



LUX MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2014 | ISSUE 40

www.luxmagazine.co.uk

£4.50



HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Lux steps inside the stunningly relit Hammersmith Apollo

30 INTERVIEW JOHN HINDLEY

Manchester Metropolitan Uni's environmental boss talks lighting strategy



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12-PAGE PREVIEW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



Star QUALITY

First impressions count at one of London's top music venues. **Robert Bain** reports

The names of London's major theatres and concert halls have become iconic, and few more so than the Hammersmith Apollo.

The Apollo first opened as the Gaumont Palace cinema in 1932, with a huge seating capacity of over 3,000, and lavish front-of-house facilities including a large first floor restaurant.

In the 1960s it was renamed the Hammersmith Odeon (a name by which many still know the venue), and became a concert hall. The list of musicians to have graced the stage reads like a who's who of the past half century of popular music.

Faded lustre

But like many such venues, the once opulent Apollo has not had the best of care over the years. As its use evolved from swish cinema to sweaty rock n' roll venue, the Apollo's lustre faded.

THE NEW OLD-FASHIONED WAY

The Apollo wanted to use fittings that matched the originals that were installed years ago – but not all of them could be saved or converted to use new light sources.

Lancashire-based Great British Lighting provided recreations and refurbishments of old fittings. Some were fitted with modern light sources, while others were recreated completely, based on photos. The company prides itself on its traditional craft skills, which have become a rarity. In reproducing historical fittings, it combines a range of traditional craft skills and a modern production environment including computer-aided design.

Its team works in a wide range of materials to reproduce historical light fixtures, including aluminium, brass, copper, wrought iron, stainless steel, timber and glass. It can handle small batch and one-off production, as well as larger volumes.

Now the Grade II listed building is in the midst of a rebirth.

When Kate Bush made her comeback this August after a 35-year hiatus, she did it at the Apollo, and the place looked better than ever.

Owners AEG Live and Eventim have embarked on a major refurbishment. The façade and front-of-house areas have already had their former glory restored, with the latest technology achieving effects not possible before, and bringing the best out of the building's architecture. Next up will be the auditorium, which is set to be revamped next year.

The new lighting was designed by James Morse Lighting Design, with products supplied by Great British Lighting, Philips Color Kinetics, LightGraphix, Concord, Crescent, Radiant, Applelec and controls specialist Pharos.

To evoke the Art Deco vibe of the Apollo's heyday, the team decided to restore – and in some cases recreate – the Apollo's original Art Deco luminaires. These were fitted with RGBW sources, an upgrade on the originals, which are believed to have been fitted with a crude colour-change system using different coloured lamps. Lancashire-based Great British

All the Apollo's Art Deco luminaires were fitted with modern light sources



Where original luminaires were missing, they were recreated from photos



The façade has been equipped with a colour-changing scheme



LED light sheets are built into the bar tops beneath opal glass counters

Lighting refurbished the luminaires with new glass where necessary, and fitted them with LED sources. Where the original luminaires were lost, new ones were made based on photographs. In the newly installed bars on the ground and first floors, edge-lit LED light sheets are built into the bar tops beneath opal glass counters.

Wireless control

To minimise intervention into the building's fabric, a wireless DMX control system was installed, which meant no new control wiring. A transmitter in the foyer ceiling sends signals to the luminaire drivers, each of which is individually addressable. This allows

a wide range of dynamic lighting effects to be programmed into the lighting installation using a Pharos controller.

Outside, the façade has been equipped with a dramatic colour-changing lighting installation supplied by Philips Color Kinetics, also using a Pharos controller.

The entrance steps have been relit with recessed LED downlights set into a canopy soffit.

