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*Kids in Rehearsals for Upcoming Performance of Honk, Jr*

## Merrimack - Up and Running!

Merrimack Hall has completed the rec-center-to-performance-space project, and already has a calendar full of activities to follow up their opening shows.

The early August inaugural event was an invitation only chance to see Wade Robson, choreographer for television's *So You Think You Can Dance*. Days prior to the show, Robson held auditions for teens from local dance schools; choreographed a three minute piece for them, and presented it for a packed house on opening night.

More recent shows include actor Billy Bob Thornton and his band The Boxmasters, who

held two shows in late August.

Simon Kirke, drummer for legendary rock band, Bad Company, held a one-of-a-kind masters drum workshop for local high school drummers. Later that day, he preformed with Larry Oakes, former guitarist for Foreigner, on the Hall's stage.

Upcoming events include a six-week run of the off-Broadway comedy *Menopause, The Musical*, beginning in September. Then in October, Dionne Warwick, whose unmatched talent has entertained us for decades, will preform one night only for the Merrimack Hall Gala Benefit.

What an impressive line-

up for this newly opened venue! From dance to concert to theatre, the Merrimack Hall's capabilities as a diverse usage space are being put to the test.

Lighting for each event has been as varied as the events themselves. Because Alan & Debra Jenkins had a clear vision of how the space would be used, TLS, Inc's Project Manager, Bryan Comer was able to offer versatility and flexibility to the overall lighting plan. They are quickly discovering the benefits of using a professional theatrical lighting company to consult on and design their lighting dimming and control package.

## Pinelake - A Tale of Two Facilities

Every Sunday morning the members of Pinelake Church in Brandon, an eastern suburb of Jackson, Mississippi, prepare to go to church. At the same time, on the north side of Jackson, more members get ready to attend Pinelake's satellite church in Ridgeland. The satellite campus receives sermons from the Brandon location via high definition video.

As with a majority of churches, the area behind the minister is the choir loft. The addition of the satellite campus' high definition video feed established a need for a different backdrop. Since the Ridgeland campus does not have a choir loft, the appearance of one on screen proved to be slightly distracting. Plus, the dark choir loft does not provide much contrast behind the pastor. Kevin Hooper, Pinelake's technical director, contacted Rusty Scafidel in our Mississippi office for help. The goal - to use lighting to create a visually interesting backdrop that would look good on high definition film as well as create a dynamic setting that can change on demand in order to enhance the worship experience for members of both campuses.

The solution came in the form of LED lighting

and automatic shades. A single command from the ETC Expression 3 lighting console to a Doug Fleenor DMX interface



*Kevin Hooper, with the PixelArc-R's  
photo: Stegall Imagery*

causes nine Somfy panels to lower from rollers mounted on the ceiling. Then the LED's do their

magic. Twenty-four PixelRange PixelArc-R heads, powered by four six-way controllers convert the panels into a wash of light. The diverse nature of the PixelArc-R's allows the panels to luminesce in one color, multiple colors, or they can even change colors dramatically throughout the sermon.

Richard Hembree, from Griffith Sales Associates, provided demo units of the PixelArc-R fixtures. With these, Rusty and Kevin experimented with several options including lighting from above, lighting from below, and various dispersion on the fixtures. The solution for Pinelake was twenty-four PixelArc-R heads in a row

along the bottom of the panels, eighteen inches in front of the choir loft. With a six degree beam angle, the wash of light extends to the top of the twenty-five foot tall panels, with the focus of the lights directly in the background of the video shot. The difference in the worship atmosphere is remarkable. Members of both campuses now enjoy the dynamic effects this solution offers. Kevin says, "I am very impressed with how well it all came together, the PixelArc solution is very compact - I only lost about 18" of stage space - the colors look great, and they have a whole lot of punch!"

*Contributed by Jennifer Bell, TLS, Inc/Mississippi*



*Pinelake Church in Brandon, Miss. Photo courtesy of Stegall Imagery*



*SHOWGUN™ at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Miss.*

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### **LeAnn Rimes Tour**

Rental PM Scott DeVos sent rental gear out on tour with LeAnn Rimes. LD Steve Fallon had 22 Vari\*Lite VL2500s, 12 Martin Mac700s, and 5 PixelRange Micro W's to use on the tour. It's the biggest little light show we've seen.

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*LeAnn Rimes in Reno*



*Darryl Worley*

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### **Hard Rock Re-Opens**

After extensive damage received during Hurricane Katrina, *The Hard Rock Cafe & Casino* in Biloxi, Miss. had their grand re-opening the first week of July. TLS, Inc. sent down Brian Palmer and 6 High End SHOWGUNS™. Hard Rock's LD Joey Bradley was able to focus their logo on a passing cloud! That's a powerful lighting fixture. No one believed the photos and thought they'd been altered!

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### **Darryl Worley**

LD Jim Cozad rented High End Studio Spot CMYs from Rental PM Amy Welch for Darryl Worley's current tour - *Livin' in the Here and Now* to promote his newest CD - *Here & Now*.

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