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*Under Construction: Inside the future theatre space in Merrimack Hall*

## Flexibility for the Merrimack

### Situation

Here's the situation. You've got a 100 year old building that you're converting into a public use, multi-performance and arts venue. Your theatre area will be used for dance, theatre, "rock-n-roll", and other performances. How do you light it? Where do you put the dimmers? What type of fixtures should you use? What control board will you need? What if you need to expand your system in the future?

These were questions put to TLS, Inc. Project Manager, Bryan Comer by Alan and Debra Jenkins. You may remember reading about the Merrimack Hall project in our last

newsletter. The Jenkins' are the visionaries behind the renovation.

After a site evaluation, Bryan began to put together a lighting, dimming, and control package; taking into consideration the specific needs of the space as well as the questions and concerns posed to him. In short, what he came up with is a very flexible package that allows for future expansion, ease of use, and convenient-to-purpose lighting fixture placement.

**Solution One: Dimming** Bryan says, "Instead of the conventional dimmer rack with fixed circuits, we wanted to allow them to move circuits as needed". This way, they

are not limited to their lighting positions. ETC's Smart Module™ is the solution. These small dimming modules can be placed anywhere, providing six 10 amp channels. Therefore, if they need side lighting for a dance show, or if they need six more fixtures aimed stage right - Viola! Simply plug in a Smart Module™ then plug the fixtures into it. Not only does this offer flexibility, it saves running foot after foot of extension cables to each fixture.

The other benefit is expansion. Future lighting purchases will not require a whole new dimming rack; just the purchase of

*Continued on Page 3*

## TLS,Inc. Sends Out Its First All LED Show

When you have been in business as long as TLS,Inc., there are always many "firsts"; first dollar you make, first year you clear a million, that kind of thing. Well, February marked another first for us: we put an all LED show on the road. The Newsboys' GO Tour features PixelRange PixelLine 1044's, American DJ Rainbow Tube II™'s, Color Kinetics iW™ Blast 12's, and all the accessories. In a matter of a few short months, the process went from Newsboys' LD Steve Campbell's vision of "we want to do this" into a ready to go tour rig. The only non-LED fixtures are the strobes and "audience blinders".

### Parts Place People

Several years ago we wrote an article introducing our Repair Department. Although the names and faces have changed, the service and reliability have not. As newer technology has developed, our Repair folks have continued to remain on top of the game by being certified on the newer equipment and being recertified on the others. We continue to stock our shelves with the parts needed to get you back up and running in a timely manner. We also do war-

This tour marks a different direction for TLS,Inc. in terms of what the lighting is used for. Said another way, the big difference for this tour is the LED lighting has a double purpose. Not only does it serve as illumination, but it also doubles as the set. With traditional lighting, the focus is primarily on illumination with some "WOW" effects thrown in. With the LED fixtures, the "lighting" now becomes the backdrop, per se. However, don't let this subtle difference fool you. There is nothing subtle about any of these fixtures. The capabilities and versatility of each fixture on the rig combines for a stunning look.

ranty repairs for several of our vendors, therefore saving you valuable time and money on shipping. Our workmanship carries a 90-day warranty on all non-warranty repairs. In addition to the slew of new folks we're introducing on page 3, we also have several new faces in the Repair section of our Install and Repair Department. Durall Teague is our Repair Coordinator. A photographer and former business owner, Durall brings his managerial

If video killed the radio star, LED's will kill the "sweaty rock star" image. The heat that emanates from these LED fixtures is so minimal that performers should be able to feel the difference on stage. No more sweating under the lights. After

hours of operation, you can still walk up and touch the fixture without getting third degree burns. To catch the show log onto [www.newsboys.com](http://www.newsboys.com) for tour dates. For more info on LED lighting, log on to [www.tlsinc.com](http://www.tlsinc.com).



*Prepping for Newsboys GO Tour*

skills to the Repair department. With Durall handling the paperwork side of things, that leaves most of the "hands-on" repairs to the others in the department. This includes Johnny Chambers who has been with TLS,Inc. for three years. Johnny is our "go-to" guy for moving light repairs. Audrey Hood and Steve Anderson both arrived in 2006. Audrey came to us from Luna Tech and is our Queen of Cables. Her soldering skills keep her busy repairing cables and in-

stalling connectors on fixtures. Steve Anderson, formerly of Meteor Light and Sound, has several years experience building and repairing entertainment lighting fixtures. TLS,Inc. is pleased to have such a well rounded Repair Department, and looks forward to assisting with your repair needs.



*continued from Page 1*

a few more Smart Modules™.

### **Solution Two: Control**

Controlling all the dimmers will be the job of the Zero88 FatFrog. This board will control the conventional lighting that is part of the original package, but also has the capability to run intelligent lighting fixtures that will be purchased or rented in the future.

### **Solution Three: Fixtures**

By using ETC's Source Four® Jr. Zooms, the ability to slide from a 25° to a 50° ellipsoidal is possible. With the Source Four® PARNels, a rough focus is attainable. Both fixtures offer more than their fixed focus counterparts. *Bonus: they both use the same lamp.*

### **Solution Four: Working Lights**

There will also be a small Unison dimmer with 3 wall mounted controllers installed to aid with house, lobby, and work lights. This way, lighting can be used for rehearsals or set work and day-to-day operations without the need for a board operator. However, these dimmers will also be tied in to the control board so that during shows, the house and lobby lights can be dimmed and "blinked" if needed.

*Next Issue: Grand Opening Coverage*



*L-R front - Rob Moon, Elliott Cavett, Steve Anderson, Audrey Hood, Mark Von Torne. Middle - Scott Turner, Shannon Scott, Durrall Teague. Back - Allen Mills, Russell Ware, Jonathan Edwards, Justin Young.*

## **New Faces Around the Shop**

The last year has been a time of change for the company as a whole. The biggest changes have been in our personnel. Several former employees returned, and we've added a lot of new people.

Returning folks are Bryan Comer, who was previously a Project Manager in Rentals. He has returned in the new role of Project Manager for Sales. Shannon Scott is reprising his role as Project Manager for Rentals. Tim Lighthall also returned as a Rental Tech. Most recently, Russell Ware came back from a stint in Orlando, and returned to Installs. Following is the roundup of everyone else, by department.

As a whole, the Install and Repair Department has had the most changes. Here, Elliott Cavett is tak-

ing on the role of Install Coordinator. His CAD experience is being put to good use. Mark Von Torne is doubling as an Install guy and our inside IT guy. Jonathan Edwards is the newest Install Technician. His background in lighting makes him a valuable addition. *(Read about the Repair Dept. on page 2).*

The next largest increases and changes were in the rental department. Scott Turner joined us as the Rental Coordinator to assure our customers get everything they need to make the rental run smoothly. Justin Young started as a part-time rental tech, then came on board full time.

New in Sales is Allen Mills, Counter Sales. He's the one you'll meet when you come in the door. Allen has 22 years of re-

tail experience. Our newest Sales Project Manager is Rob Moon, who brings with him a wide range of skills and experience. Most recently, Rob spent over 6 years in the software industry, managing projects and operations for a library management system provider.

Administrations' newest face belongs to Chris VanEnkenvoort, who brings 17 years of accounting experience to Accounts Payable/HR.

Our Jackson, Miss. office added an Install/Repair Technician, Keenan Gainer. Keenan has several years' experience in electrical work and has already worked on a few installs. He also works in the newly opened Rental Department at our Jackson office.

