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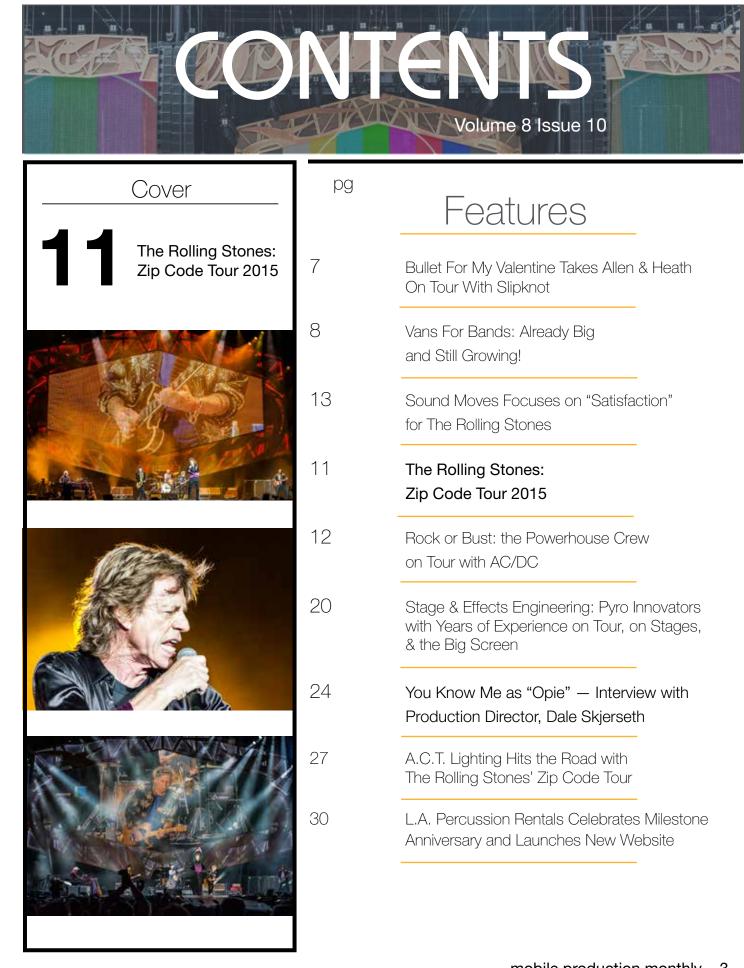
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# Notes from the Publisher

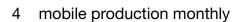
Two stadium tours. One Production Director. That's Dale Skjerseth for you, otherwise known as Opie—the Production Director of The Rolling Stones and AC/DC and long time friend. In this issue we take a look at what it takes to keep two of the biggest rock and roll bands of all time on tour all over the country at the same time—with features of the tours themselves and highlights on transportation company, Sound Moves, pyro extraordinaire, Stage & Effects Engineering, and a private interview with Opie, himself.

In addition, we've included some Industry related news pieces that we think would interest and educate our readers. We have always been about the people in the Industry on all sides, whether it be crew members, bus and truck drivers, hotel staff, production manufacturers and distributors, and the list goes on. We have always been and always will be about the people that not only contribute their time and energy to their craft, but those with a passion for what they do. It's those individuals that keep our Industry not only great, but growing and progressing. It's a small world and even smaller Industry and we like to shine light on topics and stories that deserve recognition.

With that, I will close with my usual invitation to all of you to join us at the next Tour Link Conference in Palm Springs, CA January 12-14. In addition to our Golf Tournament, Transportation BBQ, Service Day hosted by Just A Bunch Of Roadies, two days worth of panel discussions, and the Top Dog Awards Show, Jim Digby with the Event Safety Alliance will be hosting a day of Event Safety Certification classes the day before, on January 11th. Last years event broke a 35 year attendance record with 700 attendees, and this year is shaping up to be even bigger. I hope to see you all there.

Larry Smith







#### *mobileproductionpro.com*

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C-12



#### **BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE TAKES ALLEN & HEATH ON TOUR WITH SLIPKNOT**

British heavy metal band, Bullet For My Valentine (BFMV), recently supported Slipknot on their latest tour, Summer's Last Standing, carrying Allen & Heath mixers to manage FOH and Monitors.

Comprising a GLD-80 at FOH, with an iDR-48 MixRack and iLive-R72 rackmount Control Surface for monitors, BFMV's FOH Engineer, Dave Nutbrown, and monitor engineer, Adam Boole, connected the systems via ACE using a single CAT5 cable.

"Adam controls the initial levels on iLive, the heartbeat of the system. I'm picking up the digital split on the GLD-80," said Nutbrown.

The Allen & Heath mixers were selected because of the excellent sound quality, reliability and compact size, which make them easy to take out on tour.

