mobile production monthly

Volume 7 Issue 7

The Crew with
ERIC CHURCH
Our Jobs Are Better Than Your Vacation!

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Pieter Smit

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Our Jobs are better than your vacation

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Elite Transportation, Green Touring
and Platinum Sponsor OH MY!!
This event could not happen without the support of so many sponsors. The list of companies that contribute to the staggering cost of production, catering and staffing this conference is a tribute to the ever-growing popularity and significance of this annual gathering. It would be impossible without their continued support.

To the staff and volunteers, my heart-felt thanks for the many hours they have put in for the pure love of this port.

This year, we have had an incredible line-up of speakers and sessions, all focused on different aspects of the mobile production industry. For those of you attending, we hope this issue will offer some insight to the scheduled events. We have worked hard to structure a very diverse educational and fun experience that should have something of interest for everyone. Considering the vast diversity of this event, it is a real challenge to keep everyone engaged for three days. That brings me to one of the points I wish to make. This event is a marathon, not a sprint. We go from breakfast to the wee hours of the morning each day and you need to pace yourself. I say this because in the 35 years that I have been producing this event, I have seen some pretty rough mornings myself. It is tempting to over-do the frivolity and then have a big price to pay in the morning.

Finally, I usually close my remarks to everyone at the end of the conference by saying that if this event was good for you, find one person you think should join us next time and convince them to be part of the next conference. For those of you reading this who are not at the event, we hope that this glance into the event as well as our upcoming post-event issue will inspire you to join us next time.

A Little About Larry Smith

Publisher

Larry Smith began his career in the Concert Industry in Europe and the Middle East in 1967 as a solo performer in small clubs and in Italy in 1968 as a performer and Stage Manager for the Off-Broadway production of Trumpets of the Lord. He joined the Coleman Adams Jazz Trio as bass player and continued to tour Europe till he returned to the USA.

When he returned to the States he went to Indiana to finish his BS in Education at Indiana University. While in school, he started Anvil Productions Booking and Concert Promotions and was a bass player in the regionally acclaimed band, Stormcrow. In 1976, he joined the band Sneed Hern which was the first band to perform live for David Letterman’s first show in Indianapolis. He also produced and hosted the regional television show, Backstage that featured concert footage and interviews with touring shows. His first big show was the Rod Stewart “Do you think I’m Sexy?” tour.

In 1998, after three years in LA, he relocated again when he was offered a position in sales for Performance Magazine in Fort Worth, TX. He was promoted to Senior Director of Sales after two years and Co-Producer of the company’s annual Summit Conference. He was also responsible for launching the magazine’s highly successful series of annual directories and was instrumental in helping the company profit and grow every year until his departure 17 years later.

During his tenure with Performance, he earned 32 Gold and Platinum albums for his work promoting tours and for consulting work. He was also the Executive Producer for Steve McNally’s final album before his death, In the Shadow of Angels. As a speaker, presenter and panelist in industry conferences all over the world, he had an influence in changing the industry perception of the Touring Industry to a Global Industry rather than a country-specific Industry.

In the time since, Larry has built the magazine into the primary trade journal for the Concert Production Industry. He launched the annual Road Book, now the largest resource book for the Industry in the world. He also built the Tour Link Conference into the top conference in the world for the Industry and launched the mobileproductionpro website that has the largest, most extensive search engine in the business.
Welcome to Tour Link

Network with professionals in concert touring & their related industries. There are educational sessions, good laughs & friendships to be made.

Larry Smith, Executive Producer
JJ Janney, Associate Editor
Mikayla Foote, Intern
Carrie Wright, Intern
Nick Gold, Hospitality Coordinator
Lori DeLancey, Director of Operations
Karen Pimental, Data Entry
Julia Borden, Intern
Melissa Allgood, Volunteer
Jim Risgin, Production Manager
Wendy Catto, Award Show Liaison
Scott DeLancey, Photographer
Henry Bordeaux, Panel Coordinator
Michelle Pekrol, Golf Coordinator
Charlie Alves, Video Content Designer
Karen Pimental, Data Entry
Nick Gold, Hospitality Coordinator
Chuck Randall, Master of Ceremonies
Ray Amico, Panel Coordinator
Taylor Wettlaufer, Panel Coordinator
Dave Paiva, Golf Coordinator
Bryan Venhorst, Video Director

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Tour Link Conference
January 8-10, 2015
OSA International, Inc., your touring partner, makes your vision a reality with superior sound reinforcement, engineering, multimedia and video displays, along with comprehensive technical direction and production services.

Our clients receive the highest quality of service, technology, and more importantly the best talent in the industry to execute flawlessly. Our reputation is unmatched in the industry for providing the ultimate client and audience experience.

OSA has offices in Chicago, Las Vegas, and Nashville.

TourReady makes it easy to find experienced and legitimate crew professionals for concerts, tours, and festivals via an online database and mobile app. TourReady is dedicated to simplifying crew management, and keeping touring crew on the road in between gigs. The Touring Revolution is Coming in 2015.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 160 million customers each year. With its unsurpassed global and the Delta Connection® carriers offer service to more than 340 destinations in nearly 60 countries on six continents.

