

Shure's Wireless Technology 'Thrills' Michael Jackson Fans

When the producers of the Thriller Live musical arrived at the Lyric Theatre, they found themselves presented with the tough challenge of isolating a wireless radio frequency in the heart of London's theatre district. After much deliberation, the company turned to Shure's wireless technology and JFMG to provide the solution.

The iconic venue is located in London's West End, surrounded by numerous theatre, musical and comedy productions. The crowded nature of the area made isolating a wireless RF for on stage instruments and vocal artists very difficult. Chris Whybrow, the production's Sound Designer, explains, "The issue we have in such a densely populated area is isolating RF channels that are not already in use. We basically needed to make sure we weren't stepping on anyone's toes."

Following a full assessment of his requirements, Whybrow selected a range of UHF-R Wireless Microphone Systems supplied by audio specialists Shure Distribution UK. "When we discussed our requirements and the frequency isolation issue with Shure they were confident they could help" comments Whybrow. "They have experience working with limited frequency environments and were very helpful in ensuring the right kit for the job was chosen." Whybrow also contacted JFMG, the Joint Frequency Management Group, regarding frequency usage and to obtain the required license for operation.

The installation used a selection of Shure's UHF-R systems on the frequency band Q5, which allowed for easier set up of this multi-channel system in a busy RF environment. Performers reproducing the king of pop's greatest hits are provided with one of seven UR2/KSM9 microphones, finished in both black and champagne. The KSM9's dual-diaphragm design perfectly reproduces vocal performances in the live environment and, coupled with the UR2 transmitter, provide a rugged and lightweight solution with improved RF transmission reliability.

Whybrow comments, "The combination of the Q5 frequency band and Shure's wireless technology has given us a very strong RF frequency. We don't get any interference from other microphones or shows."

Successful RF transmission was achieved through a combination of UR4D dual wireless receivers and UR1 wireless body packs. The compact UR1 body packs provide transmission from the stage while still allowing a full range of movement by the performers. Transmissions are fed to six UR4D dual wireless receivers, each capable of selecting 2,400 frequencies and storing six 60 channel custom frequency groups.

The UHF-R equipment was able to easily find sufficient clean frequencies within the theatre and provide a first class sound experience without interfering with other close by performances. Whybrow comments "We were able to successfully use the Q5 frequency band for the show and in all we have 16 channels running for the production. We're also using two UA870WB antennas to enhance wireless reception in the theatre area and two UA845 antenna distributors to amplify the RF signals and properly split them to our six UR4D receivers."

The system has proved ideal for our needs and will remain a permanent installation for the production's entire extended run. Shure wireless systems are also being used with the European version of the production, which is currently touring the continent.

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About Shure Distribution UK

Shure Distribution UK (SDUK), formerly known as HW International, was acquired by Shure Incorporated in early 2003 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Shure Inc. While Shure Inc focuses on the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of Shure products, SDUK is a multibrand distributor and embraces a number of additional brands in its portfolio in order to provide a full audio solution to its customers.

The SDUK portfolio includes products from Shure, QSC Audio, Radial, Sound Devices, Servoreeler, Phonic and Primacoustic. These additional brands handled by SDUK have been selected with care and represent the best products available in the field of Pro Audio.

For more information see www.shuredistribution.co.uk

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