"Everything is right there in this great little package, it makes it so much easier for me. The FX are great and we are getting really good results during our show," explains Nutbrown. "Sound can vary depending on where the venue is located, indoors or out, but I'd say the GLD always behaves itself either way!"

Earlier this year, BFMV headlined a South American tour with Motionless In White before both bands joined up with Slipknot and Lamb of God for their North American tour. BFMV is now in Europe where they will continue to promote their fifth studio album, Venom.

www.bulletformyvalentine.com

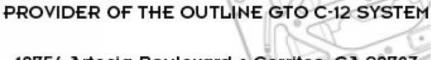
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# SOUND MOVES FOCUSES ON "Satisfaction" FOR THE ROLLING STONES

#### by Debi Moen

Much like Mick Jagger's stage moves, global freight orchestration is a dance - requiring a twist or leap at a moment's notice. Weather delays, mechanical issues with trucks or aircraft, tour equipment issues or cancelled shows make each day a new set of challenges.

Duane Wood started shipping tours around the planet in 1986. His first Rolling Stones Tour was for 1994's Voodoo Lounge, and he was in charge of logistics. In 1995, he formed Sound Moves and, as president/CEO, he's worked with every Stones tour since.

"My vision was 100 percent customer service related combined with seasoned staff. At any moment I and my staff will hop on a flight and do anything we need to assist our clients with a successful tour. That sets us apart. We are always available and up to any challenge - as anything can happen at any moment."

As the tour logistics coordinator, Wood and Sound Moves are responsible for shipping the show equipment around the world on the Stones' tour itinerary.

"We provide advice on tour routing and tour dates based on our ability to ship the equipment to countries/continents within set time frames. In some cases we ship the gear in ocean containers on shipping lines, other times we use air cargo charters or scheduled commercial aircraft. In some countries, as in South America, we provide trucking transportation."

Moving a tour is a massive production. The Stones played stadiums on the 2015 Zip Code Tour, requiring 23 tour production trucks (53 foot trailers) along with two stages, each packed in 17 trailers. Last year's On Fire 2014 tour in Asia, Australia and New Zealand had a scaled back production of eight 53-foot trailers flown in one 747-400F cargo aircraft, Wood said.

and through."

www.soundmoves.com

"We have had some out of the ordinarv things happen," he said. "We had just arrived in Australia in March 2014 and the tour was cancelled, so we were stopped in our tracks and had to change everything immediately and send all the gear home to the vendors. We were just starting the Australia tour, which was to be done via trucks and had loaded into the arena that day - and the following containers and sea freighting gear back to the US and UK. I had eight hours to make it happen with nothing in place. But that's what we do and are expected to do. Everyone comes together and gets the job done."

"The Rolling Stones production and management are top notch – and together we always find a solution and make things happen," he added. "I love working with The Stones and the production and management team. They are exceptional professionals through

Photos: Duane Wood/Sound Moves



Morning we were loading out into ocean A 747F-400 cargo aircraft Sound Moves chartered for the Rolling Stones in 2014. The movement was from Zurich to Tel Aviv. This was the aircraft and some pallets of equipment waiting to load onto the aircraft in Zurich.



Duane Wood (on the left in the orange vest) con oard to make sure they have them all loaded.



Gear coming off the plane in Amsterdam after Tel Aviv.



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# THE ROLLING STONES: ZIP CODE TOUR 2015 🎢 By Shelby Cude

As arguably one of the biggest names in rock and Conlin started his career in lighting while attending an roll, The Rolling Stones, launched their Zip Code Tour arts high school where he'd volunteer his time taking on in the states with only fourteen show dates over the the schools productions. He's since been with Upstagcourse of seven weeks, in cities the band hasn't vising for four years and praised the company for their "fanited in a number of years. When Mobile Production tastic tour support." When asked what his favorite part of Monthly caught up with the crew in Nashville, it had his job was, he responded, "I like the administration side been over twenty years since the band had been of it all; keeping the system working and making sure back to Music City to perform, taking the production we're seeing the bigger picture." from a smaller arena to a sold out football stadium. Considering the number of show dates, a relatively light production load, and the legendary rock and roll-Ethan Weber, who started working with band member, er's that they are, according to every crew member asked, it's been a dream tour to be apart of.

Production Director, Dale "Opie" Skjerseth, has been facilitating the Stones for years, as well as Ozzy Osborne and AC/DC, at the same time. Opie admitted that he wasn't sure the tour was happening or not until only six weeks before tickets went on sale. "I feed off of the prep, the creation, building the budget, making the bet that you can be there in time," said Opie.