EPT (European Production Transport) is a “one-stop-shop” tour production service provider for Europe now into its 15th mar- shaling major tours for many international entertainment clients providing all necessary tour flows, tour tracking and tour housing requirements across the European continent. The EPT partnership is Horizon Entertainment Cargo, Tracking Service, and Coach Service, who together boast more than 85 combined years of production touring knowledge in assisting their clients with unparalleled experience and back up in moving their artists tours itineraries through Europe, Russia & beyond.

Multicamera shoots of live music events at the arena and outdoor market level. Custom LED and/or projection in various configurations, video displays are positioned strategically to support and enhance the live show’s audience experience.

Tour after tour, many of the world’s most famous pop artists rely on us for our expertise and road tested solutions. Our talented and experienced crews, directors and engineers work together with Artist clients to deliver award-winning results at live shows both domestically and internationally. NocturneÒ has received top awards multiple times, year after year; by the music and live touring industry.

Backstage Networks (BSN) is THE IT expert for the the touring, festival and event industries. BSN is a licensed telecommunications carrier, facilities-based VoIP system operator and world-class peer IT operator. With 25 years of experience in providing complex and temporary wired and wireless infrastructures, BSN is the most experienced and capable service provider for tours, festivals and events. Having pioneered the Mobile Office Touring System, we continue to innovate the touring, festival and event space with thoughtfully designed networking platforms. Every component is meticulously engineered to create a completely plug & play experience so the production can focus on business, and less time troubleshooting technology. Our experienced and industry leading services, combined with dedicated 24/7/365 support with onsite availability (in over 140 countries), make BSN the optimal choice for your demanding needs.

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Star Gift Alliance, We save you time, money and aggravation.
Star Gift Alliance, Trade show items, high end holiday gifts and all the touring swag.
EmpireCLS Worldwide Chauffeured Services is one of the largest luxury ground transportation providers, serving over 700 cities across the globe. Over the past 30 years, EmpireCLS has built a reputation for providing a personalized, five-star experience. EmpireCLS provides services worldwide, entertainment talent, ultra-high net worth individuals and 5-star hotels. We go above and beyond traditional methods and expectations to provide our guests with a memorable experience.

United entertainment travel offers special pricing and service for producers of a television, movie or music event. If you’re filming a movie or television series, or planning a concert, United can fly you and your production crew at a discounted price. We offer reduced airfare for television, movie and music-based productions. Discounts are available on all United and United Express® flights and select flights operated by Air Canada, AIR Canada, Air Himalaya, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss and Turkish Airlines. For more information, please call 1-800-426-1122 or check our website at www.united.com/entertainment-travel.

Starbase Jet is a premier private aviation company that specializes in aircraft charter, aircraft management and aircraft sales & acquisitions. Starbase Jet offers the unique and trusted access to a dedicated charter fleet spanning all cabin sizes, and the charter brokerage team with additional access to 200,000 business and commercial aircraft, domestic and international travel, 24/7/365 operations and flight watch support, full concierge services and dedicated account managers. As an ARGUS Platinum rated provider, Starbase Jet ranks in the top-3 of charter operators worldwide demonstrating its dedication to operational excellence and recording the highest standards of safety. Starbase Jet...Let’s go!

Hemphill Brothers has been in business for over 30 years, building and leasing custom converted tour buses to the entertainment industry. Known for their quality conversions and Av-Airline, Hemphill Brothers safely provides luxury transportation for many of the top names in rock as well as other categories that include political figures, authors, athletes and movie stars. Hemphill Brothers truly is Luxury in Motion.

DPS has evolved into one of the leading Audio/Visual production providers supporting all facets of production design and logistics to create events that transcend the ordinary from concept to completion.

EmpireCLS Worldwide Chauffeured Services is one of the largest luxury ground transportation providers, servicing over 700 cities across the globe. Over the past 30 years, EmpireCLS has built a reputation for providing a personalized, five-star experience. EmpireCLS provides services worldwide, entertainment talent, ultra-high net worth individuals and 5-star hotels. We go above and beyond traditional methods and expectations to provide our guests with a memorable experience.

United entertainment travel offers special pricing and service for producers of a television, movie or music event. If you’re filming a movie or television series, or planning a concert, United can fly you and your production crew at a discounted price. We offer reduced airfare for television, movie and music-based productions. Discounts are available on all United and United Express® flights and select flights operated by Air Canada, AIR Canada, Air Himalaya, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss and Turkish Airlines. For more information, please call 1-800-426-1122 or check our website at www.united.com/entertainment-travel.

