

# mobile month PRODUCTION

formally known as *Tour Guide Journal* by NPB & G

# Celine DION



**TOP DOG AWARDS**  
Paying Homage to the Elite

Doc McGhee wins Platinum Award for Lifetime Achievement

**HOTELS**  
Familiar Faces New Places

**TOWN HALL**  
at Tour Link

From **DIAMONDS** to Dust

**SECURITY CO. OF THE YEAR**

**NPB**  
Putting NPB on the Map

**D&S CLASSIC COACH** Sees Green







# WATCH OUT ICARUS!

## Alpha Beam 1500

A new concept Moving Beam Light: a solid beam of parallel light, considerably brighter than its 1500 watts, enhanced with unrivalled graphics, chromatic and movement capabilities. The Alpha Beam 1500 is designed to turn great events into spectacular shows, and its energy savings make it a perfect example of environmentally-friendly technological innovation.



[www.claypaky.it](http://www.claypaky.it)

8607 Ambassador Row, Suite 170B  
Dallas, TX 75247  
Phone: 214-819-3200  
Fax: 702-942-4607  
E-mail: [info-NA@prgdistribution.com](mailto:info-NA@prgdistribution.com)



**Top Dog**  
Award Winner

Tour Guide 2006  
2007 & 2008



**Built to Ride**

Comfort, Dependability, and a Smooth Safe Ride!



**ROBERTS BROTHERS COACH CO.**

- Largest New Fleet of Prevost Coaches
- Luxurious and Innovative Conversions
- Unequaled Service and Attention to Detail

210 Charles Ralph Drive  
Springfield, TN 37172  
Phone: (615) 212 - 0226

**[www.robertsbrotherscoach.com](http://www.robertsbrotherscoach.com)**





**“The KSM9 microphone**  
is the **most exciting** live microphone out in several  
years. Its sound is **high class** with solid construction,  
**low handling noise**, and a great feel in the  
hand. The artists that I work with are feeling **really**  
**good** about what they’re hearing in their ears and the  
translation to front of house is **wonderful.**”

- *Chuck Harris*

*Live events manager and FOH engineer - Don Moen  
Integrity Music Studios' Chief Engineer 1994-2005*

## Live Performance Mastery

Engineered to exacting standards, the KSM9 wired microphone unites studio quality with stage durability, all while providing exceptional consistency across all frequencies. With its dual diaphragm design and switchable polar patterns, the KSM9 is versatile enough to handle any environment. And for wireless applications the KSM9 capsule is also available with the UHF-R® Wireless System.

Visit your local dealer or [www.shure.com](http://www.shure.com) for more information today.

[www.shure.com](http://www.shure.com)

© 2007 Shure Incorporated

**SHURE**<sup>®</sup>  
LEGENDARY  
PERFORMANCE™





# Celine } DION

12

## contents

volume 2 issue 2 2009

### FEATURES

- 8 DiGiCo  
SD8 'Jazzes' up Newport Beach Festival
- 10 D&S Classic Coach  
sees green
- 12 Celine Dion
- 20 Familiar Faces  
new places
- 25 Tour Link Intro
- 26 TL Fun Outing  
ladies & gentlemen, start your engines
- 28 TL Opening Night Reception
- 29 From Diamonds to Dust
- 32 Town Hall at Tour Link
- 36 TL Bus BBQ  
Not Unlike van Gogh's 'Starry Night'
- 40 2008 Top Dog Awards  
paying homage to the elite
- 44 NPB Companies  
putting NPB Companies on the map

### BREAKOUTS

- 16 Celine Dion Crew

### DEPARTMENTS

- 4 From the Publisher
- 8 Sound
- 10 Transportation
- 20 Hotels
- 48 Advertiser's Index



10



20

25



44





To all of our readers who were not able to attend Tour Link this year, we can only say.....ya missed it! By the feedback we have been receiving from the attendees, we had a resounding success. Everyone had a very good and productive meeting. We are assembling the feedback comments and are already making plans (and adjustments) for next year's event.

The nice thing about our conference is that everyone seems to be personally involved in making the event a success. How rare is it to attend any sort of gathering (trade show, expo or conference)

where the attendees take a personal responsibility in trying to make the event successful for *everyone*, not just themselves. This is what separates our annual gathering from all of the other events in the industry. This year, we proudly proclaimed, "The Vibe is Back!" Of course, this is a clear reference to the old Summit Conference of years past. That gathering held a special place for all who attended during the nearly 20 year history of the event. While we still have a way to go to reach that lofty goal, it was clear that the attitude of those who attended Tour Link '09 had renewed that spirit of camaraderie; a rare feat, indeed.

Also included in this issue are a few of our standard offerings, which we certainly do not want to minimize. However, we do hope you pay attention to the recap of our conference and try to attend next year. You may be surprised how beneficial this particular event may be for your business and for you personally.

Finally, we would like to invite you to visit our new website, online news source and global search engine at **MOBILEPRODUCTIONPRO.COM**. Spend a few minutes playing with the site and watch it grow. We will be adding new features to it nearly every month, and we have a feeling you will find out for yourselves why this much-anticipated addition to our group of products is already gaining a good reputation and many users.

*Larry Smith*



## HOME OFFICE STAFF



ph: 615.256.7006 • f: 615.256.7004

email: info@tourguidemag.com

tourguidemag.com

750 Cowan St • Nashville, TN • USA 37207

Publisher: Larry Smith

lsmith@mobileproductionpro.com

Editor: Chris Cogswell

ccogswell@mobileproductionpro.com

Chief Writer/ Photographer: Michael A. Beck

grockit@comcast.net

Contributing Writer: Jessi Wallace

jwallace@mobileproductionpro.com

Art Director / Graphic Designer: Kristin Searcy

kristin.tourguide@gmail.com

ksearcy@mobileproductionpro.com

Office Manager: Jennifer Russell

officemanager@mobileproductionpro.com

Webmaster: Michael Stalcup

mstalcup@mobileproductionpro.com

Contributing Writer: Mike Wharton

wharton8317@bellsouth.net

Contributing Writer: Bill Abner

bigolbill@comcast.net

## ADVERTISING SALES OFFICE

Jessi Wallace • Nashville

jwallace@mobileproductionpro.com

ph: 615.256.7006 • f: 615.256.7004

## TOUR LINK BOARD OF ADVISORS

Benny Collins, Nick Gold, Jim Digby, Jon Nevins, Stuart Ross,

Bobby Schneider, Jay Sendyk, Seth Sheck, Nick Gold

Nicki Goldstein, Chuck Randall, Michael Waddell

tourlinkconference.com

## PUBLISHED BY

Anvil Productions, LLC

ph: 615.256.7006 • f: 615.256.7004

info@tourguidemag.com

©2008 Anvil Productions, LLC. Nothing may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. The publisher reserves the right to edit any and all editorial content included in this publication. The publisher has made every attempt to insure accuracy and consistency of this publication. However, some listings & information may be incomplete due to a lack of information provided by various companies listed. Please send any inquiries to the attention of the publisher. All advertising appears at the paid solicitation of the advertiser. Anvil Productions, LLC, can not be held liable for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies appearing in this journal in the form of editorials, listings or advertising.

Member of:

**NATD** Nashville Association Of Talent Directors



ConCentRICs is an interactive comprehensive software package that brings all the information you need to your fingertips. Each module handles a specific function of facility management. The modular design allows you to choose only the functions you need and to add new functions as your needs grow.

**ConCentRICs**  
by  
**RIC CORP**

riccorp.com

RIC Corporation | 6215 Constitution Drive | Fort Wayne, In 46804 | 212.432.0799

*ConCentRICs is an Event organization stemming from a central source.*

**PROFESSIONAL<sup>®</sup> WIRELESS** **FREQUENCY ALERT!**  
A MASQUE SOUND COMPANY

*RF Experts in Sales, Rentals & Frequency Planning*

*Are our microphones Legal after June?*

**Call for 700 MHZ Rules and Rebates!**

407-240-2880 [www.ProfessionalWireless.com](http://www.ProfessionalWireless.com)



# STATE OF THE ART TOURING SOUND AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS!



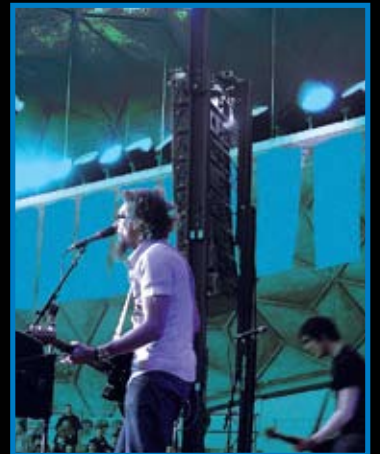
Our systems include state of the art A-Line Acoustics speakers. Not only do they sound great, but they save time and money:

- Quicker Set Up / Tear downs = Less Labor
- Tighter Truck Packs = Less Gas Expense
- New Systems Designed and Built to Tour = Less Headaches



We can handle any type of event including:

- Country and Rock Music Tours and Festivals
- Christian Music Tours and Festivals
- Corporate Audio Visual
- No show too large or too small we do them all!



**SHOWSTAR**  
NASHVILLE

**SOUND AND LIGHTING - We do touring!**

For more information, or to book a tour, go to [www.ShowStarNashville.com](http://www.ShowStarNashville.com)



# SOUNDCHECK

## NASHVILLE

REHEARSAL STUDIOS \* CARTAGE & STORAGE \* INSTRUMENT RENTAL

THE NATION'S LARGEST FULL-PRODUCTION  
REHEARSAL FACILITY



Soundcheck is truly one of a kind facility. As the largest rehearsal studio complex in the world under one roof, Soundcheck is recognized as the rehearsal venue of choice by many top touring and recording acts. Soundcheck also provides a wide range of support services for touring and studio musicians, both in Nashville and on the road.

750 Cowan Street Nashville, TN 37207  
Phone: 615.726.1165 Fax: 615.256.6045  
[soundchecknashville.com](http://soundchecknashville.com)



**CONCERT** **CORPORATE** **EVENTS** **INSTALLS** **POLITICAL** **WORSHIP & PRAISE** **NIGHT CLUBS** **SALES**

**ATLANTA SOUND & LIGHTING**

p: 770-455-7695 f: 770-455-3088  
 e: aslinfo@mindspring.com  
 atlantasoundandlight.com

MIDAS AVOLITES  
 TELEX Ey  
 ROBE HIGH END SYSTEMS  
 ELATION ADJ Martin

# MEGA STAGE

The best mobile stages the world has to offer. Hydraulic or electric deployment.



Sizes from 24'x20'x15' to this huge 140'x52'x45'!  
 Install times from 35 minutes to one day!  
 Up to 92 000 lb rigging capacity!

**BETTER. FASTER. STRONGER.**

Tel.: 1 888 359-4001 ♦ Fax: 450 359-4242 ♦ info@mega-stage.com ♦ www.mega-stage.com



## DIGICO SD8 'JAZZES' UP NEWPORT BEACH FESTIVAL

*New Console Debuts On 4-Day Event To Rave Reviews From Audience & Artists Alike*

**F**estival-type events pose a unique challenge for sound mixers because these events typically span several days, run from morning to midnight and have the inherent variable of an ever-changing performance roster, each with its own engineer, imposed often within very tight time constraints. Mitch Grant of Special Event Audio Services in San Diego is a veteran of staging these types of events, as well as handling production for a range of scenarios from corporate meetings and parties to musical theatre, theme park shows and festivals of various types. For over ten years, he's been involved in two significant annual jazz festivals, the West Coast and Newport Beach Jazz Party events, held in Southern California. The mid-February Newport Beach Jazz Party featured the traditional jazz festival fare, but this year for the first time, it also included an actual performance of musical theatre. Grant brought in a newly purchased DiGiCo SD8 to handle the diverse range of performances, and to work in tandem with his Nexo Geo S8 line array, and found the console—his first actual DiGiCo purchase—far exceeded his expectations.

