still images and 3D-objects can be scaled, positioned, tiled, colored and manipulated directly from any grandMA console.

The DMX values of the pixel-colour and intensity will be sent over Ethernet via Artnet directly from the media server. grandMA video provides up to 256 universes with only one grandMA video station. The LED wall can be configured individually, i.e. using LED panels from different manufacturers. Similar to the desk fixture

types the attributes for the LED panels are defined in text files which can be easily edited and created. The grandMA video application is virtually patched in the console, i.e. the assigning of several fixture layers. But still all parameters are calculated in the PC itself and not in the console. Adding new LED fixtures to the Pixel Mapper output does not have any effect to the console.



Example of use

MA introduces products of Brother, Brother & Sons and Schnick-Schnack-Systems

Inspired by the “merge” of the light- and video worlds, MA presents some new products which are extremely useful for Theatres and Musicals, TV/studios, concert touring, corporate events and architectural lighting. Especially in combination with the media server grandMA video they offer powerful and innovative methods of resolution.

Precise movement for heavy weight projectors with the v-Base

Brother, Brother & Sons has developed the successful DMX512 controllable yoke range v-Base, which stands out with its high precision and heavy load carrying capability. Together with grandMA video the

v-Base is the perfect solution for professional use over large distances. Another advanced feature is the optional available DMX output that reads out e.g. pan/tilt data from sensors. This data can be played back to the console and then used to synchronize keystone corrections for movements.

Even illumination of Cycloramas with the EvenLED

The EvenLED modular system is a “wall” of high power 6 watt RGB LEDs spaced evenly behind a standard backprojection screen, this creates a totally even light field over the entire surface. Some of EvenLED's strengths are in; its light weight, its silent operation,



its low radiation of heat, its automatic addressing and its simple assembly. Each of the 16 pixels per panel, which measure 1 x 1 m, could be addressed individually.

LED-Panel: video capable and very flexible

The LED-Panel by Schnick-Schnack-Systems is a plug-and-play LED luminaire which measures

100 cm x 100 cm x 7 cm (width x height x depth) or 20 x 20 LEDs. It features some advantages in day to day use, especially when it comes to fast assembly and dismounting and freedom of scope. Multiple LED-Panels could be easily combined to make larger surfaces. They can be controlled via DMX as well as Ethernet. By this it is possible to display video content on the panels, using them as design elements.

**SCHNICK
SCHNACK
SYSTEMS**



The MA 2Port Node onPC and MA 2Port Node onPC PRO Rig-mounted touring versions are optimized for mobile use.

A little but powerful tool – MA 2Port Node

Speaks MA-Net and Art-Net up to 100 Mbit/s

The MA 2Port Nodes supplements MA Lighting's product range for networking and integrated system solutions. As a built-in or Rigging-box solution it is an additional part of the networking range to transform Ethernet protocols to DMX or vice versa. MA 2Port Node onPC and 2Port Node onPC PRO have the same functionality as the MA 2Port Nodes. Their additional advantage is the possibility to generate DMX in combination with grandMA onPC the free available software of MA.

The 2Port Node transforms the configured DMX universe from Ethernet to DMX or from DMX to Ethernet. It even can do this standalone or in combinations with any grandMA console. So the MA 2Port Node itself gives a lot more flexibility in distributing the used DMX universes over Ethernet.

Two main hardware versions: one will be the "flush-mounted" version that is available in two different sizes (EU and US) and the other will be a surface mounted box. The flush-mounted version will fit into a 80mm standard installation box as the European (EU) version while the 'US version' will fit into a two-gang-box. Both versions are available in three socket configurations: two DMX input connectors, two DMX output connectors or one in- and one output connector.

The 2Port Node onPC address amongst others the need of theatres and rental companies to flexibly distribute DMX on stage or in rigs. If used standalone with grandMA onPC the 2Port Node onPC outputs also 512 parameters of DMX. The 2Port Node onPC PRO outputs 1,024 parameters. They become a powerful show controller for smaller applications. Also handy backup solutions become possible for reduced budgets. The 'onPC' versions are available with integrated power supply. All 2Port Nodes will run with power over Ethernet too. Also they got a thread to put a coupler as well as a safety connection point.

Two green LEDs will indicate if DMX traffic is generated or received. DMX LEDs and Backlight can be switched off remotely. The 'Finder Functionality' will give you an elegant solution and way of working – the console can indicate a chosen node by flashing the backlight, but also a button press on the MA 2Port Node will indicate the chosen one in the console. With the 2Port Node MA Lighting fulfils the need of lighting designers, programmers and operators to offer an additional tool for more flexibility in DMX handling within the MA family.