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Private Jet Services (PJS) is a corporate aviation consulting firm providing mission-critical flight services to a global clientele of corporations, professional and collegiate athletic teams, the entertainment industry, government, and others who recognize the cost of their transportation is far exceeded by the cost of failure. PJS processes on behalf of these clients both VIP and standard configured airliners, regional aircraft, as well as light, medium, and large-cabin executive jets. PJS maintains a repeat-client rate in excess of 90% and this strong client loyalty is the best indicator of PJS’s specialization, performance and reliability.

Colin Tom Touring is a leading provider of state-of-the-art video display systems for live entertainment with full service operations and warehouse throughout the US, UK, Germany, Dubai and China. CTT’s technical staff is comprised of highly skilled, live event industry professionals with decades of experience. Our staff, trained with state-of-the-art equipment, enables us to deliver the experience that is demanded from today’s artists and audiences alike.

Chapman Freeborn is renowned as a leading provider of aircraft charter to the music industry’s touring elite. Whether it be a helicopter or heavy jet for the artists party, an airliner for the band and crew or a B747 with 100T of production freight, we can move it all, anywhere in the world. We have offices on every continent, enabling you to tap into our global buying power combined with local knowledge and insight – perfect for global scale tours or local festivals. See www.chapman-freeborn.com for more information or reach us at tourteam@chapman-freeborn.com.

Stage Door Transportation is a full-service, asset-based production/tour transportation company offering our clients complete North American coverage. Services include national & international multi-truck touring, dedicated truckload/LTL production transport. As a reliably regulated commercial carrier, we are fully insured to carry your high-value cargo. We look forward to quoting your next tour/production move.

Since 1972 Upstaging has set the standard for theatrical lighting and equipment trucking. Their capabilities far exceed these areas with their production services, event coordination and mobile marketing impacting events around the world.

BADGERS! BADGERS! BADGERS! Backstage Passes. BADGERS! BADGERS! BADGERS! We make the passes that make the whole world sing. BADGERS! BADGERS! BADGERS!
Accurate Staging is a full service staging and production company with locations in Los Angeles, Nashville and San Francisco. They specialize in custom stages and sets that are setting the standard and feature the most sophisticated rental decking system in the industry. Their fabricating team are experts in all areas of design and construction. Accurate Staging offers a full service staff that is unmatched in quality and care of all your show needs.

Founded in 1991, All Access was established to deliver the most versatile, durable and safest staging product to entertainers across the globe. With locations across three different continents, there are no limits when it comes to making our clients’ visions a reality.

With over 30 years of experience, Pyrotek Special Effects Inc., with offices located in the Toronto and Las Vegas areas, is an award winning special effects company providing full service innovative design and execution of visionary special effects for live productions including stadium and arena tour productions, award shows, historic live television productions, and much more. We provide full service for North American and World Tours, from working with you on the design of the show to providing dedicated, licensed technicians to continue working with you day to day while on tour to ensure that the effects are safely and professionally executed. Along with special effects, our sister companies Laser Design Productions and Aqua Visual FX will provide you with breathtaking laser and water screen effects.

Rock It Cargo is a world-class company in the specialty freight forwarding and logistics industry. With 200+ employees in 23 offices in the US and around the world, Rock-It is prepared to handle all your international, time sensitive, fragile and complicated freight moves.

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Special Event Services (SES) provides live event support for events of all sizes, venues, locations and purposes. As a full service technical production company, SES utilizes state-of-the-art production technologies to meet the needs of every client, every time, in a manner that exceeds their expectations.

Sound Image is a full service sound reinforcement provider with over 43 years of experience. With our experienced staff and state of the art equipment we can provide services for the Touring and entertainment industry as well as corporate events.

Creativity and originality play a massive part in a successful tour, and the importance of an audience being visually wowed by a show is irreplaceable. XL Video has an outstanding record of achievements when it comes to making a show look stunning and unique, and has the experience to take any show on the road. A cutting edge, fully owned inventory of high and low-resolution LED, SD & HD camera systems, high brightness projectors and playback/control solutions located in both US & Europe enables XL Video to provide a product and service that is second to none.
Pieter Smit founded his company of the same name in 1980 with the aim of providing transport services to the entertainment industry. At the time he had only two cars. But he also had a passion for what he was doing, the knowledge to do it right, and some very keen business instincts.

Now, thirty-five years later, the Pieter Smit organization is the largest show-trucking company in Europe, maintaining offices in Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Portugal. They provide transport for shows, staging equipment, crews and artists – not only in those countries but anywhere on the continent, including Russia and Ukraine – and handle all aspects of warehousing to boot.

What this means is their clients can be assured of dealing with a company that has experienced personnel on the ground who live on, work from and know that ground like the backs of their hands. It also means service without delay. And it allows Pieter Smit to continue to offer the most competitive prices.

Pieter Smit is known for finding answers to any questions a client might have – and solutions to any issues that may arise – perhaps more important, however, they are able to turn those solutions into realities, immediately.

Trucks and Storage, Warehousing and Trucks!

Pieter Smit offers air conditioned storage and warehousing with a guaranteed minimum temperature of 16 Celsius (roughly 61 Fahrenheit). High-cube containers with extra headroom, as well as 20 and 40-foot containers can be rented short or long-term. Overhead cranes are also available at their multiple sites.