“This is usually a slower time of year for me, so there haven't been that many opportunities to use my SD8 since I received it,” Grant confessed. “Consequently, I had only used the SD8 a couple of times in somewhat less critical mixing situations, where I would have the time and opportunity to play with it and learn some things about it. The 4-day festival allowed me to really dig into the console and evaluate its performance while driving my favorite Nexo Geo S8 line array that I've used previously in the hotel ballroom with great success. The stage area is heavily draped and the room ends up sounding pretty darn good for a simple ballroom.”

In addition to the music performances slated for the weekend, the festival opened with “Louis & Keely,” a musical theatre performance by Hollywood film bio-pic director, Taylor Hackford (“Ray”, “La Bamba”), staged in the 600-seat ballroom of the Marriott Hotel. “With no rehearsal, and barely time for a quick sound check with all the actors on stage, I had to mix 6 actor lavalier mics, a vintage looking Shure 55SH lead vocal mic, an



“announcer” mic at FOH, a handful of sound cues, and a full 6-piece back up band where some of the musicians also had dialogue in the show. No one from the show thought to bring a script for me to follow—and this was a 90-minute show that I had never seen! So much for the idea of bringing the SD8 on a show where there was ‘no pressure’! However, the easy user interface qualities of the board made everything better. I was able to quickly create some special FX for sound cues and confidently use them, even without any rehearsal. Honestly, I think the regular production people for the musical were shocked at how close we got it on the first try! It has been a while since I did any real live ‘theatre’, and I'm happy to say that the performance went off without a hitch.”

Grant says he found the SD8's onboard EQ very satisfying, and ‘noteworthy’—but what surprised him was that it completely changed his outlook on digital console EQ overall. “The EQ controls are intuitive to use, and very ‘analog’ in feel. The EQ sections on some digital boards often leave me wondering if they are actually working, because I have to make major changes before they become apparent. That is definitely NOT the case on the SD8! I found that subtle changes in the EQ on the console yielded subtle EQ changes in the system... *exactly* as you would hope for. I found myself much more involved and interested in using the EQ, not because things sounded bad, but because I suddenly had a digital tool that could make the musical, graceful changes that I wanted to make. I'm telling you, *that* was a revelation for me!”

Moving from the theatrical production into the regular jazz sets, they had only a few minutes to go from musical theatre-style audio to a full-on jazz big band. “The first group had 6 saxes, 4 trombones, 5 or 6 trumpets, a Yamaha 7' grand piano, and a full rhythm section,” he recalled. “I quickly threw together a scene on the console and when the band hit, the mix was close, but a bit subdued. After a minute or so, I had stopped the bleeding and the mix started to take shape. I quickly noticed 2 more important things about the SD8: the compression and the FX both sounded very good! The reverb was very natural sounding and believable, and the channel compressors were very transparent. I was really starting to appreciate the sonic quality and ease of operation of the SD8 right about then. Earlier in the day, I had made up a custom label set for the faders using the ‘terms’ I felt comfortable with. It was really easy to quickly insert the proper labels on every fader. In fact, I don't think I even used any label tape the whole 4 days of shows! Also, the SD8 indicates which fader you are touching on the screen (yes, only 1 screen) by changing the color of the label name. I grew to appreciate that small detail too, because I didn't even have to look at the actual faders much at all.”

The rest of the night and the rest of the festival went on nearly flawlessly, with no soundchecks or rehearsals before any set. And the superior sound quality was audibly apparent to attendees and performers alike. “Coincidentally, there are several regular patrons of these 2 jazz festivals that are in the audio/recording/ production side of the music





business. There are also several “audiophiles” in the audience at any given time. Interestingly, my fellow audio enthusiasts in the audience shared my perception that the sound system sounded better and more detailed than ever—and the *only* thing I changed was the console. Even the artists who were listening to their peers perform were coming up to me with compliments. One Jazz Choir director even asked if she could hug me after the conclusion of her stellar sounding set!”

In the near future, Grant plans to integrate a computer and MADI recording interface into the setup, as well as a few outboard pieces to finish the whole FOH mixing package. But even in its basic configuration, he says he found the SD8 to be truly impressive. “Even though it is the least expensive console that DiGiCo makes, it’s not an entry-level product, in my opinion. It is a fully professional console, built like a tank and designed to compete with the very best sounding boards available. It has a more basic feature set than its big brother, the SD7, but it is a feature set that would probably work for most people. It should not be compared with *anything* that costs less than it does, yet I think there are many consoles at 2 or 3 times its cost that it will easily outperform. I’m *really* happy that I bought one. In my book, any product that makes it easier for you to ‘hit it out of the park’ on your shows is worth its weight in gold.” 🍷

# Coach generators for the long road ahead.

## High quality products, competitively priced.

- 7kW to 75kW generators, powered by a rugged Kubota or Cummins diesel engine.
- Commercial grade performance and construction.
- Highly-experienced staff to help guide you, including electrical and mechanical engineers.
- Wide range of options available.

## Comprehensive generator service centers in the Atlanta and Charlotte areas.

- From simple repairs to complete replacements, we handle it all on a broad array of generators.
- Conveniently located with Interstate access nearby.

TUGH  
Kubota  
STUFF

**EPS**  
ENGINE  
POWER  
SOURCE

**CALL 800-374-7522**  
[www.enginepowersource.com](http://www.enginepowersource.com)

Atlanta Area: 3412 Florence Circle ■ Powder Springs, GA 30127  
Charlotte Area: 348 Bryant Boulevard ■ Rock Hill, SC 29732

© 2008, EPS



Introducing a tour bus company that drives home your high expectations.

**Coach Quarters™**  
ENTERTAINMENT TRANSPORTATION

**PREVOST**  
THE ULTIMATE CLASS

For a detailed cost quote for your next tour, contact  
**Olan Witt or Timmer Ground** at (615) 859-0200.



## D&S CLASSIC COACH Sees Green

by MICHAEL WADDELL

Without a doubt, the most precious aspect of the entertainment industry is the people drawn to be part of it. This industry is such a small community, there is an overwhelming sense of familial. Perhaps it's a subconscious awareness that, although we may have never met, we are somehow in the presence of each other, one in this business of show, and on a larger stage one in this world.

Lamar and Karen Sanford of D&S Classic Coach, Inc. are two such people, unassuming, genuine, sincere, candid, the real McCoy's. Lamar is a 30-year veteran driving entertainer coaches. In 1996 he and his wife Karen started D&S Classic Coach and boast skilled, seasoned, experienced drivers. "Since we started the company, I haven't had time to look back," Lamar told *mPm* with a laugh.

The Sanford's are being led by their passions and conscience and have designed and built a truly "green coach." "We are doing our part in taking care of the earth," Lamar said. "Karen and I are passionate about doing what we feel is the right thing. It's up to us to do what we can, and this coach is a step in that direction."

When you hear green coach - french-fry fuel most likely comes to mind. D&S has run its coaches on a bio diesel mix for years, "we have been running our coaches on a higher bio ratio than what the warranty allows," Lamar continued, "which means if there is a problem, I am not under warranty." But it doesn't stop there. When this couple thinks green, they think from front to back, top to bottom and everything in between.

Given the task to learn exactly what that meant was Karen's. "I really didn't know what I was getting into," she said. "I spent weeks and months investigating what all the options were and what made one item truly green and another not. I knew nothing in the beginning. Even now, I am only scratching the surface of what we can do."

Her efforts excelled on this coach. On the top of the coach are six solar panels powering all electric and all but two air conditioners for as long as 12 hours.

"Imagine the impact not using shore power makes on the environment," exclaimed Lamar. Not to mention fuel cost savings, which by the way, he didn't. Not because he is not concerned about the cost savings his clients receive. "Our motivation is doing something for the earth we live in," he continued, "it's an added bonus that it saves some money."

Upon climbing onto the coach there are two things noticed immediately. First, recycled rubber is used on the stairs and



above Karen & Lamar Sanford of D&S Classic Coach, Inc.

the cab. Second, there is little "new coach odor." You know, that chemical odor that often overwhelms your schnoz. This is because non-toxic glue is used throughout the coach.

The hardwood floor in the living quarters is made from bamboo. Bamboo is not a wood. It is a group of perennial evergreen plants in the true grass family "Poaceae" and comes mostly from the southern



Phoenix Office: 623-580-9190

fax: 416-690-4190

lamar@dandsclassiccouch.com

dandsclassiccouch.com

Chinese province of Hunan. Bamboo is the fastest growing woody plant in the world and can grow up to 47 inches a day (1.5 to 2.0 inches an hour), so within five years bamboo can replenish itself, whereas an oak might take 50-75 years.

To turn round tubes of bamboo into flat flooring strips, tubes are sliced into strips and boiled to remove the starch. The strips are dried and laminated, then milled into strip flooring much like typical oak would be. It is then treated with a preservative. The hardness of wood floor is measured by

something called the Janka test. A .444 inch steel ball is driven into the wood to half of the balls diameter. Douglas Fir has a Janka hardness rating of 660 and is the softest wood. At the top of the scale is Brazilian Cherry with a rating of 2350 (the most expensive and absolute hardest is Brazilian Walnut rated at 3800). Bamboos' rating is 1642.

Rounding off this green coach is the laminate on the cabinets and around the sink is the most eco-friendly currently available and the pillows are filled with recycled plastic bottles (you wouldn't know it to lie your head on one). Karen said, "The cost for building green is not anymore expensive than just using quality materials, and these materials are quality... and green!"

In addition to being responsible for the research of what makes green green, Karen was also the designer. *mPm* had the opportunity of visiting the coach in the company of Jim Bodenheimer of Egotrips who put it succinctly when he said, "It's like sitting in a cabin in the woods." It is serene and cozy with earth colors and a feeling of warmth embracing you.

Make no mistake about it, it is a business and bottom lines are and will continue to be all too important. However, more often than not, the bottom line is a means to fulfill passions, an instrument affording visionaries to move innovation forward. D&S is beginning to set a new standard for earth friendly coaches and has the capability to fulfill any client's needs. "We don't have deep pockets," Lamar confessed, "yet we can't help but believe that this is the direction more and more of the entertainer coach business is going to go in. We believe in it so passionately." 🍀

**CREDENTIALS**  
WORLDWIDE

Access Passes Design  
1.800.4.PASSES

BACKSTAGE PASSES  
TOUR ITINERARIES  
CUSTOM GRAPHIC DESIGN  
STICKY PASSES  
WHIRLSTANDS

AMPLIFY!!

www.accesspasses.com 1.800.4.PASSES

A GREEN COMPANY

**•TOURING SETS**

**•ROLLING RISERS**

**•SALES & RENTALS**

**•CUSTOM MANUFACTURING**

**ACCURATE STAGING**

1820 West 135th St.  
Gardena, CA 90249  
Voice 310-324-1040  
Fax 310-324-1017

Contact Joe Gallagher  
www accuratestaging.com

**DSG DEWITT STERN GROUP**

For What You Value Most • Since 1899

**We're a full service insurance company dedicated to your business. Call today and see how we can help you with all your insurance needs.**

Errors & Omissions • Camera/Musical Equipment Floaters • Music/Concerts/Performers/Musicians • Special Events  
Non-Appearance/Abandonment/Cancellation • Performing Arts/Dance Cos. • Special Events • Tenant/User Liability  
Theatres/Venues • Union Guild Accident Insurance • Weather/Rain Insurance • AND MUCH MORE

**Pete Shoemaker**  
New York • 212 867 3550  
pshoemaker@dewittstern.com

**Peter Tempkins**  
Brentwood, TN • 888 762 5771  
ptempkins@dewittstern.com

**David Oliver**  
North Hollywood, CA • 818 623 1170  
doliver@dewittstern.com



Sho-moves Transportation is a full service Entertainment transportation company. We provide trucking solutions for all types of freight for the live entertainment industry.

Our Goal...

Is to allow our clients to produce the show rather than deal with transporting the show. Shomoves has years of experience in trucking time sensitive shows throughout North America and Mexico. With trucks and trailers through our multiple terminal locations we can get it there On Time and when needed!