All MA 2Port Nodes are fully integrated into the MA family. That means easy, comfortable configuration incl. in/out assignment of each node from any grandMA console or onPC. It's also

possible to use the nodes with other systems, because they speak MA-Net and Art-Net, both 100 Mbit/s, which can be chosen remotely. All 2Port Nodes cannot be used as a Parameter Expansion.



US or European version – the MA 2Port Node is always first choice in DMX distribution.

Software Release 5.8 – now online available

The new software version 5.8 adds new functionality and supports USB. For this reason our consoles and NSPs will be equipped with the new VX Works O/S.

The new 5.8 software is available for download on our website and as always free of charge.

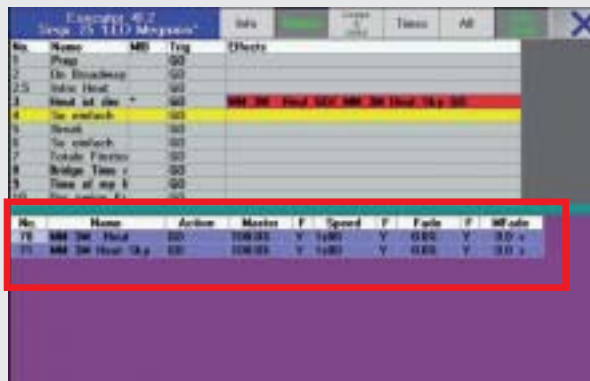
Some new features of grandMA Version 5.8:

- The DMX input/output configuration has been redesigned. With version 5.8 and the 2PortNode it is now possible to snapshot up to 64 lines of DMX-In and merge them to the console outputs.
- Virtual playbacks are available as a view. They can be defined to follow the actual page or to show a fixed page of faders and/or buttons and have the same functionality like real faders and buttons.

- Each sequence button in the sequence pool shows how often it is assigned to executors by a number in the upper left corner of each sequence button.

- Store mode release for releasing data from cues/ sequences. Ideal for programmers in Multi-User Environments that have to share fixtures in a full world and need to be able to release single fixtures or attributes in cues.

- New playback functionality: Each executor can be assigned to one of eight playback masters. Each playback masters controls the intensities of the assigned playbacks similar to a group master controlling the intensities of a group.



Bitmap Effects can be linked to cues like normal effects and can therefore have different settings for fade in and fade out for the same effect.

- There are now 128 executor pages available.
- Cue number Limit is now 3999 per sequence.
- Desk Status window now shows max. NSP Workload.

Hitting the road with a full grandMA system

PUR and MA played in Germany's largest halls

Touring only big halls, with 21 concerts, and 250,000 tickets sold – the PUR Tour “Es ist wie es ist” (It is like it is) announced the return of the German band after a break. Two concerts, including the official dress rehearsal, in the Gerry Weber Stadion, Halle/ Westfalen, marked the start of the tour where the interplay of lights, rigging and sound worked in harmony. Other cities were, to

name just a few, Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne, Hamburg, Dortmund and Basel (Switzerland).

The tour was exclusively realised using MA Lighting system components. Already during the pre-programming phase, lighting designer Günther Jäckle and his team used grandMA 3D. Whilst the shows 3 x grandMA full-size, 1 x grandMA ultra-light, 2 x grandMA mediaPC

with grandMA video and 7 x NSPs showed their powerful abilities. Connected via fiber optic cable they controlled the complex network. In addition, products of Vari*Lite, Rainbow and Robert Juliat, made the show a haunting event. In total 24 x VL3500 and VL3000, 24 x VL2416, 8 x Robert Juliat Aramis, 15 x 8-Light Blinder with Rainbow Colour Changers, 6 x Publitec beaMover and a wide range of high-class LEDs were used.

The stage consisted of two centre-stages connected by a mobile bridge. The stage design was done by Jäckle together with Frederike Krauch. Thanks to grandMA 3D problems in the run-up could be easily pre-solved. The lighting designer was very pleased with the MA technology: “Already during previous shows the reliability of MA convinced me. Also the fact, that the grandMA is able to con-

trol moving lights, conventionals, LEDs and video, was to my satisfaction. The software tools have been perfected over the last few years.” This was also to the benefit of the six moving projection screens. Christian Daum of epicto for the first time used lighting control to control video. “The possibilities of the grandMA are truly fantastic! Everything could be done by the desk, regardless of whether I wanted to adjust the beaMover for projection or change the cuelist.”