They have a ready-to-roll fleet of over 700 plated vehicles that can get materials, crews and artists where they need to be, when they need to be there. These include:

- Passenger Cars
- Crew Vans (Splitter Vans)
- Vans (B-Drivers License)
- Maxiload (BE-Drivers License)
- Trucks (C-Driving License)
- Tractors
- Trailers
- Night Liners
- Container Chassis Trucks

All of Pieter Smit’s trucks boast Euro 6 engines standard – and they’re clean, very clean. In Europe they say these engines are so clean that if a vehicle equipped with one were parked in a living room and left running all night, in the morning the air inside the house would be cleaner than before. Pieter Smit has been using these engines voluntarily since they first became available – being as environmentally responsible as possible is of paramount importance to the company. They’ve also added 26 new Green Trucks to their lineup.
for 2015 via a public-private partnership - The European Green Vehicles Initiative.

The Nightliner Support, with 10, 15 or 18 beds, leather interior, two TV screens, Blu Ray Cinema, Bluetooth network, LED lights, a full kitchen with microwave and various fridges and an extensive wet group may be their most recognizable name. However, all of their box-trucks, sleepers, and tractor units have two beds in them – nobody needs to sleep sitting up in these rigs. Onward!

In 2015 Pieter Smit will unveil the all new XL Trailer, continuing their tradition of innovation that includes being the first to introduce the Mega-Box and Double-Deck Trailers. The XL took ten months to develop and build and is a custom-made trailer with three independently moving floors, increasing efficiency but not sacrificing safety. This professional mover has room for six cars that can be loaded in different positions depending on the needs of the job.

Pieter Smit will continue to do what they do best – provide transport to the entertainment industry and come up with ever better ways to get artists, crews and equipment where they need to be, when they need to be there. Whether they’re coming from the world of theater, music, automotive, sports or otherwise, that’s great news to their clients.

www.pietersmit.com

Finally someone cares about the Sound Guys

STEALTH

Pieter Smit will continue to do what they do best – provide transport to the entertainment industry and come up with ever better ways to get artists, crews and equipment where they need to be, when they need to be there. Whether they’re coming from the world of theater, music, automotive, sports or otherwise, that’s great news to their clients.

www.pietersmit.com
Facing the Storm

Severe weather is one of the greatest threats facing outdoor venues and events. Unlike other hazards, weather is an unavoidable and often unpredictable phenomenon. Light breezes can turn to gale-force winds in moments, and mild summer mornings can unexpectedly give way to deadly afternoon heat. Most event and venue professionals thrive in such an environment, which demands both careful preparation and the ability to adapt to constantly changing information. But recent history shows that severe weather can disrupt even the best laid plans. When it does, the results can be catastrophic.

With the outdoor event season fast approaching, now is the time to ask yourself whether you’ve taken the steps necessary to face challenges brought on by severe weather. These steps include having a plan in place to proactively forecast and monitor weather conditions, establishing a chain of command in response decision making, and developing formal evacuation and sheltering plans. It also means having an established process for internal and public communications, ensuring that your team knows their individual role during a severe weather emergency, and are confident in performing their assigned duties.

The Event Safety Guide provides an excellent framework for developing such systems. Culled from the experience of key leaders within the event production and weather information industries, the “Weather Preparedness” chapter of the Event Safety Guide contains a number of tools and best practices designed to assist event operators in creating a weather response program that suits their individual event. The Guide also provides background and contact information for several training and informational resources that may offer additional ideas and assistance.

The Event Safety Alliance is pleased to announce two such weather-preparedness training opportunities geared towards the live event industry. The first of these, “Storming the Stage - A 60-Minute Introduction to Severe Weather Planning for Events” will be offered as a session at this year’s Tour Link Conference. Presented by experts in the fields of weather forecasting and production, this session will provide an instructional primer on identifying weather-related threats, establishing an effective chain of command, developing a production-specific weather decision matrix, and where to find additional in-depth training opportunities.

The second, the ESA’s Severe Weather Summit, is a more intensive training designed for touring professionals who take artists and shows on the road, as well as for venue operators who might have to evacuate a house full of guests. Presented March 10-11, 2015 at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK, participants in this program will not only learn about the predictive power of modern weather forecasting from professional meteorologists, but also how those working in sports and entertainment can use this information to protect the lives and property in their charge. Delivered from the perspective of event and venue professionals, topics of discussion will include chain of command and organizational issues; key elements of a severe weather emergency plan; how to create trigger charts; and post-incident analysis and documentation.

No one will emerge from either of these trainings as their own weather expert. However, each program will provide attendees with the basic tools and context to use existing technology and expertise in order to safely handle a severe weather event. For more information and to register for the Severe Weather Summit, please visit www.eventsafetyalliance.org.
Morpheus Lights (Morpheus) has hired industry veteran Randy Wade for the newly created position of Senior Accounts Manager. Wade will be responsible for the sale of Ayrton LED products and increasing the market share of Morpheus’ Production Services Division. Wade has 26 years of experience in all aspects of lighting product sales and rentals, including touring, systems integration, and architectural sales. He will be based out of Houston, TX.