**Theatrical Tours    Film & Television    Expedited Freight    Live Sporting Events**  
**Concert Tour Transport    Circus Productions & Tours    Dedicated Drivers**

Terminals located in Las Vegas, NV    Toronto, Ontario,    Phoenix, AZ

**SMT**  
Sho-Moves Transportation

866-407-8881  
info@shomoves.ca



BY MICHAEL A. BECK

# *As this story*

is being written, Celine Dion is wrapping up a marathon world tour that landed on every continent but Antarctica. While the show was austere by some standards, it did have some compelling virtues, proving once again that less can be more when applied judiciously.



One of the more interesting aspects of the show was the fact that lights, sound, video and rigging were all supplied by Montreal based Solotech. Typically, the one stop shop production company lives at the local and regional level. There are only a couple of companies in the world that have the juice to do it all on a world tour that sells out “A” class arenas worldwide. Solotech is one of them.

Because of the varying preferences of tour and production managers as well as production designers and audio engineers, it’s extremely rare that a tour takes everything out of one shop. That’s a shame though because this show had a synchronicity that is not often seen.

The most prominent aspect of the production was video. The show played in the round, and the main part of the stage was rectangular running lengthwise in the arena, which is how up and down stage was oriented. Runways extended up into the seats stage right and left. At the center of the stage was an elevated platform with two steps that lead up to it on each side. The floor area of the steps, platform and ramps was comprised of video panels.

Above the stage was a monolithic Stealth video cage. The show opened with the cage sitting on the deck playing video content while Celine entered by way of an elevator in the center of the stage. She was lit from directly above so that all that could be seen was her coldly downlit image through the video on the stealth. While the elevator bit was a fairly predictable opening (given that there are only so many ways to enter a stage in the round), it really did have a great look.

The Stealth box was made up of eight panels hung in pairs. It could have become a bit old after a while if not for the way the system it hung from manipulated the array. It was flown off of a massive pivoting device that had four out-rigged arms which extended from the center of the system. When all of this came together, the system was able to achieve a broad variety of shapes. This system was created by Scene Ethique, also from Montreal.

When the panels came together to form a box, they were pulled in from the end of the arms they hung on. When they traveled out to the end, it gave the look of something much larger than it actually was. In one look, the middle of each panel was drawn back toward the center of the stage to create a star shape (of sorts). There were several other geometric configurations achieved as well throughout the show including a flat wall that presented video on each side and rotated.

The stage was also built by Scene Ethique and had an interesting kink. On what we are calling the up and down stage lines, there were 24 foot long conveyer belts that carried performers from one end of the stage to the other. Granted, it was a bit of a one trip pony. But it was sparsely used, which made it a good gag to have around. However, the part of the belt that was truly noteworthy was the way it traveled.

Scene Ethique Marketing Director, Ron Morrisette explained, “The [24foot] length of the belt system made it awkward to transport and negotiate around in buildings. So we designed it so that the last four feet on either end could flip back up on top of the main assembly.”

This ingenious solution answered one challenge that faced the system but there was another. Morrisette explained, “You can well imagine, it’s very difficult and time consuming to align the belt every day. So as part of the hinge system we developed to shrink the size of the system for transport, we made a roller assembly that was added to the top of the hinges so that when the ends were folded over, the belt remained perfectly aligned.”

In addition to keeping the belt lined up, the traveling system also maintained tension and protected the belt. A lot of searching went into finding the right material for

# Celine

DION



**Talent:** Marc Langis, Jean-Sébastien Carré, Claude "Mego" Lemay, Amanda Balen, Tammy To, Jennita Russo, André Coutu, Aaron Foelske, Kemba Shannon, Céline Dion, Dominic Duang Chaiduang, Miguel Perez, Zack Brazenas, Yves Frulla, Elise Duguay, Melissa Garcia, Mary Lou Gauthier, Nannette Fortier, Barnev Valsaint, Dominique Messier





**Audio Crew:** Marc Depratto, Marc-Olivier Germain, Guy "Pappy" Vignola, François "Franky" Desjardins, Marc Thériault, Toby Read, Robert Takayama, Marc-Olivier Magnan, Sylvain "Patou" Lemay, François Laforest, Charles Éthier

the belt. It had to be durable enough to handle the rigors of the road. It had to withstand wear of day to day handling as well as the prospect of moving out of a freezing cold truck into warm arena and vice versa. The belt also had to take stage paint as it had to match the surface area of the stage that did have video modules in it, which were painted with a wood grain effect.

The lighting was by no means insignificant though it wasn't what one would call a huge system either. The dynamic part of the rig was five pods (one on each corner and one in the center) that had four Vari\*Lite 3500's and flew in and out. Additionally, there were trusses that extended out from the corners of the rig that also added ambient wash along with two VL-3500's that hit each face of the stage from the positions in the seats. For the most part, the real heavy hitting was done by the follow spots.

There is not much to say about the audio portion of this show. That's usually good for the engineers. The simple fact is that the show sounded great. Celine Dion employs a wide range of intensity and there was never a time during the show when anything got lost.

This is a show that was in a theatre in Vegas for years. Indeed, most of the core production staff currently resides there. It's unquestionable that a sit down show is easier from every conceivable perspective than to take it out on the road and across the pond. However, there seemed to be no evidence whatsoever that this crew had the slightest problem with the transition.

How do you say, "Great job" in French? 🤔



## Vendors

Catering: Snakatak  
 Credentials: Access Pass & Design  
 Fan Experience: SLO Limited  
 Merchandising: Global Merchandising Services  
 Radios: AAA Communications  
 Sound / Lighting / Video / Rigging: Solotech  
 Stage: SceneEthique  
 Tourbusses: Roadhouse Transport  
 Travel Agent: Rock-on-Travel  
 Trucking: Truck 'n Roll





**Carpenters:** Kerry J. Rothenbach, Antoine Mallette, James Ray, Harrelson Jr., Louis Héon



**Automation:** Luc Berthiaume, Jean-Guy Lacroix

**Catering:** Ulrich Champion, Benjamin Albertson, Anne-Marie Rawlinson, Tina Felix Makin, Stuart Jackson, Zoe Smith, Siobhon Jane Simpson, Courtney Keene, Sarah Hopkins, Richard Marston





**Lighting Crew:** Vincent "Ti-cul" Cadieux, Yves "Lapin" Aucoin, David "Grande Patente" Bergeron, Benoit Paillé, Pierre St-Mars, Denis Ayotte, Jean-Francois "Titi" Malette, Alexandre Charland, Martin Rondeau

**Video Crew:** Vincent Campanella, Jean-Francois Marin, Jean-Francois Rivard, Martin Perreault, Mireille Veillet, Louis-Philippe Gaudreau, Serge Bergeron, Manouk Duchesne

**Wardrobe:** Artie J. Brown, Emilio Sosa, Denise "Zorba" Soteras



# Celine DION CREW

**Truck Drivers:** Sylvain Lagacé, Roland "Pee Wee" Coté, Patrick Mitchell, Jean-François Taillefer, Eric Leroux, Daniel Pépin (Lead Driver), Anick Turcotte, Pierre "pepe" Beaulieu (Co-Lead Driver), Luc Lebeau, Pierre Labelle, Marie-Josée Aspirot, Patrice Dubuc, Steve Collard, Patrick Bellefleur, Hélène St-Jean, Johanne Baron, Simon Losier

**Bus Drivers:** Randy Anderson, LeRoy Simmons, Em Lehman, Blair Camp (Head), Ron Trull Jr., Ron Trull Sr., James Platt, Troy Guillory, Russell Fleming

**Riggers:** Cindy Beaumariage, Charles Melton, Shawn Paul Gibson



Musical Director / Piano / Guitar: Claude Lemay  
Violin / Guitar / Backup Vocal: Jean-Sebastien Carre  
Musician / Guitar: Andre Coutu  
Drums: Dominique Messier  
Percussion: Nannette Fortier  
Keyboards: Yves Frulla  
Musician / Bass: Marc Langis  
Back up singer: Barnev Valsaint, Mary Lou Gauthier, Elise Duguay  
Choreographer: Jennita Janjira Russo  
Dancers: Amanda Balen, Zack Brazenas, Aaron John Foelske, Melissa Garcia, Miguel Perez, Kemba Shannon, Tammy Iquen To, Dominic Duang Chaiduang

Artist Manager: Rene Angelil  
Tour Director: Denis Savage  
Tour Manager: Patrick Angelil  
Tour Manager (Talent): Michel Dion  
Tour Accountant: Sylvia Hebel  
Marketing Director: Lina Attisano  
AEG Live Rep: James Robert Allison

Production Manager: Richard Mooney  
Assistant Production Manager: Shari Lynn Weber  
Stage Manager: Alexandre Miasnikof  
Asst. Stage Manager: Colin St-Jacques  
Production & Lighting Designer: Yves Aucoin  
Network administrator / Photographer: Philip Langlois  
Service manager: Alain Sylvestre  
Service Manager Assistant: Lind Diona  
Personal Assistant to the Artist: Manon Dion  
Tour Assistant: Martin Lacroix  
Production Assistant: Stephanie Duval  
Slotix rep: Elizabeth Curto  
Merchandise: William Wilson  
Management Associate: David Platel  
Head Wardrobe, Denise Soteras  
Wardrobe: Emilio Sosa  
Hairdresser: Tricia Jenkins  
Backline Technicians: Toby Read, Robert Takayama, Guy Vignola

Head Security: Nickolaos Skokos  
Security: Michael Robertson, Jeremy Roman, Vincent Saunders  
Head Lights: David Bergeron  
Lighting Technicians: Denis Ayotte, Vincent Cadieux, Benoit Paille, Martin Rondeau  
Lighting technician / Variolift Operator: Jean-Francois Malette  
Lighting Technician / Cameraman, Pierre St-Mars  
Head Automation: Jean-Guy Lacroix  
Automation Technician: Luc Berthiaume  
Video Director: Mireille Veillet  
Head Slotie – Switcher: Serge Bergeron  
Video Technician / CCU Operator: Jean-Francois Rivard  
Video Technician / Coolux Operator: Louis-Philippe Gaudreau  
Robotic Camera Operator: Manouk Duchesne  
Video technician / Cameraman: Jean-Francois Marin, Martin Perreault, Vincent Campanella  
Rigger: Cynthia Beaumariage, Shawn Paul Gibson





FOH sound engineer: François Desjardins  
 Monitor Engineer: Jean-Charles Ethier  
 Head Audio: Sylvain Lemay  
 Wireless sound engineer: Marc Theriault

Audio Technicians: Marc Olivier Magnan, Francois Laforest, Depratto, Marc-Olivier Germain  
 Head Carpenter, Antoine Malette  
 Carpenters: James Ray Harrelson Jr, Louis Heon

Catering: Ulrich Champion, Sarah Anne Hopkins, Stuart Jackson, Courtney Elizabeth Keene, Tina Makin, Anne-Marie Rawlinson, Benjamin Albertson, Richard Marston, Siobhon Jane Simpson, Zoe Jane Smith

# Taylor Tours

- Specializing in Coach Conversions and Tour Leasing
- Travel in style: Home away from Home
- We work HARD for you: 24/7/365
- Family owned and operated

Taylor Tours, Inc. 4210 W Opportunity Way • Anthem, AZ 85086  
 623-445-0111 • fax 623-445-0333  
[www.taylorstours.com](http://www.taylorstours.com) • [taylorstours@taylorstours.com](mailto:taylorstours@taylorstours.com)





*Image Is Everything*

FEATURING THE FINEST COACHES FROM  
**PREVOST**  
The Ultimate Class

*Celebrity*  
**COACHES®**

Toll free  
**877 - 5 STAR TOUR**  
[www.CelebrityCoaches.com](http://www.CelebrityCoaches.com)

**Arie Crown Theater® at McCormick Place®** *The coolest shows in Chicago happen here!*



- State-of-the-art, 4,200-seat theater with private loading dock.
- Superb acoustics, house lighting and sound.
- Easily accommodates shows of all sizes – 90' proscenium opening, 60' stage depth, large orchestra pit.

**2301 S. Lake Shore Drive**  
**Chicago, IL 60616**  
**tel 312.791.6196**  
**fax 312.791.6100**  
[www.ariecrown.com](http://www.ariecrown.com)

# PRODUCTION IS OUR PASSION

Our passion is your talent. From load in to load out and everything in between, Clearwing Productions is dedicated to superior customer service and support. With more than 25 years of experience, Clearwing has provided quality sights and sounds to thousands of concert goers each year.