With only nineteen trucks and no busses, according to Opie, the band is "taking on a new vision of how they tour." Rehearsals started for the band in fall of commented. 2012 at Planet Live in Paris, which Opie praised as being one of the bands regular spots. But even after Weber also mentioned that the Zip Code Tour is the first 50 years of preforming live, the band is still tweaking stadium tour the band's had a roof over their head. He the show. "They're having fun; fun in rehearsals, fun also mentioned that the set is smaller than in years past with the show, fun throughout the whole thing," he and that the band never ends the song the same way, commented with a smile on his face. both which could be perceived as challenges, but not for Weber. "You can't ask for a better job. Every time

#### **Upstaging: Lighting the Music**

Sitting down with Lighting Crew Chief, Seth Conlin, he explained the five trucks of lighting equipment provided by Upstaging. Working with a nine person tech crew, Conlin's team are in charge of 58 Mac Viper Profiles, 44 Clay Paky Mythos, 14 Clay Paky Sharpy Washes, a whopping 74 Vari-Lite VL 3500 Wash FXs, 60 Philips Color Kinetics (White Blast), numerous Moles, 5 Lycian M2 Short Throw Truss Followspots, and 8 Robert Juliat Lancelot 4kW Followspots.



The man behind the lighting desk is none other than Keith Richards in 1992 during his solo career, which led Weber to working for the Stones in 1994, making this his 21st year with the band. From former crew chief to currently the band's lighting designer and director, Ethan stated that the band's image has stayed similar over the vears.

According to Weber, "once you light a song a certain way, there's nothing wrong with lighting it the same way again." For example, the song "Sympathy for the Devil" is always red, and since the audience only sees the song live roughly once every four years, it works. "If it felt right the first time, why would it feel wrong the next time?" he

continued on pg 16

# "It's not the Stones, it's the F\*cking Rolling Stones!" - former Production Director, Jake Berry







you come back to this tour you always feel at home." When lighting the Rolling Stones becomes second nature to you, you know you've done something right. Weber has previously worked with rock band, Green Day, as well as U2 during their 360 Tour.

#### Video Provided by PRG Nocturne

Video Director for the tour is Steven Fatone, who's relatively new to the Stones crew and even more to the rock and roll world. In years past he's worked with pop acts like Beyoncé and Nicki Minaj, and jumped into the world of video with boy band, N\*SYNC, as his brother, Joey, was in the band. But in spite of the change in genre, Fatone has loved the challenge in predicting the music. "That's what makes it exciting. I really have to zone in on what's going on," he said.

The show requires three massive video walls: one that consists of PRG Nocturne V-18<sup>™</sup> 18mm LED video modules for the center screen and two screens that use PRG Nocturne V-28<sup>™</sup> 28mm LED video modules. Each of the V-28 walls stand 50ft tall on either side of the stage. Fatone uses one of the new Karrera S-series SD/HD/3G capable Video Flypacks from PRG Nocturne. The Video Flypack uses

continued on pg 18



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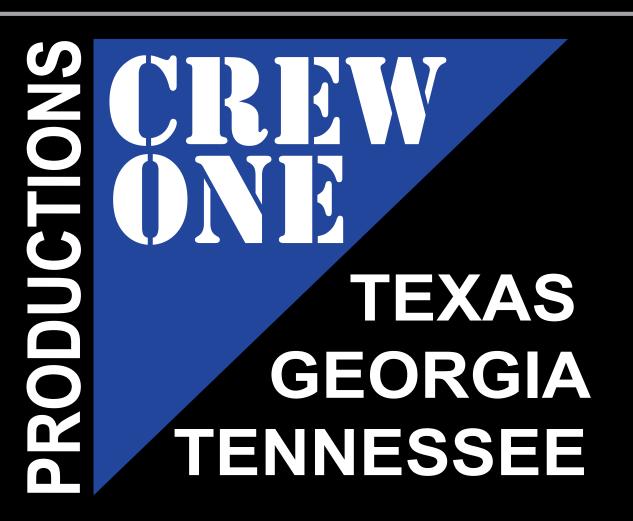




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a Grass Valley Karrera S-series switcher, which was custom built for PRG Nocturne, with multi-view. Fatone uses Medialon show control software to control the PRG Mbox® media servers for outputting content. He uses feeds from 8 Grass Valley LDX Première 4K LDX86 cameras with the mix of killer video content to help bring the music to life on the big screens for over 70,000 people to see each night.

Fatone takes what he does seriously, saying, "I'm working with rock and roll legends and I don't let them get out of my head." In spite of the fact that the guys are in their 70s, Fatone argued that they can outperform some of the modern acts of today.