“We are very excited to have Randy joining the Morpheus team,” Chief Operating Office Mark Fetto said. “This is somewhat of a homecoming for Randy, as he worked for Morpheus back in the 80’s, but it is a completely different company that he is coming back to. I look forward to the benefit of his insight and experience as we work to expand the sales of Ayrton products and increase our presence in the touring market.”

“I am really looking forward to working again with my old colleagues Mark Fetto, Zeb Cochran, and Jimmy Winn,” said Wade. “With Morpheus having such a vast rental inventory with a wide variety of equipment from the top manufacturers, as well as being the exclusive US distributor for Ayrton, I feel like I am completing a “circle of life” by working with Morpheus once again.”

Morpheus Lights is a distributor and dealer of professional stage lighting products, a full-service lighting production company, equipment rental source, and manufacturer of innovative products for the professional market. In addition, Morpheus has sales representation in New York, NY to serve European and Asian markets.

Learn more at www.morpheuslights.com.
Innovation is at the core of who we are, putting new things together, moving the industry forward, and setting the stage for success.

We make stages for every event.... large, and small, ....we have one for them all.
We are Apex Stages™

It’s not enough to build mobile stages. We build stages WE would want to use. It is our mission to constantly evolve and improve to meet the needs of an ever changing industry. Let us help you unfold the possibilities.

Progressive Products, Inc
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Pittsburg, KS 66762

www.ApexStages.com
1-888-235-1732
François Menard, President and CEO of Solotech, a leader in providing solutions and professional audio, lighting and video equipment, today announced the appointment of Mr. Jean-Louis Blanchard as the Vice President of the Integration and Sales division. As part of his duties, Mr. Blanchard will be responsible for directing all sales and integration operations of the company in Canada and the United States.

Working in our field of professional technical equipment for over 30 years, Mr. Blanchard has a solid experience in business development of these markets and as a result an enviable knowledge of the industry. Jean-Louis Blanchard has known a successful career by applying a management style that is both innovative and inclusive. He does not hesitate to point out that joining Solotech is a natural alliance for him:

“Few companies in North America have this specific expertise. Solotech is definitely in a class of its own and that is one of the reasons why I accepted to join the organization with great enthusiasm.”

For Solotech, the arrival of Mr. Blanchard fits perfectly into the strategic plan of the company, which is to continue the development of the integration department, both in national and international markets. According to Mr. Menard: “Jean-Louis has an acute understanding of our industry, a key to understanding the issues and challenges specific to the markets in which we operate. His expertise will be a great asset to Solotech. His arrival among us is part of a continuing business development, within a strong and talented team.”
he explained. He's been doing car-

pentry now tor seven years, the last
two of those with EC. Even a relative
new addition like Darron Meeks, on
first EC tour doing stage left gut-
tar and bass, has ten years previous
work with Motley Crue.

Sam motioned to other crew mem-
bers, “With both mom and dad
aren’t even 4 hours away from Nashville. I
had my Thanksgiving meal at the hospi-
tal. So when Johnathon’s tour ended and EC was getting ready
to make the jump from clubs to
arenas, they asked me to join that tour.”

Though, I will say one thing…
Something else that’s awesome is
Eric Church’s live set. In addition to
going to a 360 stage from their pre-
vious 270, they have 14 trucks pro-
vided by Stage. Call to run equipment
and 9 buses from All Access for art-
ists and crew. Kaven Spears is lead truck
driver.

Marshall Alexander, Tour Account-
ant, commented, “the bigger pro-
duction is matched by the demand
for ticket sales”. At the beginning of
the tour they were expecting to do
13-18K in ticket sales per concert
depending on the venue.

Audio

What’s their biggest issue on an Eric
Church tour? “How to deal with re-
ally loud audiences,” said Marc Earp.
The biggest struggle for the audio
team is boosting over the crowds.
Church and Earpy use Ultimate Ears
Pro 18 Custom In-Ear Monitors. He’ll PR15’s have a cardiodlar pattern and are spec’d
to dampen extra noise from the atmosphere.

Ben Rigby, Monitor Assistant, said,
“You can get the levels as perfect as
you can during sound check, but
soon as the fans get in here, yelling
and screaming, we sometimes end
up having to push it up.” Front of House Engineer Billy Moore added, “when we end up having to push levels on this tour, they peak at 108 dB.” Billy has forty-one years in the music industry and still loves mixing live. Asked how he got into audio, he laughed, “My sister married a drummer. He taught me how to pick a song apart and hear things.”

By the way, Ben graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Audio Engineering in 2010. He hit the road with EC a little over a year later thanks to an audio internship and will have three years on EC’s crew this coming January. Students take notice, interning can help get you a job in the music industry.