*Rely on our experienced production team and raise the bar on your entertainment value.*

Thank you for voting us the  
**TOP DOG Award Winner** for  
**Regional Production Company of the Year**

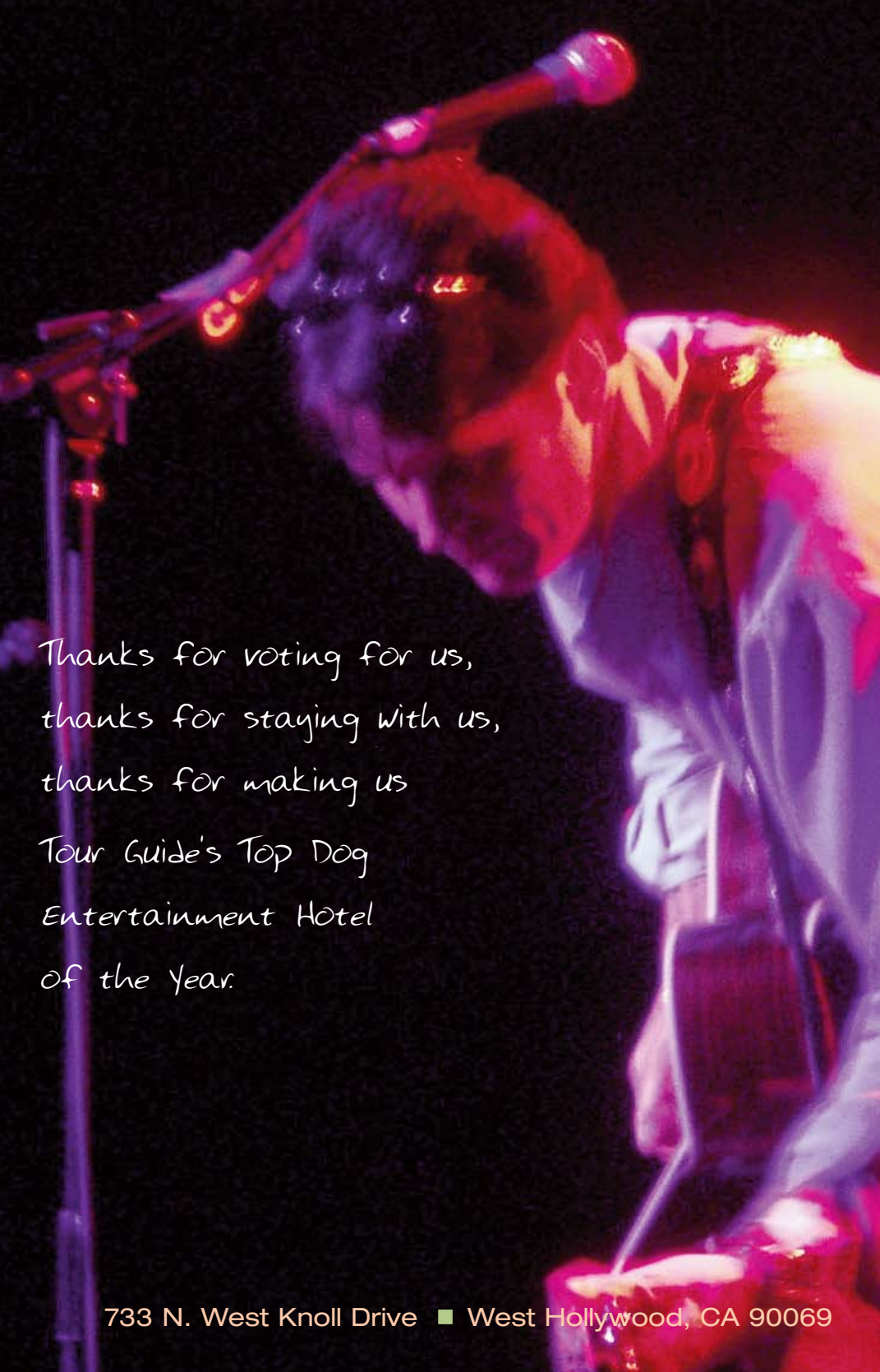


**CLEARWING**  
Productions Inc

[WWW.CLEARWING.COM](http://WWW.CLEARWING.COM)  
414 258 6333 | 602 850 6333



Choice digs  
for L.A. gigs.



Thanks for voting for us,  
thanks for staying with us,  
thanks for making us

Tour Guide's Top Dog  
Entertainment Hotel  
of the Year.

733 N. West Knoll Drive ■ West Hollywood, CA 90069

## LOCATION

- 5 minutes to the House of Blues, the Troubadour, the Key Club, the Viper Room, the Roxy and all the clubs on Sunset
- 10 minutes to the Wiltern, the Palladium, the Greek Theatre and the Kodak Theatre
- 15 minutes to LA Live and the Nokia Theatre, the Staples Center, the Hollywood Bowl, Shrine Auditorium, Gibson Amphitheatre and other renown venues

## LE PARC

- A pro-active staff experienced with coordinating all of your tour details
- All suite-property, convenient secluded location, in-suite dining available, Plasma TVs, Direct TV, on-demand movies, VHS and DVD players
- Accurate messages, personalized wake-up calls, multi-line phones with data ports and voice mail and complimentary in-suite Wi-Fi high-speed internet access
- On property restaurant and lounge, Rooftop Sky Deck with alfresco dining available, tennis court, heated rooftop pool & whirlpool, full service gym with spa facilities, masseurs & personal trainers by appointment and business center with PCs and Macs

## CALL

- 800.5.SUITES
- 310.855.8888

## CLICK

- [reservations@leparcsuites.com](mailto:reservations@leparcsuites.com)
- [leparcsuites.com](http://leparcsuites.com)



le parc

SUITE HOTEL

# Familiar Faces NEW PLACES

**At Tour Link,** a wide variety of hotels attend to network with travel agents and tour managers. Each year, there are new hotels in attendance and some who have come year after year. Some hotel reps have been known to be the "go to" person at a particular hotel over the years. However, this year presented some familiar hotel faces who are now representing new places. Tour Link is about networking, building relationships and doing business. Those who book hotel rooms for tours want to do business with people they know will take care of them. Do you remember that very familiar face in Mesa, but after a long night at Diamonds, can't remember which hotel he or she moved to? Look no further!



Hollywood's Sunset Strip. Andaz is about the celebration of personal preference. The joy of simple comforts. Uncomplicated, attentive service delivered with a genuine heart and a warm smile. Vibrant, innovative spaces designed to inspire the senses. A recognition of neighborhood and the embrace of local culture. Andaz is sophistication made simple.

## ALLISON BINNION



Number of years attending Tour Link?  
3 years

Number of years in the hotel business?  
9 years with Hyatt, 12 in the industry

Formal name of old hotel: Grand Hyatt Seattle is still the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Formal name of new hotel: Now we have two . . . Grand Hyatt Seattle & the Hyatt at Olive 8

Short description of your new property:  
Grand Hyatt Seattle - Exquisitely appointed, the Grand Hyatt Seattle is a unique property offering 425 stylish guestrooms and suites; all equipped with the fastest Internet technology available today. Highlights include our luxurious marble and granite laden guest bathrooms, which include deep soaking tubs and glass enclosed showers, large televisions for viewing digital, on-demand

movies, and a digital concierge.  
[grandseattle.hyatt.com](http://grandseattle.hyatt.com)

Hyatt at Olive 8 - The Hyatt at Olive 8 is Seattle's most revolutionary and exciting new hotel. The first in the city to receive LEED certification, the Hyatt at Olive 8 was built with a social conscience and an eye towards sustainability. The hotel features 346 luxury guestrooms and over 10,000 square feet of meeting space. Our restaurant, Urbane, features the finest ingredients available from the Pacific Northwest with menus changing daily based on market availability. In addition, the Hyatt at Olive 8 features Elaia. Elaia is dedicated to eco-friendly practices that minimize their impact on the earth. Treatments feature organic and market fresh ingredients and deliver a truly results-oriented experience.



## MICHELLE FREEDMAN

Number of years attending Tour Link?  
5 years

Number of years in the hotel business?  
11 years

Formal name of old hotel:  
Hyatt West Hollywood (Riot Hyatt)

Formal name of new hotel:  
Andaz West Hollywood

Short description of your new property:  
Although Andaz West Hollywood is the newest addition to the Sunset Strip, the hotel itself is rich in history and holds a special place in many Angeleno's hearts. The hotel first took life in 1963, as Gene Autry's Hotel Continental, and was Sunset Strip's first high-rise hotel. It was no surprise that this new monumental hotel would be a staple in history and a revolving door of culture based on its significant location on West



## MARK PENROD

Number of years attending Tour Link?  
4 years

Number of years in the hotel business?  
12 years

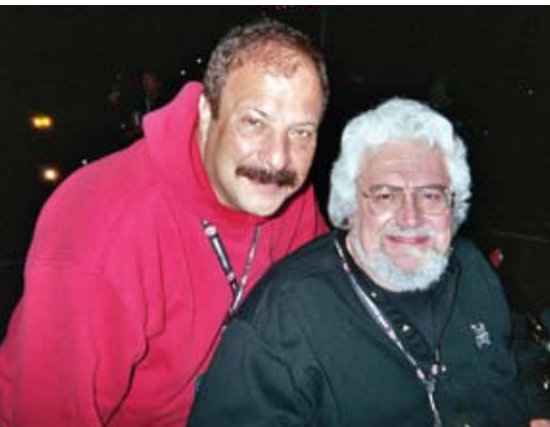
Formal name of old hotel:  
Red Lion Hotel Salt Lake City

Formal name of new hotel:  
Chase Suite Hotel Salt Lake City



**Short description of your new property:**

128 “all-suite” room limited service hotel located in the heart of Salt Lake City. Each room comes with a fully equipped kitchen. Amenities include: daily hot breakfast buffet, evening Manager’s Social M-Th, cable TV w/ HBO, complimentary airport & downtown shuttle, free high-speed internet access and grocery shopping service. Conveniently located within walking distance to Historic Trolley Square, shopping, entertainment and dining establishments.



**BARRY PODOB**  
*He's Back!*

Many have known Barry Podob as Le Parc’s go-to man for many years. During 2008, Podob spent his time at a different hotel, but now he is back!

Number of years attending Tour Link?  
6 years

Number of years in the hotel business?  
9 years

Formal name of old hotel:  
Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens,  
Los Angeles, CA

Formal name of new hotel:  
Le Parc Suite Hotel – West Hollywood, CA

**Short description of your new property:**

Perfectly situated in the heart of West Hollywood – one of L.A.’s liveliest districts – and less than 12 miles from Los Angeles International Airport, Le Parc Suite Hotel is one of the entertainment capital’s best full-service all suite hotels. Winner of Tour Guide Magazine’s coveted “2009 Top Dog Entertainment Hotel of the Year,” Le Parc more than ever, offers guests superior accommodations, exceptional amenities and the highest level of personal service – all of which

attract successful, discriminating, creative, “hip” and “trendy” travelers. These individuals, typified by the entertainment industry, prefer the hotel’s discreet setting where both privacy and comfort are its cornerstones. National and international musical performers – from acoustic rock to jazz fusion, from cover bands to the “up-and-coming”, from country to Hip Hop – seek lodging at Le Parc owing to its relative proximity to L.A.’s more renowned concert venues, as well as the hotel’s ability to seamlessly meet each band’s own specialized needs.