Rock and Rolling Stone Audio Provided by Clair Brothers

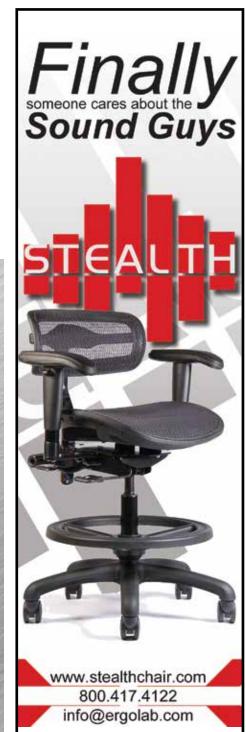
Sound Engineer, Dave Natale has been with the band since 1994 and has mixed on a Yamaha PM4000 console ever since. He joked, "I waited a year or two when they first came out to make sure they didn't explode, but I've loved it since." With no outboard gear, to Natale, it's old standard "stuff" that fits the band. As he explained, he turns the faders up and "it sounds like the Rolling Stones." Natale was short and to the point but still pointed out that working for the Stones is a "dream gig and you can't ask for more."

Logistics Director, Frankie Enfield perhaps said it best by saying "they're rock and roll legends. You've got to have the best people out here." With only fourteen sold out show dates in seven week's time, The Rolling Stones



and their crew have kept it lean and mean, bringing life to the iconic rock band for fans that span for decades. He went on to quote his friend and former Production Director, Jake Berry, in saying, "it's not the Rolling Stones. It's the f\*\*\*ing Rolling Stones!"

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#### Rock or Bust: the Powerhouse Crew on Tour with AC/DC

Photos and Commentary by Shelby Cude

Described by one crew member as "a big, dirty, old fashioned rock show," AC/DC has been selling out stadiums and arenas across the US, Europe, and down under in Australia.

Catching up with the crew at the sold-out Wrigley Field, Chicago, IL, Mobile Production Monthly met with the crew for photos and a sampling of AC/DC's powerhouse production that showed the designers' created a show as powerful as the music.

#### Staging Provided by Stageco and Tait Towers

Something worth noting about the Rock or Bust tour is that there's three steel crews involved: a red crew, blue crew and green crew. In Chicago, the crews worked in 11-12 hour shifts to get the 34 hour labor intensive steel build done.

Steel Orew Chief for the Green Crew, Stefaan Vandenbosch commented that, "12 hours enough. Anything after that you're tired and not thinking straight and risking the safety of others." How big is this build exactly? While there's twenty five trucks for production, there's another sixteen just for the steel. That's a lot of trucks on the road...here and abroad.





Dale "Opie" Skjerseth	Production Director
Sara Full	Production Coordinator
Lizzie Scace	Catering Advance / Production Assistant
Chris "Super" Deters	Stage Manager
Pete Merluzzi IV	TourAccountant
Andy Omilianowski	Site Coordinator (Red Steel)
Will Keating	Site Coordinator (Blue Steel)
Chuck Beckler	Site Coordinator (Green Steel)
Stefan Wolter	Venue Security
Tim Brockman	Tour Manager
Noel Rush	Assistant Tour Manager
John Portelli	Assistant Tour Manager
Bob Wein	Security Director

#### Audio Provided by Clair Global

One thing the band is infamously known for is their live sound; it's loud and it's rough and it's partly thanks to sound engineer, Paul "Pabs" Boothroyd who's been mixing for the band since 1995 (the Ball Breaker Tour). As Pabs explained, the band has always been a big fan of a wraparound PA system which has a character of all its own however nowadays it's all about line array. Pabs first encountered the I5D speaker while working with Paul McCartney during his arena tours and while he loved the speaker, he noted that it's just a bit much for indoor use. When he got the call for AC/DC's stadium tour, he knew it was the speaker he wanted. Former sound engineer for the band and current system developer for Clair Global, Harry Witz designed the PA system consisting of four arrays onstage of the I5D sandwiched in the middle of I5B subs, along with four delay towers, in addition to onstage monitors. "I have to be careful as a sound engineer to not get pissed at it and try to soften it. They want it raw and their fans want it raw," said Pabs. He sticks to their motto, "Don't tame the beast; leave it loud, leave it gnarly."



Paul "Pabs" Boothroyd..... Jon Lewis... Chris Nichols... Kenny Check... Andrew Bongardt... Jon Brook. Tyson Clark... Trystan Forbes... Leon Rieger... Rich Thompson... Emmett Tubritt. ...Sound Engineer Monitor Engineer Technician & Sound Crew Chief Monitor Technician Sound Technician

> ..Drum Tech ..Guitar Tech .Guitar Tech ...Bass Tech

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#### Lighting Provided by Upstaging

Award winning lighting director and designer, Cosmo Wilson has been lighting the band for 26 years. "Since we started in stadiums, from the design standpoint it's been awesome," said Cosmo, referring to the fact that this is the first tour the band has ever started in stadiums with the expectation to then move into indoor arenas.