One dozen Heil PR35 mics are located around the 360 hexagonal stage. Fitted with Optogate PB-05 automatic microphone gates, they unmute when EC is within a minimum of 15 centimeters of the microphone in less than .2 seconds.

Eric Church was converted to the Heils at a one-off date in Vegas where Bob Heil was in the audience to see the show. Neither Earpy nor Church had used a Heil before, but when Church finished his set, both raved about the quality and how well the mic’s specs accentuated Church’s voice. With the Heil mic owner and founder of the company in the audience, an introduction was made and a deal was quickly drawn up.

Rachael Aull is the only female member on the production crew. She has an Audio Engineering degree from Belmont University in Nashville and worked with Clair Global prior to joining Eric Church’s team. Her responsibilities include stage patching, monitors, and wireless operations. She is responsible for patching the 50 channels used by Eric Church, Halestorm, and Dwight Yoko. Senheiser G3 series ear monitors are used for communication purposes. As far as being the only woman on the production crew, Rachael said it was a non-issue, “Everyone is easy to work with and get along with.”

FOH works 81 inputs from two Midas Heritage 3000 analog mixing consoles because, as Ben, the assistant audio guy said, “When you can run analog, why not?” Monitors are run off of Avid Profile by Marc “Earpy” Earp. Everyone on the audio crew was in agreement that the analogue just sounds better.

Lighting

Butch Allen is the lighting designer for the Outsiders tour. Christie Lights provides equipment and six lighting crew. One thing that sticks out for Charlie Phan of Christie Lights is “the precise integration between automation and manual. A lot of people are impressed because what we’re doing, like having two moving lights as spotlights, isn’t ordinary.”

Rob Koenig, Programmer and LD has 18 years working in lighting and this is his first country artist ever. Rob mentioned an article he’d read that said Eric is our biggest working rock star—“that’s how I felt the first time I saw Eric.” Rob laughed at his initial shock in realizing he was loving the music even though he’d never worn cowboy boots so to speak and added, “mainly it’s Eric. He is unique. He’s not the trend, he’s the trendsetter.”

Rob also explained how they use the two different kinds of spotlights to give different looks depending on the feel of Eric’s songs. One of the spotlights is a Martin Quantum LED for
songs where they want a softer wash and the other is a Martin wash and the other is a Martin voice for it." Lance grew up in Lititz, PA, Roy Claire of Claire Lighting was his neighbor and he started working for Michael Tait of Tait Towers when he was still a teenager." What does he love about being a rigger besides telling people no? "It's a challenge. It's math. I get to walk in everywhere and figure out how to make things work.

### Stages and Specials

Stages were done by Tait and it's the first time EC has gone with a 360' set design. It's a 70 foot octagon with two thirty-foot thrusts. There are five different levels for the EC and musicians to work from that range from 42 inches to seven-and-half feet high. Two VIP areas, can hold 35-50 people depending on venue. Screens were provided by Screenworks.

Drums and drummer descend from within a box of monitor screens. Lead Carpenter Michael Todd commented, "This is a whole new thing for us. It's like the Millennium Falcon of sets." The drum platform then sits on a rotating platform that runs 180°.

In each head there are LED lights, which are set to light during the performance. The kit is SJC and is nicknamed Skull'Merica because of the skull and American flag design inscribed on the side of each shell.

When some of the crew were asked what if they had a favorite tool or piece of equipment, Porthkopch said, "I tell you one thing I really love—Tait." Michael Stembridge was in full agreement when he gave an example of how Tait Towers comes through for them no matter what they need. "I admit it. We broke something. I sent an email on Sat at 1:45 a.m. and by Sunday I had back 6 pages of diagrams and explanations of how they were going to manufacture a replacement part in-house because it would take too long to order it. Those guys are great."

Marc Enay showed us how separate monitors are set up at stage left and right for each of the opening acts in what they call "Monitor World." All of this equipment is moved out prior to Eric Church tours and they reclaim that space for some extremely lucky fans.

Law Ingalls, Promoter Rep mentioned this part of the show as one of his favorite parts he loves best about the show. "It's like the Willy Wonka golden ticket for 50 fans." Law explained, "We have some staff going up to the nook's overhead sections, basically the top of the bowl, and looking for fans who for whatever reason couldn't afford tickets closer, or maybe they got their tickets late, but look like they're really excited to be there and they get invited to come down to the pit space."

And who gets this fun part of the job? Jill Trunnell, Assistant with TMG/Messina Group with (Law) and tells people she's "going to get pop" when she leaves to scout for fans who get invited to see the show from the pit. She looks for people who are wearing Eric Church tee-shirts from 10 years ago or who seem especially excited to see EC. Jill commented, "It's like finding for some of these people. You make people so happy. There's tears, hugs, disbelief. I have to tell them, 'no I don't want your tickets, or money and then when we open up the pits, there's hugs and high fives again when they see how great the seats are going to be..." she paused for a moment, "I get goosebumps just thinking about it."

