



## An Interview with Jeff Pavey

Australian lighting designer Jeff Pavey is the man who holds the record for the most moving lights ever used at London's famous Wembley Stadium. Over 1000 moving lights blazed into the night on the final Tina Turner show.

For many years Jeff has been a notable face on the Australian touring scene but today Jeff prefers the quiet life at his home on the Gold Coast with his wife and two young children. Occasionally he tears himself away from his fishing rod to once again hit the road with a band. Currently he is touring regional Australia with Human Nature, a band he describes as a great bunch of guys who know what they want.

Jeff laments the fact that there are not many Australian tours up for grabs at the level of Human Nature. In fact this is the first Australian tour he has done in four years.

Jeff was originally a Vari\*lite user then he steered towards High End products. However for Human Nature he is using Martin MAC's, a product he is happy for this level of touring.

"I just like really bright lights, whatever is the brightest," he said. "We had a serious budget on this tour and all the gear has to go in one truck. However I've managed to get some big looks despite the fact I've done club tour with bigger rigs than this. In fact the last few tours I've done have had about a hundred moving lights so you get quite spoilt. Having to use twenty moving lights is a challenge and you really have to work hard to make the show look big."



When Jeff designs a lighting rig he always tries to 'theme' it with either the bands image or record cover. Keeping with the design of Human Natures latest album cover art, Jeff decided on a big red, bright look. The bonus was that most theatres played also had red seating! But perhaps the tour will be remembered for the of forty-eight red powder-coated par cans courtesy of Chameleon Touring Systems!

A lighting state designed by Jeff rarely uses a variety of colour as he prefers big, bold statements. He is however a big fan of gobos and that is a deciding factor in which moving light he chooses. The main reason Jeff stopped using Vari\*lites is because they did not provide a rotating gobo.

"I think that all the moving lights on the market do almost exactly the same thing," added Jeff. "When LSD get the Icon M into production it will bring lighting to a totally new standard. It will be back to the days when we got the first VL1 and there was movement and everyone went 'wow!'. I've had a demo with eight of the Medusa's and it really

Human Nature tour



blew my mind. It's fantastic and until the Medusa comes out there's nothing new or inspiring out there."

As to the state of the Australian lighting production industry, Jeff was very vocal.

"Since Jands sold off their lighting department the lighting hire industry in Australia has regressed at least ten years. Many experienced people have become disheartened and have decided to do something else with their lives.

"These days everyone just wants to operate moving lights, no one wants to start with the basics in lighting. There are some good kids out there who are smart behind a console but there are also a lot who don't know the basics of lighting like light and shade, colour mixing etc.

"A lot of the gear in this country also hasn't progressed – everyone has pretty much had the same power, distros and lights for years. I honestly think that in the last few years Australia has fallen behind the rest of the world. A lot of the gear in this country is getting old and it takes a lot of money to replace. I use a production company in Canada called Christie Lights and they'll have a tour going out for a year so nearly everything on that tour will be brand new. They can afford to do that whereas here no one gets top money as the market is so competitive- everyone wants a piece of the action. In the old days it was Vari\*lites or nothing, now you've got eight major companies that can supply a moving lights rig.



After Human Nature it looks like Jeff will be joining an old favourite of his – Joe Cocker – for a world tour. Later in the year he will most likely be designing the second stadium spectacular Rumba!