62 Vari\*Lite VL4000 BeamWash fixtures 52 Vari\*Lite VL3500 Wash fixtures 26 Robe BMFLs 48 Clay Paky Sharpys 92 Clay Paky Sharpy Wash 330s 12 Chauvet COLORado Batten 144 Tours 60 SGM Q-7 LED strobes 72 Custom red aircraft beacons 6 Robert Juliat Lancelot 4K spotlights 4 Lycian M2 spotlights 74 8-lite moles 40 4-lite moles 15 4-lite moles (linear) 37 2-lite moles 4 Le Maitre Hazemasters 4 Reel EFX DF-50 hazers The lighting gear travels in 5 trucks total. With an extensive show real of major rock and roll bands, Cosmo admitted that AC/DC has taken precedent overall and everyone knows and has been respectful of the fact that when he gets the call, he'll be there.







Lighting Directo Lighting Crew Chi Lighting Technicia Lighting Technicia Lighting Technicia





Phil De BoissiereLighting	Technician
Benji MeseroleLighting	Technician
Nick PishghadamianLighting	Technician
Brian ReedLighting	Technician
Matt TuckerLighting	Technician
Mark WeilLighting	Technician
	Phil    De    Boissiere.    Lighting      Benji    Meserole.    Lighting      Nick    Pishghadamian.    Lighting      Morgan    Prine.    Lighting      Brian    Reed.    Lighting      Matt    Tucker.    Lighting      Mark    Weil.    Lighting

#### Video Provided by Screenworks

According to video director, Mike Duque, "AC/DC is pure rock. We don't mess around." As a self-proclaimed geek with a love for engineering, Mike started out as a lighting guy but made the switch to video in 2002 and hasn't looked back. With his lighting background, Mike is able to understand where LD, Cosmo, is coming from when they discuss what looks each are wanting before each show.

Working on a Ross Synergy 3 console, Mike directs video content that's viewed from two side IMAG screens and a main screen on stage. Mike stated that the show is more of a showcase than a theatrical production with a storyline, however there are still some choreographed parts. For instance, to start off the show a video of an asteroid falling to the earth plays and as it crashes into the ground, an explosion comes from the stage and as the smoke clears, out walks the band.



Mike Duque	Video Director
Kevin Tokunaga	
Angelo Bartolome	Video Crew Chief
Mo Dinsmore	Video Technician
William Duncan IV	Video Technician
Gabriel Lopez	Video Technician
Jeremy Miget	
Tina Skjerseth	Video Technician
Marty Vidinha	Video Technician
Juan Zaragoza	Video Technician
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.. Power Crew Chief ...Power Crew Chief ...Power Crew Chief ..Power Crew Chief

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Red Steel Crew: Hendrik Verdeven. Wilfried Celen.... Ben Hommers... Hugues Imschoot... Janos Kerekgyarto..... Florian Sadrawetz...... Benny Sterckk..... Paul Wurm.. Maarten Van Kruusduk.. Mark Van Duck..... Wim Carens..... Jonas Fets..... Erik Muhm.....

Blue Steel Crew: Johan Van Espen. Olaf Brinkmann.. Mark Gandy... Tambani Lokoza... Antonio Monteiro. Jasper Ruebens..... Jan Van Eyck..... Jan Van Lieshout... Yuri Sparidans. Cees Dazler Arne De Knecht. Robert Schuitema..... Green Steel Crew:

Stefaan "Bosse" Vandenbosch... Tamas "Osci" Balogh..... Andras "Bandi" Juhasz.... Antoin Patten..... Neil Young..... Geert "G" Jan Saarloos.... Fons Van Egmond..... Miguel Rodrigues.... TiloKeimling.... Gerrit "Pogo" Maes.. **Roel Veldink** Carlos Matos Eric Bedorf.



Steel Crew Chief Steel Crew .Steel Crew ...Steel Crew ..Steel Crew .Steel Crew ...Steel Crew Steel Crew .Steel Crew .Steel Crew ...Steel Crew .Steel Crew .Steel Crew ...Steel Crew Chief

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#### **STAGE & EFFECTS ENGINEERING:** Pyro Innovators with Years of Experience on Tour, on Stages, & the Big Screen

#### by Jordan Haymaker

"Pyro" Pete Cappadocia, designer and owner of Stage & Effects Engineering, was a theater major in college. After meeting the pyro tech for the ground breaking metal/punk band the Plasmatics, he toured with them to learn everything he could about pyro. Pete can even be found in their music video "The Damned" as the guy with a mohawk blowing up the bus!

After the Plasmatics opened for KISS in the 80s, a pyro company hired him, launching his impressive career. "Basically, I'm still doing a job I had as a young kid, so if this falls through I gotta go back to college," joked Pete.