This actually gives Bob the opportunity to be creative and experiment with different dishes to keep things fresh and exciting rather than having to play it safe with blander or more boring options. They cook everything fresh, including desserts like cupcakes that could be store bought, but Bob won't cut corners. For the Evansville show dessert included homemade Honey Jack cupcakes. Vegetarians and Vegans on the crew are accommodated with a simple radio call to Bob, "With a ten minute notice I can make them something that's delicious!"

### Catering

Besides going on about how "fucking awesome" their jobs and their boss is, the Eric Church crew mentioned one other area where they felt appreciated—catering. Since food on the road is rarely one of the highlights mentioned about being on tour, Mobile Production Monthly asked to speak with the caterer and we were introduced to Bob Schneeberger of HSG catering. "I'm known for my soups," he explained when asked about his fandom among crew.

Unlike a lot of tours that leave the cooking to staff lined up by a concert venue, Bob is part of the touring crew. Ben Spjut is the Sous Chef. Bob commented, "I don't know if it's my passion for food or just having fun with it, but I love to watch people eat and see what they really like. Having the day-to-day interaction gives him the personal experience to know what kinds of things the crew likes to eat, what they won't eat, and there are any food allergies that need to be considered.

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Outsiders Crew List

Michael Todd Stembridge - Head Set Carpenter
Jamison "Porkchop" Hyatt - Set Carpenter 2
"Moses" Michael Beck - Set Carpenter 3
Shane Huebner - Set Carpenter 4

M. J. SaGraves - Lead Guitar Tech
Robert Larkin - Video Crew Chief
Robert Koenig - LD
Jay Cooper - Video Director
Golly Mascaris - Camera
Russ Span - Camera
Christopher Jones - LED/Camera
Tommy Lamberson - Personal Security
Mark Lemaaster - Star Coach Driver
James Carroll - Lead Driver
DeWayne Lemaaster - Bus Driver
Tim Hudson - Bus Drivers
Mike Pender - Bus Driver
Michael Webb - Bus Driver
Jake McKnight - Bus Driver
Austin Clark - Bus Driver
Karon Leroy Spears - Lead Truck Driver
Ronnie Goodwin - Truck Driver

Marc Earp - Production Manager/Monitor Engineer
Marshall Alexander - Tour Accountant
Lensey Coker - Production Assistant
Lavon Ingalls - Promoter Representative TMG/Messina
Jill Trunnell - Assistant with TMG/Messina
Bridget Bauer - Accountant for the Tour, TMG Messina
Craig Wright - Drummer
Lee Hendricks - Bass Player
Todd Bunch - Tour Manager
Jeff Coase - Guitar Player
Driver Williams III - Guitar
Jeff Hyde - Utility
Joanna Cotton - Vocals
Samuel Coats - Stage Manager
Abigale Higgins - Backstage Manager
Billy Moore - Front of House Engineer
Jared Lawrie - Systems Engineer/Crew Chief
Rachael Aull - Monitor Tech
Matthew Patterson - Audio Tech
Bryce Bouregard - Audio Tech
Benjamin Rigby - Monitor Assistant
Charlie Phan - Lighting/Dimmer Tech
Lance Stoner - Head Rigger

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McDonnell knew about both the Lamberti’s, Behle and Hahne and decided to reach out to them in order to use their services for any trucking and bussing requirements that might have been needed by Horizon Entertainment Cargo for their own clients in Europe. With the offer of working alongside McDonnell on the table the Lamberti’s, Behle and Hahne decided to snap it up and start something that they knew could & eventually would develop into a powerhouse of a production company in Europe.

After working under their own respective company names, which are still operational and major leading production names in their respective fields to date, the first big joint venture came in the mid-1990s when Doug Nightwine (tour manager for the Joe Satriani Band) approached his past touring comrade and friend McDonnell for production assistance with his upcoming European tour as he was stuck on a South American tour with Joe with bad communications to work with. Nightwine also enquired if McDonnell could recommend a good trucking and bussing company that he could tour with, and that was the moment McDonnell knew that this could be the start of something good for all HEC clients. After this, it became apparent that the Euro-

EPT is a one stop shop for European Production taking care of all touring needs from freight to trucking to bussing, giving tour and production managers the peace of mind they need and the reassurance that one company is handling all their needs for their tour.

It is comprised of 3 of the most well-known names in the freight, trucking and bussing world. Horizon Entertainment Cargo (freight) headed up by Phil McDonnell, Trucking Service (Trucking) headed up by Elmar and Hanno Lamberti and Coach Service (Bussing) headed up by Clemens Behle

The Past. EPT was officially formed the back end of the 90’s after Horizon Entertainment Cargo through Phil McDonnell’s own past experience had already completed many one stop shop European tours for various HEC freight client relationships.