Le Parc offers 154 spacious guest rooms on three floors. Each room is a suite; with extra large accommodations ranging in size from 650 to 1,000 sq. ft. Luxurious furnishings and

tasteful boutique décor offer the ultimate home away from home. A sampling of our amenities include private balconies, separate living areas, queen-sized sleeper sofas, fireplaces, kitchenettes with microwaves, refrigerators, and coffeemakers, fully-stocked mini-bar, two TV’s with Direct TV and on-demand movies, Video Cassette, DVD and Stereo CD Player, along with large closets, dressing bureaus, irons and ironing boards, guest robes, hair dryers and luxurious personal product regimen formulated by the Institute Swiss. Our newly renovated rooftop Sky Deck is complete with new cabanas, new outdoor furniture, specialty lighting and Flat Screen TVs, along with complimentary Wi-Fi – not only in our public spaces, but also in each of our guestrooms. ☺

**We understand your needs**

“TSO has used Potenza Enterprizes since their first tour. They’ve grown with us from 2 trucks to 26. Their attention to detail, the caliber of their drivers & equipment is the reason we use them and will continue to do so. They are part of the TSO family”. Elliot Saltzman, Tour Director -Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

*Touring Transportation Specialists !!!*



**Potenza Enterprizes Inc.**  
**Touring Transportation Specialists**

Head Office 416.690.4190  
Toll free 1.877.832.5546  
potenzaent@on.aibn.com  
www.potenzaenterprizesinc.com

Thank you industry colleagues for voting

# UPSTAGING

Top Dog Lighting Company &  
Trucking Company of the year.

Your friends at,

# UPSTAGING

---

# UPSTAGING

[www.upstaging.com](http://www.upstaging.com) 815.899.9888

## CHICAGO

821 Park Avenue  
Sycamore, Illinois 60178  
Ph. 815-899-9888  
Fax 815-899-1080

## LOS ANGELES

415 North Canon Dr., Suite 1  
Beverly Hills, California 90210  
Ph. 310-859-9800  
Fax 310-859-2804





**Linkin Park congratulates the outstanding achievements  
of many of their team members.**

**Tour Link 2008 Top Dog Award Winners**

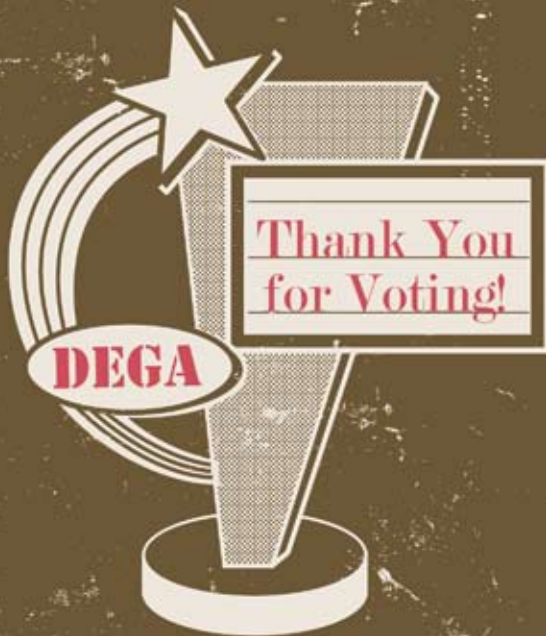
**Mike Amato** – Tour Manager  
**Hugo Rempel** – Production Coordinator  
**Kevin “Tater” McCarthy** – Monitor Engineer  
**Jeff Mauss** – Tour Accountant



**Jim Digby** – Production Manager  
**Kenneth “Pooch” Van Druten** – Front Of House  
**A.J. Pen** – Lighting Director  
**Stanley Twitchell** – Video Director  
**NPB Security Team**

**We thank each of them for their hard work and dedication toward our success.**

**The LP family is additionally grateful to those team members whose efforts are equally deserving  
of such an award and who continue to participate enthusiastically in the process.**



ROCK 'N' ROLL TOUR CATERING

EVERYONE AT DEGA WANTS TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT

THANKS FOR THE  
TOP DOG AWARD!

GREAT MUSIC DESERVES  
GREAT FOOD!

DEGACATERING INC.  
865.584.3258 | DEGACATERING.COM

Thank you for voting us the TOP DOG Award Winner for  
**Regional Production Company of the Year**



**JP**  
USA • AUSTRALIA  
**JONAS**  
PRODUCTIONS

*Corporate & Concert Services,  
Audio & Backline*

**1.877.GO.  
JONAS**

[jonasproductions.com](http://jonasproductions.com)

LAS VEGAS, NV  
JONAS PRODUCTIONS, INC.  
[info@jonasproductions.com](mailto:info@jonasproductions.com)  
702-795-4348

INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS  
[info@jonasproductions.com](mailto:info@jonasproductions.com)  
317-835-7826

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
BACKLINE AUSTRALIA  
[garry@backlineaustralia.com](mailto:garry@backlineaustralia.com)  
61-8214 8666





# Tour Link 2009

Once again, the production industry, and those who service it, convened in Mesa, AZ for the 8th Annual Tour Link Conference. With three days filled with events designed to foster networking, build relationships and discuss the impending issues of the day, the stage was set for those in attendance (in record-breaking numbers) to take this shindig wherever they saw fit. The soiree, as usual, took on its own life.

Where else can tour managers, vendors and hoteliers sit at the same table sharing a drink and conversation, and in the middle of the conversation an equipment manufacturer asks to join them? Nowhere. Where else on this planet can you have a discussion about surviving in this marketplace with rehearsal facilities, sound and microphone manufacturers, limo companies, production managers, travel agents, coach and truck companies, hoteliers, and a payroll service company all in one room? Nowhere.

Come with us over the next several pages, as we revisit the Tour Link experience presented by *Tour Guide Publications*. If you were there, perhaps this will give you cause to smile as you reminisce about the weekend. If you have never attended and don't seem to grasp why so many do, there is no replacement for witnessing the conference for yourself. In many respects it's the same as attending a rock show. You can watch a dvd or listen to the cd, but you have got to feel and taste it to experience it. Still, we hope everyone enjoys us looking back at a weekend brought to you by title sponsor Prevest and co-sponsors AAA Communications and Brown United.





# thumbs up for fun in the sun

\*sponsored by Midway Car Rental



Luis Cuadrado - Robertson Taylor



Carl Cordes - Professional Wireless Systems



Jim Digby



Todd LePare - Nocturne



Mike Whelan - All Access Transportation

## Ladies & Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

There was a buzz in the air. Something was about to happen that attracted a large number of people a day earlier than they *absolutely had to be there*. A promise of a return to childhood, a fountain of youth, and heaven knows as days give way to years, this was an inviting proposition. Still, logic dictates there is no such anomaly. Like Sasquatch and the Loch Ness Monster, it's an aberration.

The sun was doing what the sun does best in the desert the afternoon of January 22 in Mesa, AZ providing a warm reprieve for those who dared to venture into this unlikely promise and away from winters harsh chill enveloping nearly all of North America.

The outing at Golfland was met with enthusiasm and verve. A round of mini golf followed by grilled hamburgers and hot dogs was simply a precursor to the sounds of screams, laughter and shrieking as people perspired their way through laser tag. "I've got a strategy for laser tag," said Michelle Pekrol, who won her round.



Amanda King



Cynthia Ryan - Digital Litho



Mark Shore - Robertson Taylor

By the time you're seated behind the wheel of a miniature formula car listening to the whining of the 2-cylinder engine and feel the vibration of the car as you race around the second turn, one is hit by the actuality of what's happening. That seven year old within you will not allow anyone to pass on you the straight-away, and you're grinning from ear-to-ear. Somehow, if only for an afternoon, you have found the fountain of youth. And you have Midway Car Rental to thank for sponsoring the return to childhood.





watching the races



Dustin Templeton & Kevin Schwartzberg (Mac Specialist), Seth Sheck (Access Pass & Design), Jon Nevins (Shockwave Cargo)



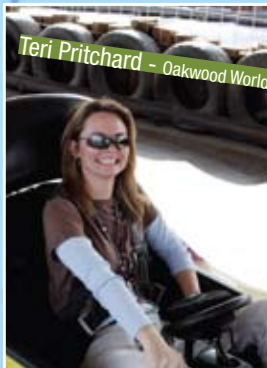
Hugo Renpel



Louis Escoto - Park Central Hotel & Hotel of South Beach



Rachel Schuetz - Dr. Dot



Teri Pritchard - Oakwood Worldwide



Dustin Templeton - Mac Specialist



Ani Aghamalian - Coast Anabelle & Safari Inn



Amanda King - Air Partner



Dave Paiva - Cube Services



Jessi Wallace & Kristin Searcy (Tour Guide Staff), Amanda King, Darren Taylor & Lisa Langley (Air Partner), Frank Campo



Frank Campo - Sutton Place Hotel-Toronto



Michelle Freedman - Hyatt Hotels - Andaz



X



*below column, top to bottom, left to right*

Seth Sheck (Access Pass & Design), Brent Danielson (MCI), Cynthia Ryan (Digital Litho) & Brent Maitland (MCI)  
Marion McKenzie (Radisson Winnipeg) Cindy Staub (Enterprise Rent a Car), Nick Gold (Entertainment Travel)  
Lori Smith & Mark Penrod (Hardage Group/Chase Suites), Michelle Kramer (Air Apparent), Nicki Goldstein (Midway Car Rental), Jay Sendyk (Sendyk & Co)  
Sonora Mues Byrd (Dr. Dot), Randy Hatcher (Event Operations Group), Melissa Diaz (Crowne Plaza Universal), Craig Knight (Event Operations Group), Teri Pritchard & Holly Parlatore (Oakwood Worldwide)

*below column, top to bottom, left to right*

Jennifer Clark & Evan Lawrence (Upstaging)  
Rachel Schuetz & Sonora Mues Byrd (Dr. Dot)

Cindy Staub (Enterprise Rent a Car), Seth Sheck (Access Pass & Design)

Katelyn Rine (Hyatt Hotels - Columbus), Michelle Freedman (Hyatt Hotels - Andaz), Louis Escoto (Park Central Hotel & Hotel of South Beach), Allison Binnion (Hyatt Hotels - Seattle)

Brandi Lindsey (Global Access Immigration Services) David Young (Sentient Flight Group)



*above column, top to bottom, left to right*

Michelle Pekrol (Star Gift Alliance), Katherine Ross (Metropolitan Hotels), Louis Escoto (Park Central Hotel & Hotel of South Beach)

Frank Stedtler (EFM), Bert Pare (Audio Analysts), Jay Sendyk (Sendyk & Co)

Allison Binnion (Hyatt Hotels - Seattle), Rick Jones (Event Operations Group), Eric Durrett (Event Operations Group), Seth Sheck (Access Pass & Design)



*opposite page, top to bottom, left to right*

Teresa Terry (White Tiger Productions), Amanda King, Darren Taylor & Lisa Langley (Air Partner)

Katie Mills & Chris Burnside (Aspen Travel), Frank Campo (Sutton Place Hotel-Toronto), Katherine Ross (Metropolitan Hotels)



# Opening Night Reception

It's the first night, and already there's a charge in the air. A sense of excitement. An awareness that this is something different. Typically, opening night reception is the first mixer at an event, the first opportunity to warm up to the experience that is about to unfold before you. At Tour Link Conference, however, by the time this reception got underway 25% of the attendees have played with each other at Golfland all afternoon. Therefore, the ice was broken for many and only a few people were too timid to mingle. Sponsors for opening night Reception were Sentient Flight, Radisson Winnipeg, and CAPS Universal.



## From Diamonds To Dust

The amount of alcohol that can be consumed by one group is... staggering. Drink was flowing as freely as amperes through a 50-watt tube. Energy was at a fever pitch. People were bouncing off the walls and pouring onto the outdoor deck. Conversations ranged from insightful and enlightened to the sublime. The room was electric. But, arrgh, the following morning.

The four corners of the entertainment industry, if there are four corners, gathered together at Diamonds night after night filled with similar purpose, to have fun and get to know each other. The Hospitality Suites put an exclamation point at the end of each day and were sponsored by UpLight Technologies, Soundcheck, Mac Specialists, Hyatt Hotels, All Access Pass & Design, and All Access Limo.

**Now you can provide your event staff with the best quality wireless communications equipment!**



### Why rent from BearCom?

We've been serving the entertainment industry for more than 27 years. Quality products and services, a wide range of choices, cost-effective pricing, great customer service . . . you can always depend on BearCom to keep you connected.

[www.BearCom.com](http://www.BearCom.com)

### Take action today!

Call **BEARCOM** and receive 10 FREE speaker mics\* with your next rental from BearCom when you mention promo code *M-ENCP200*.