Pete give credit to Academy Award winner, Thaine Morris, whose filmography includes Star Wars, Ghostbusters, and Raiders of the Lost Ark, for taking him to the next level in pyro. Early on, Thaine taught Pete how to create giant movie effects and adapt them for his rock & roll gigs.

Pete works alongside his partners who specialize in film effects, like Dave Greene who worked on Independence Day 2 and the Star Trek movies. In the 80s, there were just 6 main pyro guys: Pete, Dave, Thaine, David Pier, John Watkins, and John Singleton. "Back then it wasn't about companies. You just marketed yourself," said Pete. Eventually he decided to start his own company with Elia Popov of J.E.M. F/X, who was introduced by Thaine and provided the car effects for The Dukes of Hazzard and flame effects for theme parks like Universal. Dave Greene and Pete parted with J.E.M. F/X and followed the movie and TV industry to New Mexico, where they set up shop to manufacture their groundbreaking propane systems.

The crew for S&E not only consists of long time veterans Steve Joseph, Casey Lake, Chris Davis, and Jason Jones, but also family members. Anthony Greene, Dave Greene's son, has worked since he was 16 and Jack Kingry, Pete's nephew, swept the shop on summer breaks at 14. This company is run by people who know what it's like out on the road, and Pete is proud that, "We are a real touring company run by real touring people." Arguing too many pyro companies are only purchasing flame systems these days, Pete said Stage & Effects stands out with the skill and depth of knowledge they gained from years of building and manufacturing their own flames and effects. This experience and innovation has earned them an impressive and diverse list of long-term clients like AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Criss Angel, the New Orleans Saints, and 15 years with The Rolling Stones, including their most recent ZIP CODE tour. "When people want crazy stuff, they come to us and we'll do it," said Pete enthusiastically.

They've also provided confetti for Cher and effects for Prince and and Pyro effects for Janet Jackson and Tina Tuner. Whether it's a big or even BIGGER effect, Pete said Stage & Effects Engineering stays true to the artistic vision of their clients. For example, while working for a major act, the production manager wanted dry ice smoke. Dry ice is very expen-



sive, so other companies will sometimes attempt to use substitutes. Pete lamented, "Other smoke just doesn't look the same, and you've had to have been around since the 80s to know that."

Pyro is the most heavily regulated branch on a tour, which also makes it the safest, said Pete. They require licenses with DOT, ATF, cities, counties, and states. S&E has prepared a 130-page manual to send to fire departments prior to each show, and hires someone at each stop to make sure every show complies with local regulations. Each piece of equipment is also certified and tested to failure for safety. Every crewmember is licensed and knows how to operate and maintain all equipment as well. Rather than balking at all the extra levels of safety and paperwork, Pete said it's important and necessary. It's not just about making sure the band has a pyro company that

isn't going to create arguments with the Fire Marshall at every venue, "It really is like...holy crap, if I hit the button at the wrong time, the show's over. It's pretty serious."

Pete is deservedly proud of his contributions in the industry, "I helped pioneer a lot of what goes on now." S&E

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has always been one step ahead with new ideas too. When other companies are introducing "new" flame tornados, Pete notes S&E has had them for 10 years now, adding, "knowing what we've done for years and adding changes gives us our edge." Watch for some of their new ideas in action at Black Sabbath's 2016 farewell tour.

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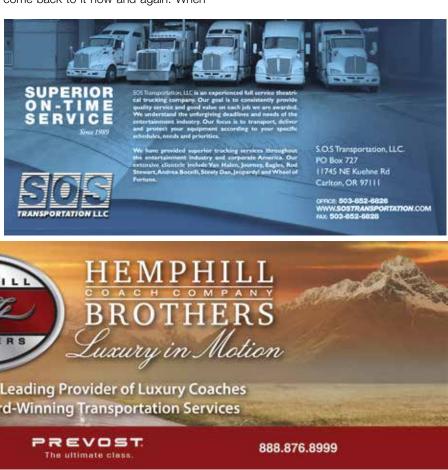
You Know Me as "Opie" – Interview with Production Director, Dale Skjerseth