By the time EPT was formed Phil McDonnell was already an established name in the Entertainment freight and music business. After an illustrious 28 year career as a production/tour manager for artists such as Rory Gallagher, Fleetwood Mac, Van Morrison, Psychedelic Furs, Gin Blossoms, Clannad to name just a few McDonnell decided to come off the road but still wanted to stay involved in what he knew best from leaving school. Entertainment Freight was a favoured choice as the requirements for a tour/production manager to

The brothers Elmar and Hanno Lamberti, Chris Hahne and Clemens Behle, the minds behind Trucking Service and Coach Service.

Trucking Service was founded in 1982 by the Lamberti brothers in the Cologne, Germany. At that time, the city had a vibrant Rock n Roll scene in which the Lamberti’s were heavily involved. Before they started Trucking Service, they were tour managing full blown productions for various Rock n Roll bands in Europe. This experience was a major advantage for their later work to come. Already their knowledge of the music industry allowed Trucking Service to function as more than just your average transportation company. Besides guaranteeing that your equipment will be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, Trucking Service themselves today also offers a complete service package in the production field including taking care of secured equipment storage and pre-tour production rehearsal facilities also.

In 1992 Trucking Service expanded from transporting the artist’s equipment only to transporting the artists also. Chris Hahne joined the team and so Coach Service was founded and a few years later he was joined by his business partner Clemens Behle. The idea behind Coach Service was to offer artists a premium touring experience in Busses that could not be matched by any other competitor in Europe. In 1997, both Trucking Service and Coach Service were rapidly expanding and moved from their headquarters in Cologne to Wehnrath, a small town 30 minutes outside of Cologne. This allowed for exciting new possibilities for both production transport companies. The team grew, new garages were built in order to maintain the vehicles to excellent company standards that had been set already, more workshops were built to allow revolutionary customization of the tour busses and the overall company parking lot area was increased to roughly 15,000 m².
The peanut market had a need for this type of "one stop shop" tour production service. A service where you have a group of individuals who are all long serving experts in the entertainment industry, that will cover all areas of touring and production ensures a professional and thorough tour service is provided to all clients from start to finish. Thus the EPT brand name to oversee the 3 x companies "One Stop Shop" production business was formed officially a few years later.

The Present. Since EPT was formed the company has been growing in size and status, not just as an organisation but as individual companies too. Horizon Entertainment Cargo celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014 and in that time has grown into a worldwide entertainment cargo network with 10 offices now in Europe, Nth America, Australasia, the Far East and Israel. With offices far and wide and a client list boasting some of the biggest names in music as well as clients in theatre also Horizon Entertainment Cargo work on the mantra "there are very few places in existence on this planet that we cannot deliver to to make a show happen" and this has been evident with production clients still coming back to this very day after 20 years. All details ever required for Horizon Entertainment Cargo and their services offered can be found at www.hecargoworld.com

Much like HEC, the German partners Trucking Service and Coach Service have evolved into larger ventures as well. Trucking Service’s fleet of about 45 vehicles can be found on motorways throughout all of Europe & beyond offering transportation from the farthest outposts of Russia all the way to the Canary Islands. A varied spectrum of international clients ranging from hard rock bands to prominent theatrical productions such as Cirque du Soleil all rely on the years of hard experience that Trucking Service has gathered in the field of entertainment trucking. To get a better look at the services offered by Trucking Service, visit the company website at www.truckingservice.de or to get a look at many of the pictures that show what it’s like to be on tour with Trucking Service, find the Trucking Service Facebook page at www.facebook.com/truckingservice.

Coacht Service is no exception to other growing business partners: CEO Clemens Behle has been a very busy man, currently the company has about 70 high-end and customized vehicles on the road with offices in Germany, England and France. Coach Service busses are designed in a way that allows for quick and customised change to the busses interior so can cater to any of their client’s needs. When a bus comes off a tour and enters the company workshop it can be transformed in a matter of hours. Anything is possible, from 8-10-12-14-16 berth sleepers to busses with king size Star bedrooms or with lounges equipped with flat screen TVs. The busses can be equipped with the with the highest in multimedia standards ranging from next generation gaming consoles to surround sound systems to colour changing LED mood lighting systems. Some of the biggest names in the music business such as Lenny Kravitz, Rihanna, Janet Jackson and Bon Jovi have all put their faith in the excellent services offered by Coach Service. To get a better look at what Coach Service has to offer, visit the company website at www.coachservice.com.

Present times and clients expectations have forced Coach Service to evolve in order to withstand the heavy competition in the European market; a new partner company called Berlin Rock Coaches was recently formed by former Coach Service CEO Chris Hahe in the music capital of Germany, Berlin. BRC is able to offer the same standards of experience and knowledge of the music business at more affordable prices to a whole new range of clients. BRC offers slightly older models of the premium Coach Service busses, offering similar quality to clients who may be running on a tighter budget. To see what BRC has in store for clients, visit the webpage at www.berlin-rock-coaches.com.

With the expansion of these 3 companies individually, the growing of EPT was inevitable. EPT currently is the only one stop shop call for so many major tour/production managers now when they are touring Europe. With the far reaching contacts at the disposal of EPT your European touring is just that much easier.

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