For more information or to place your order, call  
Gina Fugitt:

**615.986.9103**

Or e-mail [Gina.Fugitt@BearCom.com](mailto:Gina.Fugitt@BearCom.com)  
For a quick rental quote!

**BearCom Nashville Branch**  
701 Broadway, #B-03  
Nashville, TN 37203

**MOTOROLA**  
Authorized Two-Way Radio Dealer

**The perfect two-way rental radio for your events: the CP200 portable!**

**FREE**  
Speaker Mics!\*



Buy ))) Rent ))) Service )))

**BEARCOM**  
Wireless Worldwide





DEAN



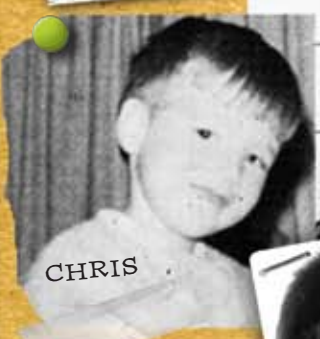
KIERSTEN



TARA



CHRISTY



CHRIS



NELSON



TONY



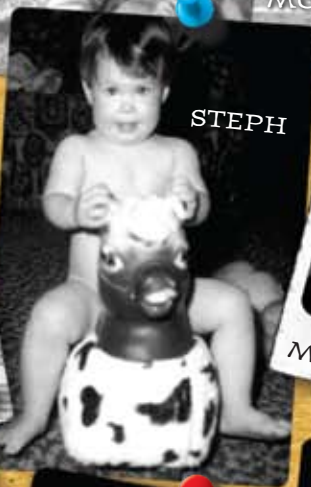
MOSES



GORDON



DAVE



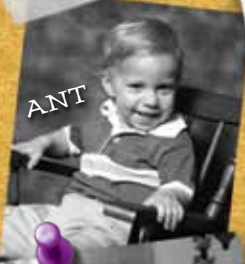
STEPH



MARK



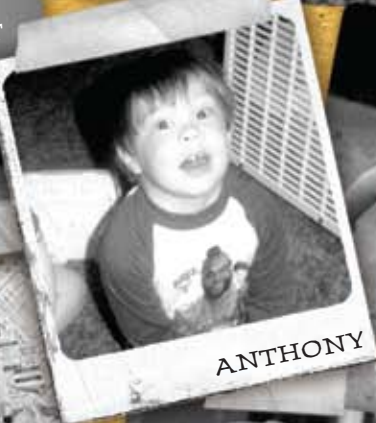
JASON



ANT



MATT



ANTHONY



DAVID



JEFF



RUDY



BART



JENTRY



SARAH

*thank you*

Thanks for voting us Service Company of the Year. We're so excited, we could pee a little.



CUBE

CUBEPASSES.COM



THANKS FOR VOTING US TOP DOG  
★ FOR EXCELLENCE IN 2008 ★



CLAIR

GLOBAL SERVICE & LIVE SHOWS SINCE 1966

WWW.CLAIRGLOBAL.COM · 717.626.4000

LITITZ · NASHVILLE · CHICAGO · LOS ANGELES · TORONTO · SWITZERLAND · JAPAN · AUSTRALIA





## Town Hall at Tour Link

The look and feel of what in the past were panel sessions took on a whole new dynamic this year at Tour Link. Gone are the table and chairs on a riser where five or six industry professionals sit as panelists while the audience sits in chairs set theater style facing the panel. This year the room was set up with chairs facing the center of the room from the four corners of the room leaving an open area in the middle of the floor where the moderator (or sometimes referee) held court.

Moderators for the town hall sessions were Chuck Randall and Stuart Ross. The moderator's task was to come to the session with general discussion points within a topic, assess the audience as to the individuals that could be called on to bring out the finer points of the given issue(s). What transpired was an occasional free for all banter underlying the passion this industry has for its professions. A room full of panelists not short of insight made these sessions the success they were.

The morning session on Friday was devoted to innovations in

production. The afternoon session discussed the needs and issues facing transportation and accommodations. Both morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday were devoted to doing business in today's economy.

To convey the sessions content in a manner that would be interesting to read would be much like reading the words to The Beatles Revolution #9 and feigning any understanding of the track... impossible.

The conference has grown to the point that in 2010 there will be multiple sessions going on simultaneously. The sessions will be narrow in scope in order to more precisely fulfill the needs of all the attendees. In addition to more panels, there will be very small 'by invitation only' roundtable discussions, mentor sessions and role-playing sessions.

Tour Link's Town Halls were sponsored by Sound Image, Andaz West Hollywood, Robertson Taylor, and Audio Analysts.

### Midway Car Rental: The Industry Specialist

Midway Makes the Road to Great Music an Easier One to Travel

- Latest makes & models, compact to luxury, production vehicles & vans
- Airport Meet & Greet
- Low mileage fully equipped vehicles
- Over 35 years of experience in Southern California
- Customized service
- Special industry rates

**Nicki Goldstein**  
818.523.8135  
nickig@midwaycarrental.com

*opposite page: left to right, top to bottom*

**Dave Paiva (Cube Services), Kari Obernesser (Lowes Denver), Lance Wascom (Tour Supply)**  
**Chuck Randall (Touring Personnel)**  
**Bruce Eisenberg (Audio Analysts)**  
**Lamar Sanford (D & S Classic Coach)**  
**Tour Link 2009 Town Hall**  
**Gina Fugitt (Bearcom) & Chuck Randall (Touring Personnel)**  
**Nick Gold (Entertainment Travel),**  
**Benny Collins (Touring Personnel), Peter Tempkins (Momentous Insurance Brokerage Inc)**  
**Mark Shore & Luis Cuadrado (Robertson Taylor),**  
**Janet Rogers (Wanetics LLC)**  
**Amanda King (Air Partner)**  
**Kevin Schwartzberg (Mac Specialist)**







We'll Take You There



The Rolling Stones • U2 • AC/DC • Metallica • Jimmy Buffett • Paul McCartney  
The Eagles • Sheryl Crow • Elton John • Fleetwood Mac • James Taylor • Coldplay  
These artists and more depend upon Senators Coaches for  
their luxury tour transportation needs.

Maybe that's why we've won the industry magazine's  
Coach Company of the Year award three years in a row.  
Thank you for letting us take you there.

**SENATORS**

256.272.0441 • [www.senatorscoach.com](http://www.senatorscoach.com)



...Nocturne wins in 2007 & 2008!

**Thanks To Tour Guide & Everyone who voted  
us 2008 Video Company Of The Year**



**HD & SDI SYSTEMS - V-9 Hi Res LED - V-Lite Medium Res LED  
PROJECTION - INNOVATION**

300 East Harvestor Drive  
DeKalb, Illinois, 60115 USA  
815 756-9600  
[www.nocturneproductions.com](http://www.nocturneproductions.com)



2008 Clients: Radiohead (pictured), Van Halen, Eagles, Michael Buble, Bon Jovi, Carrie Underwood, Elton John, Avril Lavigne, Def Leppard, James Taylor, Neil Diamond, Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus, Spice Girls, Dancing With The Stars, Mellencamp, Linkin Park, Superbowl XLI Pepsi Smash, Josh Groban, Journey, Madonna, Panic! @ the Disco, Enrique, WTTW Soundstage Chicago, Tim McGraw, Kiss, Stone Temple Pilots, Z-100, Robin Williams, Metallica, Paul McCartney Williams Gerard Corporation, The Police, American Idol, Nine Inch Nails, Bollywood, Radio City X-mas Spectacular, New Kids On The Block, So You Think You Can Dance?, NFL Kickoff, Nickelback, Rockband, Tina Turner, Live Nation

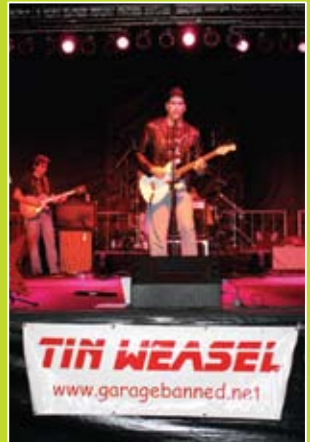
**The Industry Leader  
in Live Event Video Production**





\*sponsored by Prevost, MCI, Powersource Transportation, Sound Bridge, On Cue Systems, Backline Bob, Mesa Amphitheater & Convention Center, Shure

# bus BBQ



above, left to right  
 Pete Cavanagh, Greg Harold & Nevin Kleege (Kleege Industries), Teresa Terry (White Tiger Productions), Jim Evans (Mountain Productions) Jerrilyn McManus (VIP Transportation Services), Holly Parlatore & Teri Pritchard (Oakwood Worldwide), Mark Shore (Robertson Taylor) Tom Torrisi, Rick Dixon & Stuart Holdsworth (Roberts Brothers Coach) Evan Lawrence & Jennifer Clark (Upstaging), Stuart Ross (Tour Personnel) Tim Weasel rocks Tour Link's Bus BBQ Peter Tempkins (Momentous Insurance Brokerage Inc), Barry Podob (Kyoto Grand Hotel), Nick Gold (Entertainment Travel)



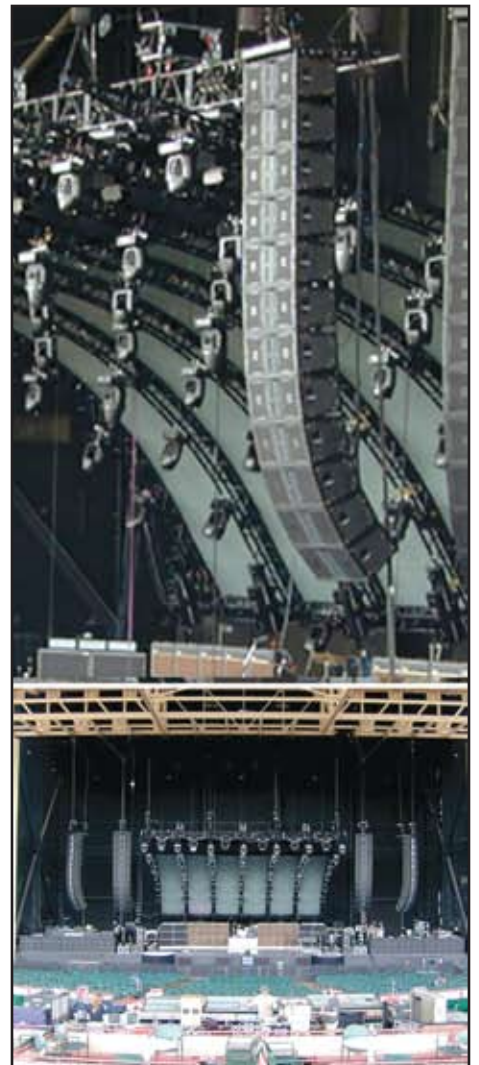


## Not Unlike van Gogh's 'Starry Night'

The desert can be a lonely place. Fatigue sets in after traveling in the sand and heat for days, just you and your dog. There's a can of beans heated by a small fire under the stars, and there are millions of them. But, that was another time and another life, and certainly not yours.

On this night the sky is filled with swirling clouds, stars ablaze with their own luminescence, and a bright crescent moon, not at all unlike Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*. However, you are far from alone nestled in the midst of friends, acquaintances, and business associates in a setting redolent of campfires in the old west encircled by wagons and horses. Only, the wagons and horses are replaced by entertainer coaches and a stage, and instead of a campfire heating beans, there is a bar-b-que of chicken, beef and fish with all the fine trimmings. Ah, the bus BBQ.

Sponsors of this extravaganza were Prevost, MCI, Roberts Brothers, Entertainment Coaches of America, Kewl Komfort, D & S Classic Coach, Powersource Transportation, Kleege Industries, Sound Bridge, CAT, LA and Event Operations Group.