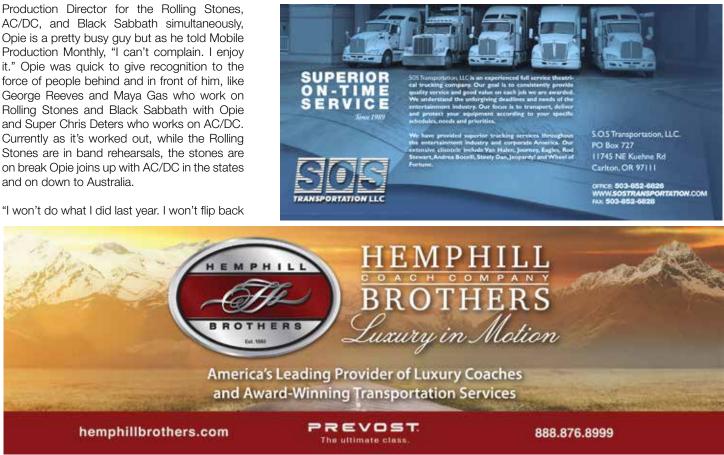
#### Photo and Interview by Shelby Cude

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It takes a lot to manage the production of a stadium tour. Handling the gear loading in and out of dozens of venues all over the world, transporting trucks from state to state and freighting from country to country, and managing the production and local crews involved, can get to be a lot of work. Now multiply that by three and vou have an idea as to what it's like to be Dale "Opie" Skierseth.

Production Director for the Rolling Stones. AC/DC, and Black Sabbath simultaneously, Opie is a pretty busy guy but as he told Mobile Production Monthly, "I can't complain. I enjoy it." Opie was quick to give recognition to the force of people behind and in front of him, like George Reeves and Maya Gas who work on Rolling Stones and Black Sabbath with Opie and Super Chris Deters who works on AC/DC. Currently as it's worked out, while the Rolling Stones are in band rehearsals, the stones are on break Opie joins up with AC/DC in the states and on down to Australia.





and forth between them," said Opie, referring to how he manages all three productions. I can't say I'd blame him so much. I can only imagine what it's like keeping track of three different crews. Instead he sees the tours through until their break point before they pack up and travel overseas or jump back into rehearsals, leaving the two crews he's not with at the moment in what he very capable hands.

Thus far, Rolling Stones has been an all outdoor tour, selling out stadiums across the world, as has AC/DC. In the next year, AC/DC is fixing to transition into an arena tour, but when asked if they plan on scaling down the production, Opie said, "Oh no! When you go to the movies and pay to see a scary movie, you see a scary movie. When you pay to see AC/DC, you see AC/DC, full throttle." He noted that the main challenge they're up against with the transition from stadiums to arenas is the way the sound is going to carry. Outside. sound will travel off and dissolve. Inside, sound bounces back and as raw and inyou-face as the band is with their sound, it certainly presents a set of challenges.

"But that's what I love. The prep work involved," he said. According to Opie, he thoroughly enjoys building an entire show from the ground up and handing it off, and to come back to it now and again. When

planning a tour, his first order of business is transportation. "You've got to make sure you can transport everything," said Opie. "If I can do that, I can make the rest work." His last order of business is hiring the crew.

When I asked him what on earth he does with his time off, he laughed and said, "I don't have time off. I go to the gym an hour a day. When I'm home, I walk my dog, I have my dinner, I go to bed, and I wake up the next day and keep going." He was also quick to mention the support he gets from his wife and is very thankful for it.

Opie also emphatically expressed his thanks to the bands management, saying how honored he was to have them keep calling him. "I'm been gifted to work with these artists and it's up to me to keep it."

AC/DC continues their stadium tour down under in Australia, November 1st. Black Sabbath starts off their arena tour mid-January 2016. And The Rolling Stones have finished their Zip Code Tour and are back in rehearsals until further notice.

Don't forget to check out feature articles on the Rolling Stones Zip Code Tour and AC/ DC's Rock or Bust Tour, also in this month's issue of Mobile Production Monthly.

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# UPSTACING On The Road for Over Forty Years

### A.C.T. Lighting Hits the Road with The Rolling Stones' Zip Code Tour

The Rolling Stones embarked on their Zip Code Tour visiting 15 cities in North America from the kick off in San Diego in May to the wrap in Quebec City in July. The band's lighting rig featured Clay Paky Mythos, Sharpy Washes and Robert Juliat Lancelot followspots; grandMA2 lighting consoles and ChainMaster chain motors were also on hand. All are brands distributed exclusively in North America by A.C.T Lighting, Inc.

"The band is playing as well as I've ever seen them," said Ethan Weber, who was crew chief for the Stones in 1994-95 and became their lighting director in 1998, a post he still holds today. The majority of shows on the tour were in stadiums, though they did mix in a couple of festivals and a theater show in Los Angeles, where the band played the entire "Sticky Fingers" album.

"The venues have been more consistent on this leg than on most in the past couple of years," Weber says. "Not as many clones or fixture changes have been needed on the grandMA2." Patrick Woodroffe of Woodroffe Bassett Design was the lighting designer/creative director for the tour, Terry Cook associate lighting designer and Miriam Bull studio associate.