Two additional grandMA full-size were used by André Breß, who was responsible for the moving lights and Tom Schwillie, who operated the conventionals. One grandMA ultra-light was connected for backup. In case of an emergency it could take over control from the three full-size desks. The four desks were connected via Ethernet with a rack in which one switch, two NSPs and two fibre optic transformers were implemented. Two racks, identical in construction, were placed either side of the centre stages.

grandMA video – more than just a movie screening



A treasure for an island

The musical success "Fame" visited the Faroer Islands with grandMA



Northern lights made by MA

The musical Fame was recently shown on the Faroer Islands. In the Nordic House the audience could follow the actors on their ride through triumph, heartache and romance.

Programmer and operator was Gardar Hall of LimeLite, who used one grandMA full-size and three MA Digital Dimmer racks for the show. Turpin N. Djurhus was the

lighting designer. The Nordic House is a multi purpose venue where all sorts of events from classical to rock concerts take place.

Gardard Hall talks about his preference for the grandMA: "I believe that the grandMA range of consoles are the best you can get on this planet. Nothing else comes close." As a sidenote he mentioned that approximately 48,000 people are

living on the Faroer Islands, but already three grandMA consoles were used on the islands - one by the Nordic House, one by Faroese Television and one by the newly started national scene.

The local gymnasium initiated the show. Its rhythmic choir does an annual big show: last time it was Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, this year it's Fame.

Norwegian mood

"Peer Gynt" used in Giza a MA network



© Per Ola Holden

2006 marks the hundredth anniversary of the late Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's. As a main event and closing ceremony of the worldwide "Ibsen year", "Peer Gynt" was performed in Giza beside the Sphinx. For lighting control AVAB/CAC Norway who supported the project, used one grandMA full-size, one grandMA light and two NSPs.

Lighting designer Torkel Skjerven and his assistants Andreas Glad

and Stefan Dombeck created a sophisticated show. "The lighting equipment was provided locally by High Lights Egypt while AVAB/CAC provided the grandMA control system," reports Skjerven, "We ran a network of grandMA full-size together with grandMA light as well as multiple grandMA onPC laptops. When dealing with multiple types of fixtures, grandMA gives a great overview of groups, presets as well as color mixing. Its use of color coding and different

views makes it easy for tracking both moving and conventional lights. It was also invaluable for us to run more than one console at the same time because of a short rehearsal time during the night as well as live editing for TV production. Since we could only work at the venue during night it was efficient for us to edit, do notes and clean up cues off site during the daytime."

Peer Gynt was performed in their



© Per Ola Holden

Showtime in front of a 4,500 year old setting

native tongue by Norwegian main actors and singers to Edward Grieg's music played by Cairo Symphony Orchestra along with ballet dancers from the Cairo Opera House. The dialogue was subtitled in Arabic and English on large screens. Throughout the year, a wide range of events was arranged both in Norway and abroad, which highlighted the importance of Ibsen's legacy and provided opportunities for fresh interpretations of his work.

Impressive studio TV show system for "1 vs 100"

grandMA and BBC1 searched for the winner of 250,000 £

"1 vs 100" is a new gameshow on BBC1 where one person, "The One", chosen out of 101 hopeful contestants competes against the remaining 100 for a chance to win up to £250,000.00. The player's goal is to eliminate the opposition by correctly answering questions, hoping that their opponents will answer incorrectly and be eliminated from the game.

For this BBC / Endemol production Simon Baker, Project Manager from Stage Electrics, who provided comprehensive project support, and Lighting Director Darryl Noad put together an impressive studio TV show system. Within ten days, the complete system has been set up, including the programming and rehearsals. Lighting control is

done by a grandMA full-size and three NSPs.

The equipment list is impressive: there were 500 panels of Color Web, 180 Pulsar Chroma Hearts, 101 Pulsar Chroma Panels, 101 Martin MAC 500, 101 Source Four and 16 Vari*Lite VL 2000 Wash in the lighting rig.

The system has three main parts. First is the colorWeb which wraps around the perimeter of the studio to form a 360 degree screen, 125 metres long by 4 metres high. Second the contestant, each of whom had to be individually key-lit with a Source Four and backlit with a flown MAC 500 and a set fixed Chroma Panel. Third the gameplay area has over 210 RGB LED fixtures

built in to provide dramatic win or lose effects. The show is done in conjunction with the National Lottery and is hosted by Dermot O'Leary. It continues until the very last opponent is defeated. Only then can "The One" walk away with the prize money.

Looking for "the One"



Two LED walls – one solution

grandMA video was used for "Nokia Trends"

For the first time, Nokia Trends, a music, mobility and multimedia art festival, took place in Italy.