**Service you can  
depend on...  
People you  
can trust...**

**...and the most  
technologically advanced  
inventory in the business!**

**800.962.9422  
sound-image.com**



*Make it happen!*

**877.654.4438**

[michelle@stargiftalliance.com](mailto:michelle@stargiftalliance.com) [jimmy@ecotourswag.com](mailto:jimmy@ecotourswag.com)





**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO DOC MCGHEE  
& THE ENTIRE  
MCGHEE ENTERTAINMENT STAFF  
FOR THE  
TOP DOG PLATINUM  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Louis Messina & The Messina Group/AEG





DOC, YOU'RE AN ORIGINAL.  
THANKS FOR ALL THE  
LAUGHS ALONG THE WAY!  
-Bill Silva







## Paying Homage to the Elite

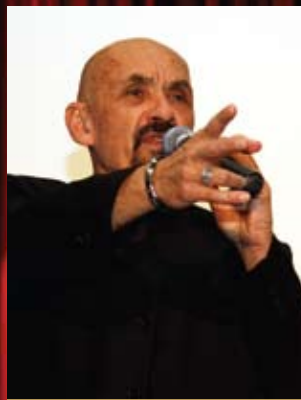
The Top Dog Awards have become the most coveted of awards presented to this industry. The reason for this is the nominations process. For eight years, since the first award was presented, you, the professionals in the industry, have nominated and voted for the Top Dogs. Thus, genuinely making *Tour Guide Publications* Top Dog Awards, the industry award.

Each year, in addition to all other awards, *Tour Guide Publication's* presents a Platinum Award. This is bestowed on the person who has positively impacted this industry over the course of his/her career. Past recipients are Benny Collins, Barbara "Mother" Hubbard, Denis LeFleur, Gerry Stickells, Danny Zeliesko, Alice Cooper and Marty Hom. This year the Platinum Award went to Doc McGhee, a man who directed the careers of several artists to superstar status and promoting the status of many production crew and vendors at the same time.

This year, the presentation was enhanced by a video tribute to McGhee that included comments and stories from Industry leaders. Produced by Robert Swope of Sunrise Entertainment, the video was the hit of the evening and left the attendees in tears of laughter. Promoters Ron Delsner and Osie Hopie were particularly funny and generated a feeling of humor and respect for Doc that reminded everyone in attendance of the unique personality of the man being honored.

Those who attended Tour Link gathered together on the final evening of the conference for a nice dinner and to pay homage to the industry's elite. That, and to those that received Tour Guide's Top Dog Award, have homage paid them.

The evening gala was brought to you by; Prevost, MCI, Roberts Brothers Coach, Nocturne, Accurate Staging, Shockwave Cargo, Wizard Productions, Pyrotek, Vari\*Lite, EFM Freight, Upstaging, Rock-It Cargo, Tait Towers, Cube Entertainment, On Cue, Sound Bridge and Sunrise Entertainment.



## and the TOP DOG winners are...

\*sponsored by Prevost, MCI, Roberts Brothers Coach, Nocturne, Accurate Staging, Shockwave Cargo, Wizard Productions, Pyrotek, Vari\*Lite, EFM Freight, Upstaging, Rock-It Cargo, Tait Towers, Cube Entertainment, On Cue, Sound Bridge and Sunrise Entertainment.



### Production Manager of the Year Jim Digby

This award is the result of the amazing team our client has allowed me to construct. We are continuing to evolve and improve after seven years together as we attempt to create the ultimate touring production staff. Several of this year's top dog recipients prove that we are almost there. I am eternally grateful to those team members whose efforts are equally deserving of such an

award and who enthusiastically participate in the process. With grateful special thanks to our stage manager Ethan Merfy who has single handedly taken the team dynamic to the next level.

*Sincere and humble thanks, Jim Digby*



### Production Coordinator of the Year Hugo Rempel

I'd like to thank: All the local production teams, the runners who actually ran, and the popular and easy to work with Linkin Park band. Even though I am a bit of an anomaly in the touring industry (being Canadian), I'd like to thank my road brothers and sisters from the Linkin Park family for making me feel welcome to an already

sound team and making our time on the road together not time served, but time well spent.

Special thanks to Jim Digby for reminding me that it takes a heart and soul, as well as brians and balls to make each day on the road not suck for everyone else, and "Knuckles" for keepin' it (and me) real!



### Monitor Engineer of the Year Kevin "Tater" McCarthy

I would like to thank everyone at Audio Analysts, Adamson, Pooch, Paul White, Jim Digby and the whole Linkin Park crew, Martin Walker and the whole Judas Priest crew and my wife Sookie and my kids for there endless support. This is going on my 23rd year of touring and the first time I have gone to Tour Link and I will go again when possible.





**Tour Manager of the Year**  
**Mike Amato**

Thanks for the honor! I have to thank everyone, especially my peers. Without that high standard, there would be nothing to achieve. I firmly believe that by setting the bar high, we all as an industry benefit. Look at the incredible staff assembled for Linkin Park in 2008.

That high standard shows in the nominations, and the proof is in the award winners. I kidded with Larry Smith that it always appears that I win these things when I'm not in attendance! Low & behold...Congratulations to all.

Mr. Amato was on tour with Staind at the time of Tour Link. A man's gotta work, but we missed him nonetheless.



**Coach Conversion Co. of the Year**  
**Roberts Brothers Coaches**

Jason Sommerville accepts the award

Roberts Brothers Coach would like to thank Tour Guide Publications/ Tour Link for yet another successful show and the honor of accepting the Top Dog Coach Conversion Company Award for 2008. We would like to thank our staff, who make our daily operations a success and our wonderful clients who have given us the opportunity to serve them. We look forward to providing even better service in 2009.



**Lighting Director of the Year**  
**Butch Allen**

Butch thanks: Dave, Alex, Eddie, Wolfgang - Van Halen; Donnie, Joey, Jordan, Jonathan, Danny - New Kids On The Block; Irving Azoff, Harry Sandler, Jared Paul - Your faith and trust humbles me;

Michael Brokaw - You had a four year plan. You are a man of your word; Jesse Blevins, Phillip Ealy - my LD's and partners in crime; Epic/Ed and Teds: Kevin Forrester, Hamish Hamilton - and their AMAZING crews. You save me from myself; Ian Kinnersly, Bobby Schneider - Production Managers to the stars; Seth Robinson - Programmer to the stars; Bart Durbin, and the Bickel Family Riggers - We can't turn it on if it's not in the air. Thanks for hanging my mess; All the fine designers who over 20 years allowed me to run their shows, and study at their sides; Loree - the love of my life, and my daily inspiration.

*Keep Living The Dream, Butch Allen*

**Service Company of the Year**  
**It's a TIE!**

Cube Services & Tour Supply



Cube Services' Dave Paiva accepts the award Recently we were ask by Tour Guide Publications to send a short paragraph thanking everyone for our Top Dog Award. So I decided to have a contest among the staff, here are the winners:

"After 20 years in this wacky business it still kicks my ass how much satisfaction we get out of serving our customers, who are, after all is said and done, more family than friends and

way more friends than "customers". I guess that's just the best situation one could have for a job. We love you all, thank you!"

"We would like to thank Santa, The Easter Bunny and The Tooth Fairy, because without them and all of you who would have believed in us?"

"If life is a waste of time, and time is a waste of life, then let's all get wasted together and have the time of our lives."

Thank you, Dave, Stephanie, Mark and the all of Santa's Little Cubers  
*Lots of love, The staff of Cube Services*  
cubepasses.com



**FOH Engineer of the Year**  
**Ken "Pooch" Van Druten**

Ken "Pooch" Van Druten thanks the following vendors and people for their support: Tour Guide Magazine, Linkin Park, Jim Digby, Mario, Cookie, Albert, Bruce, Bert and the entire staff from Audio Analysts, Kevin and Evan from Atomic Pro Audio, Systems Engineer Brett Stec, Systems Engineer Tommy Dimitrioff, and all the local crew members that worked hard every day helping with the touring Linkin Park sound crew.

Ken "Pooch" Van Druten is an independent FOH Engineer with many years of experience in the music industry. Check out more at: [evilentertainment.net](http://evilentertainment.net) | [poochblog.evilentertainment.net](http://poochblog.evilentertainment.net)

**Tour Supply's Larry Martin & Lance Wascom accepts the award**



All of us at Tour Supply are honored to have received the "Service Company of the Year" award. It means a great deal to all of us and we are truly grateful. We are very lucky to have such incredible customers... many of whom have been with us since we started the company. The same goes for our employees, we have very little turnover in the company and we're very lucky to

have such a great crew. The manufacturers we work with are also key partners in our success and we're also very grateful for the relationships we have with the manufacturers. There are so many friends, customers, vendors, and employees we would like to thank and the list is indeed very long. Also, we would like to send out a special thanks to everyone who attended Tour Link 2009. We believe in this event and want to do everything on our power to make it even bigger and better in 2010!

On behalf of my business partner, Larry Martin (who taught me everything I know and I still don't know anything), and I thank you all very, very much!



**Artist Hotel of the Year**  
**Le Parc Suites Los Angeles, CA**

*To all who voted. To all who booked rooms. To all who stayed.* Thanks for making Le Parc Suite Hotel winner of Tour Guide Magazine's coveted "2008 Top Dog Entertainment Hotel of the Year."

Sam Ebeid, General Manager  
Barry D. Podob, Director of Sales  
Jennifer Pochedly, Reservations Manager  
- and all of the staff at Le Parc Suite Hotel who work to provide you with the ultimate in service.





**Pyro Company of the year**

**Pyrotek** Doug Adams accepts the award

Pyrotek Special Effects, along with its sister companies Laser Design Productions and Aqua Visual FX, were pleased to be a major sponsor and contributor to *Tour Guide/Mobile Production Pro's* annual Tour Link Conference, in Mesa, Arizona. Thrilled to accept the award for Special Effects Company of the Year for the second consecutive year, President and designer, Doug Adams, was on hand to accept the award on behalf of Pyrotek.

Continuing to expand on the presence of effects in 2008, there were some definite strides and advancements with new effects inside and outside the realm of "pyro". The latest water screen technology called Aqua Visual FX was recognized as one of three ESTA's New Rock Our World Awards for the development of the Aqua Visual FX Water Screen. It has added a new aspect to the effects list, leaving viewers stunned while in presence of this graphical water screen. Laser Design Productions also enhanced the touring world with an arsenal of full-color, high-powered, air-cooled diode lasers that have created spectacular show designs that could be seen in tours such as Metallica's latest World Tour. Pyrotek Special Effects also had its share of new effects and creativity including the launch of their latest item, The Fire Screen. This modular system was revealed in 2008 for both the Jonas Brothers Summer Tour as well as the Trans Siberian Orchestra. Pyrotek Special Effects would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in their accomplishments throughout the year. A big thanks goes out to the Pyrotek family and all the Production Managers, LD's, Tour Managers and those who've continued to support and allow us to bring the latest and greatest to the entertainment world.



**Video Company of the Year**  
**Nocturne Productions**

Todd Lepere accepts the award



Nocturne would like to thank Tour Guide Publications and everyone that voted for us as Top Dog Video Company of the year. We'd also like to thank the many artists, designers, production and artist managers that chose Nocturne for their video needs. Most importantly we'd like to thank our talented crews and support personnel that set us apart from the others in our field.

Nocturne was the first company with the vision of incorporating video enhancement to the touring industry and after 30 years we're still at the top of our game. Winning this award confirms our commitment of staying cutting edge with the latest equipment and our ability to execute the most demanding productions.

**Staging Manufacturer of the Year**

**TAIT Towers**

Winky accepts the award



"Tait Towers has had a fantastic year, from Bon Jovi's record breaking Lost Highway tour to Radio City's fabulous Christmas show, we've seen set designers stretch our expertise in every direction."

"Our thanks to the readers of Mobile Production that voted for us; the designers, the carpenters, and all production personnel out there: And on a personal note, here's an award for everyone at Tait Towers, they're all Top Dogs." *James 'Winky' Fairorth*

**Security Company of the Year**  
**NPB**

Brian Butner accepts the award



We would like to first thank Tour Guide/Link for having such awards where those in our industry can be recognized by their peers and all of those that voted for us. We would especially like to thank all of our clients that actually give us the opportunity and platform to display our

services in an area that we are extremely passionate and enthusiastic about. Last, but not least we would like to thank all of our Risk Management Agents that are out there on the front line providing the services that has come to be expected from NPB. *Sincere Thanks, Norman, Pete & Brian | Owners NPB Companies, Inc.*

**Coach Company of the Year**  
**Senators Coach**

John Aiken accepts the award



Senators would like to thank our loyal customers, many of whom have been with us since the 70's and 80's. We are very proud to receive this honor and recognition for the third consecutive year.