Upstaging, Inc., headquartered in Sycamore, Illinois, supplied the theatrical lighting and equipment trucking for the tour as it has

for the band's last several tours. New this year were 44 Clay Paky Mythos fixtures, 32 of them mounted on trusses over the stage and six on each of the two wings.

"Mythos are very versatile—possible to use as an effect or wash light, and bright enough to compete with the three video walls and other wash lights in the system," says Weber. "I had heard about Mythos from a trusted friend and looked forward to trying them out. Upstaging doesn't carry our old effects light, but did have Mythos in stock; so Patrick and Terry opted to make the change. I've been very happy with them so far."

John Huddleston, director of stage lighting services at Upstaging, reports that the Mythos fixtures have been very popular. "They're a new tool for designers; they tick every box: powerful, compact, fast, extremely bright and packed with features. Mythos is what everybody has been looking for."

Fourteen Clay Paky Sharpy Washes helped light the fascias, which surround the video walls designed by Stu Fish and built by Tait Towers. The big screens were located left, right and center on-stage; they were framed by golden fascia lined interior and exterior with LED strips.

Weber explained: "The Stones are, of course, famous for their fairly large shows, but in the end it's about the music and the bands' performance. In lighting them, we try never to take away from that. The goal is to make sure all the band members are lit and to give them an interesting environment to play in."

Eight Robert Juliat 4000W HTI Lancelot followspots served as "bright and reliable" FOH spotlights, Weber says. "The Lancelots are the highest end large touring followspot you can buy – noth-



ing's better," adds Huddleston. "They set up and take down easier than any other in that class, too."

Half-ton, 1-ton and 2-ton chain motors from ChainMaster, a brand that "seems to be becoming the industry standard" according to Weber, are deployed on the tour.

Weber used two grandMA2 full-size consoles for lighting control, one main system and one back up, and has a grandMA2 light onstage for testing the system at venues. "I've been using grandMA since 2007 after having a very bad experience with another brand," he recalls. "I switched to grandMA1 and loved it, then made the natural progression to grandMA2 a few years ago and have been extremely happy with it. It's always very comforting to know that there's worldwide support and a user network that's open to offering help and programming tips."

Huddleston says that "premium largescale concert touring wants the bulletproof processing that grandMA2 provides. The grandMA2 consoles are industry standard now."

Mythos, Sharpy Washes, Lancelots, Chain-Master chain motors and grandMA2 consoles "make a good, solid package," Huddleston concludes. "The band needs a robust touring package, and this gear delivers guality and dependability."

#### About A.C.T Lighting

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# L.A. PERCUSSION RENTALS CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

L.A. Percussion Rentals (LAPR), the preeminent percussion and backline rental company for some of the most respected live and recording acts worldwide, are celebrating a decade in business. At the Company's 10th anniversary party, the husband and wife owners revealed their new, revamped website.

This redone website is "aiming to be more of a real resource for percussion and backline," owner Abby Savell stated. At the core, everything is databased with alternate names, so instruments are easy to find; some are cross-referenced in multiple categories, if applicable. Over thirty new instruments with photos were added and lesser-known instruments have greater description.

Another notable function of the new LAPR website is the "Sound Search," an interactive tool which is designed for those (such as composers or orchestrators) who have a particular sound in mind, but don't know what the instrument is that they're looking for; the "Sound Search" allows the user to select certain qualities of instruments by material, tonality, region, timbre, and sustain, and the results are real-time displayed.

In addition, many of the instruments – notably from renowned studio percussionist Emil Richards - have links to sound clips. Rather than simply provide solo instrument, "sample" style sound clips, the Company provides links to clips of some of the instruments in context, most from film recordings. "Many of these instruments sound different depending on what beaters are used or which area of the instrument is played on; even the musical style that's used in the example can leave a narrow impression of the instrument. We wanted to avoid the pigeonholing of sample-style sound clips, and allow a multitude of examples which allow the user to hear different applications of each instrument in different styles, and sometimes with other instruments," said owner Dan Savell.

LAPR plans on adding more instrument sound clips in the future, but as an ongoing, communal project. Composers who have used LAPR instruments on a project will be able to submit short sound clips to have posted as examples on LAPR's website.

LAPR was founded in 2005 by Dan and Abby Savell, husband and wife professional percussionists. They rent orchestral, ethnic, and eclectic percussion, along with drumsets and backline to symphony orchestras, tours, film/TV/videogame productions, bands, universities, and individual musicians.

For more information, contact Dan Savell at 310.666.8152

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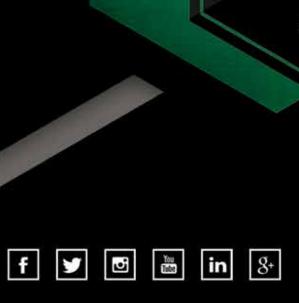
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