The show, which featured artists such as Gotan Project, Tiga and Timo Maas, was held in the former Stazione Leopolda, in Florence. It's a railway station which was transformed into an atmospheric arena for hosting fashion events. One full-size and one light grandMA consoles were used to light the two main stages. The video content came from two grandMA

mediaPCs with grandMA video. Another grandMA full-size controlled the entrance, meeting, demo rooms and dance floor area lighting. Additionally a grandMA micro was utilised.

On the two stages the artists performed at different times. For this reason each media server was dedicated to a specific stage which had a unique screen composed of a high-resolution Barco LED wall and a low-resolution Ver-saTube on the top and botton

parts. The final effect was impressive because each part of the screens displayed a different image or movie then suddenly changed into a unique image or movie which was spread on the whole screen. Both Lighting Designers, Mamo Pozzoli and Giovanni Pinna, used grandMAs because, "they are simply the best consoles on the market today."

To be most effective, the MA mediaPC features an Athlon 4000+ CPU, 2 GB RAM, three hard

disks 160 GB, a Nvidia graphic card with 256 MB RAM as well as a DVD-writer and a floppy drive. The system contains Windows XP Professional software, grandMA video (demo) software, the grandMA video content library and the grandMA onPC. After a final test of a 24-hour burn-in routine the grandMA video hardware solution is ready for use. The hardware solution features a 4U 19" housing that meets highest industry standards and comes built into a special ABS Amptown flight case.



Comprehensive project support was delivered by GMep-Molpass s.r.l., MA Lightings Distributor in Italy. Marco DeNardi and Giancarlo Vannetti worked as Operator. Musical Box Rent, STS communication and Madema participated in the realisation of the event.

Left, right or both? Two grandMA media PC brought together the best of both screens.



"Shakira is more of a rock show that I've been doing lately with a lot of flash and boom."

Hips and chips

grandMA accompanied Shakira's "Oral Fixation" World Tour

Lighting director/programmer Graeme Nicol has parlayed his many years experience using the grandMA to employing the console on Shakira's Oral Fixation World Tour now wrapping up the year in the singer's native Colombia, Chile and Argentina.

"I find you never stop learning on the grandMA," says Nicol. "There's always something new to learn to use the console to the max. Shakira's tour is more of a rock show that I've been doing lately with a lot of flash and boom. We have an interesting set up of 134 moving lights run via SMPTE. The keyboard tech runs tracks, which are striped with SMPTE. He starts his tracks, which sends SMPTE out to me, and the grandMA runs the lighting cues. It's a very interesting concept."

The show's complement of moving lights consists of 34 Clay Paky Alpha spots with custom

gobos, 40 x MAC 2000 washes, 48 x PC beams, and 12 x Vari*Lite VL2402 and 2500s. Eight Atomic 3K strobes and hundreds of egg strobes are also featured. In addition, the bitmap feature on the grandMA was used to program a number of images and words (i.e. the word "No") on a huge 'pixel screen' comprised of a 10x18 wall of background PAR 64s.

"I've been on the grandMA a long time and like it," Nicol reports. "The last show I did use a different console and was very frustrated not being able to do what I was used to. When Shakira's tour came up one of the selling points for me was that the gig was on the grandMA." "This is another tour that employs a team of consummate pros, Abby, Dan and Graeme. I know that they appreciate the grandMA and that the grandMA has allowed them to do things easily that they would find difficult, if



© Steve Jennings

not impossible. When you couple this with the style and pace of Shakira's show, the result has made us all proud," commented Bob Gordon, President and CEO of A.C.T Lighting, the exclusive distributor of the grandMA in North America.

Abigail Rosen Holmes was the lighting designer for the tour. At the end, the tour went to Colombia, Chile and Argentina.

With grandMA to Granada

30 participants joined Stonex training

Stonex SA, MA Lightings distributor in Spain, continued its training tour through Spain and held another successful training in Granada.

30 operators, lighting designers and associates from rental and theatre companies joined the training in the Centro de estudios escenicos de la junta de Andalucia. Miguel Angel Valera of Stonex used four grandMA full-size, one grandMA light, two grandMA ultra-light, three grandMA micro and grandMA video to show the participants the extensive abilities of the grandMA system. In addition everyone had a laptop with grandMA onPC and grandMA 3D in

use. "Everyone enjoyed the training. The grandMA has become very popular," Valera adds.



Small extract from our Current References

83rd Republic Day Celebration, Istanbul
 Hong Kong Symphony of Light
 Burj Al Arab, Dubai
 Fuerzabruta, London
 Miss South Africa Sun City
 Pepsi Music Festival, Buenos Aires
 Prima TV, Bucharest
 Ricky Martin Tour
 The Who Tour
 Jay-Z Tour
 Metallica Tour
 Tom Petty Tour

Many more references can be found on www.malighting.com

There was much to learn for the grandMA users