It's a team effort at Senators, from our conversion shop building the best coaches anywhere, to our maintenance shop that keeps the coaches in top notch condition, to our drivers providing exceptional service. Everyone contributes and takes pride in what we do. Thanks also to Larry Smith and Tour Link for providing the forum for the awards and bringing the industry together every year. Thanks to all!!!

**Regional Production Company**  
**It's a TIE!**

**Jonas Productions & Clearwing**

On behalf of Jonas Productions Inc. I would like to thank all of our loyal clients and vendors for the support this past year. Communication is the key to our success just like any other good business we listen to all of you.



Clearwing's Gregg Brunclik accepts the award  
Many thanks to all that voted for us. Our production teams in the field from both Wisconsin and Arizona are honored to receive this award. It is our passion and commitment to provide the exemplary levels of service you've recognized with this affirmation. Best regards to all our friends, clients and peers!!!



Platinum Lifetime Achievement Award Winner  
**DOC MCGHEE**



**Accommodations of the Year**

**Artist Hotel**  
Le Parc Suites; Los Angeles, CA

**Crew Hotel**  
Mandalay Bay; Las Vegas, NV

**Personnel of the Year**  
**FOH Engineer**  
Ken "Pooch" Van Druten

**Lighting Designer**  
Butch Allen

**Lighting Director**  
A.J. Pen

**Monitor Engineer**  
Kevin "Tater" McCarthy

**Production Coord / Assist**  
Hugo Rempel

**Production Manager**  
Jim Digby

**Stage Manager**  
Scotty Chase

**Tour Accountant**  
Jeff Mauss

**Tour Manager**  
Mike Amato

**Video Director**  
Skip Twitchell

**Transportation of the Year**  
Coach Company  
Senators

**Coach Conversion Company**  
Roberts Brothers Coach

**Personal Transportation Company**  
Enterprise Rent A Car  
Ent'ment Division

**Trucking Company**  
Upstaging

**Vendors of the Year**  
**Catering**  
Dega Catering

**Lighting Company**  
Upstaging

**Manufacturer**  
Prevost

**Merchandise**  
Bravado

**Regional Production Company**  
Jonas Productions  
Clearwing

**Rehearsal Studio**  
Centerstaging

**Security**  
NPB

**Service Company**  
Cube Services, Inc.  
Tour Supply

**Sound Company**  
Clair

**Staging / Rigging Company**  
TAIT Towers

**Video Company**  
Nocturne

**Venues of the Year**  
**Large Venue**  
Cynthia Woods Mitchell  
Pavillion; The Woodlands,

**Small Venue**  
Nokia Theater;  
Dallas, TX



**Alan Poulin** Photo

LIVE CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY

760.644.9938 alanmpoulin@mac.com

www.AlanPoulinPhoto.com

CAPTURING LIVE IMAGES FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS



# The Award Goes To...



## Putting NPB Companies on the Map

by Michael Waddell

Norman Smith, Pete Beattle & Brian Butner



And the winner of *Tour Guide's* Top Dog 2008 Security Company of the Year is...

In January 1998

Norman Smith, Pete Beattle and Brian Butner took a leap of faith pooling their combined experiences, talents and resources and formed NPB Companies. Initially, their purpose was to consult and assist venues in developing their own "in-house" event staffing programs. In short order however, they had recognized and filled a need in the greater Kansas City area for a more upscale special event and risk management service. Thus began their journey.

Smith, Beattle and Butner had all began their careers at entry-level positions with local security companies. "Each of us started from the ground up and worked every aspect of security," Pete Beattle told *mPm* via telephone from Germany while working on the current Tina Turner tour. Combined, Smith, Beattle and Butner have over 50 years experience in entertainment risk management.

NPB focuses on three areas of service: risk management touring, event staffing and risk management consulting. Staffed with 23 professionals in their touring division Beattle told us, "What we provide is a very personal service for our clients. Security is based on individualism. Our thought when saying individualism is what the norm is for this business, but our focus is team effort and paying attention to what the clients full needs are. We are the

entertainers' ambassadors." The company has an impressive roster of touring clients including Pearl Jam, Marilyn Manson, Christina Aguilera, The Eagles, Rage Against the Machine, Linkin' Park, Kelly Clarkson, and the list goes on and on.

Having an opportunity to gain a new client is not the least of NPB's accomplishments. Another measure of success is retaining clientele. "We have been very fortunate with customer loyalty," said Beattle. "We have worked with Pearl Jam for 10 years, Marilyn Mason for nine years and The Eagles, Christina Aguilera and Linkin' Park for nearly eight.

Pearl Jam was NPB Companies first touring client. Sarah Seiler of the Pearl Jam team explained, "NPB has been an integral part of the Pearl Jam family for well over 10 years now," she said. "Over the past decade, Pete Beattle and his crew have grown and evolved with Pearl Jam, helping to devise and implement top-tier security systems around the world ranging from intimate club shows to 80,000 plus capacity festivals. With crowd safety their number one priority, Pearl Jam has complete trust in NPB, knowing that they will do everything in their power to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone in attendance, as well as the band and crew."

The Event Staffing division includes about 225 staff servicing the Kansas City metro area. The company works with the facility manager, promoter, and/or show manager to develop a management program to fulfill all event staff personnel requirements. Every event staff employee is required to

receive a minimum of four hours of classroom style structure training. Part of this training includes familiarization with seating, building policies, complaint procedure and guest accommodation locations. NPB provides ticket stubbers, credential checkers, ushers, general crowd management, uniformed unarmed security enforcement and off-duty local law enforcement to the greater Kansas City area.

NPB's consulting division has helped plan, execute and consult with some of the largest events in the world, including: Lollapalooza Music Festival, Austin City Limits Music Festival, Big State Musical Festival, and Viva Latina Music Festival in Mexico City to name a few. This division can also develop, evaluate and restructure any current Event Staff program.

Providing security and risk management needs for the opening ceremony and a number of evening ceremonies for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, NPB Companies can add being a part of history to their inventory of accomplishments. As further testimony to their abilities, this event was coordinated with over 350 staff and three companies.

It was no surprise to Pearl Jam that their trusted security company took home from Tour Link a coveted Top Dog Award. "NPB's professionalism and commitment to their clients regarding safety is unmatched," said Sarah Seiler. "They are a highly skilled, experienced group of individuals who also know how to be calm, caring, cool and collected under every circumstance, big and small." 🐕



**A Recognized Leader In**  
**Entertainment Safety Services**



**Companies, Inc.**

- **In-House Staffing Development Program**
- **Event Safety Planning and Consulting**
- **Touring Risk Management Services**
  - **Event Staffing Services**
    - **Entertainers**
    - **Athletes**
    - **Actors**

**913.281.2887**

**[www.npbcompanies.com](http://www.npbcompanies.com)**

**Providing Professional Services  
For First Class Clients**



Intelligence



Performance



Quality



Phoenix - Atlanta  
866-294-3026

**mp**  
**PRO**

The Global  
Production  
Industry  
**search**  
**engine**

**MOBILE**  
**PRODUCTION**  
**PRO.COM**



**TAIT**  
T O W E R S

Quality Shows

**TOUR SUPPLY INC.  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU  
FOR MAKING US THE  
SERVICE COMPANY OF THE YEAR!**



**OTTO IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE ONLY  
HOLOGRAPHIC BADGE IN THE INDUSTRY**

**BADGES**

**POUCHES**



**HOLOGRAPHIC BADGES**

*"Thank you! Just as you promised,  
our Holographic Badges look spectacular!"*  
Terry, Production Coordinator



- Satin Stick-ons • Tour Itineraries
- Laser Foil Badges • Wristbands
- Tickets • Luggage Tags

*Printing & Entertainment Graphics*

200 Clark Street • Dayton, KY 41074 • 859-291-7700 • [www.ottoprint.com](http://www.ottoprint.com)

**THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SECURITY BADGES FOR OVER 30 YEARS**



# TylerGT

Designed to Help You Go Green.

## Reduced Emissions and Fuel Consumption

Higher density truck packs mean fewer trucks on the road

## Eliminates Fixture Cases

Tyler GT™ protects your fixtures without the need for cases

## Saves Time

Dramatically reduces load-in and load-out time



Available in 5', 8', and 10' sections

On truss storage eliminates need for cases

Legs can be removed or relocated on the truss during your show.

Adjustable legs allow truss to be stacked for transportation and storage

Center loading design allows a high density, uniform load of large format automated and conventional fixtures



765.221.5050

www.tylertruss.com

## ADVERTISER'S Index

Access Pass & Design.....	11
Accurate Staging.....	11
AEG-The Messina Group.....	38
Alan Poulin Photography.....	43
Arie Crown Theater.....	18
Atlanta Sound & Lighting.....	7
BearCom.....	29
Bill Siva Entertainment.....	39
Celebrity Coaches.....	18
CLAIR.....	31
Clay Paky.....	IFC
Clearwing.....	18
Coach Quarters.....	9
Cube Services.....	30
Dega Catering.....	24
Dewitt Stern Group.....	11
EPS - Engine Power Source.....	9
Illusion Sound and Light.....	21
Jonas Productions.....	24
Le Parc Suite Hotel.....	19
LP Touring Inc. ....	23
Mega-Stage.....	7
Midway Car Rental.....	32
Motor Coach Industries (MCI).....	IBC
NPB Companies.....	45
Nocturne.....	35
Otto Printing.....	47
Potenza Enterprizes.....	21
Precise Corporate Staging.....	46
Prevost.....	BC
Professional Wireless Systems.....	4
RIC Corporation.....	4
Roadhouse Coach.....	21
Roberts Brothers Coach.....	1
Senators.....	34
Show Star Nashville.....	5
ShoMoves Transportation.....	11
Shure.....	2
Sound Image.....	37
Soundcheck Nashville.....	6
Star Gift Alliance.....	37
TAIT Towers.....	46
Taylor Tours.....	17
Tour Supply.....	47
Truck 'N Roll.....	48
Tyler Truss Systems.....	48
Upstaging.....	22

new cross dock and storage facilities in Montreal  
40 trucks for tours, full and partial loads across North America

# TRUCK 'N ROLL

BECAUSE ON TIME... IS AHEAD OF TIME

HEAD OFFICE: 1 888 TRUCK 51  
GHISLAIN@TRUCKNROLL.COM  
TRUCKNROLL.COM

# MCI Updates the **Ultimate** Smooth Ride DesignworksUSA-styled **TOUR BUS**



Now featuring 450 HP 2007 EPA Compliant Cummins ISM, Wide-Ride Suspension, Electronic Stability Control, Reverse Sensing System, additional 12 or 24 Volt Alternator, and many other enhancements made with input from our customers.

To schedule a test drive today,  
call **1-866-MCICOACH.**



[www.mcicoach.com](http://www.mcicoach.com)

© 2008 Motor Coach Industries, Inc. All rights reserved.



The updated 2009 J4500 conversion shell shown with 2 optional slide-outs.

The number one selling Tour Bus in the USA continues to improve for the conversion market. The J4500c body looks great and rides smooth with our Wide-Ride Suspension featuring Koni FSD shocks. The MCI J4500 conversion shell comes standard with class-leading 89" of interior headroom and can be equipped with up to 3 slide-outs. For 2009, the EPA-compliant engine significantly reduces emissions, while providing great fuel economy and performance. To learn about the many 2009 improvements we've made with feedback from our customers, converters and operators, please call us at 1-847-285-2171.





# THE INDUSTRY'S CHOICE

The world-class PrevoSt XLII Entertainer is the choice for best overall performance.

PrevoSt has the most stringent manufacturing tolerances and has been committed to the Entertainer industry for more than 30 years.

Nobody goes the extra mile like we do!



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Juan Lepe, Sales Manager, Entertainer Market  
800-897-7386 or visit [WWW.PREVOSTCAR.COM](http://WWW.PREVOSTCAR.COM)



**PREVOST**

The ultimate class.