

Robe BMFLs on Miss South Africa



South African Set and Lighting Designer, Joshua Cutts from Visual Frontier, used 24 Robe BMFLs on Miss South Africa, hosted at Sun City's Superbowl on 29 March. Joshua explains that the beautifully lit HD televised production, with the set and full technical supplied by Dream Sets, went back to a fashion show feel.



Gavin Wratten, the producer and director from Sic Entertainment has a reputation for creating magic on SA Idols for the past eleven seasons as well as experience for his work on The Face of Africa.

“The show concept came about as Gavin talked me through his ideas,” commented Joshua Cutts. “He wanted to go back to a fashion show production. The main stage, with two wide staircases on either, tapered

“ into a long ramp which extended into the centre of the Superbowl.

Miss South Africa is usually a banquet affair, but this year Gavin felt the audience should be seated around the ramp, without any distracting tables and the contents thereof. “Gavin has a great TV mind and understands what the viewers need to see and feel,” he adds.



The wide stair case steps were lined with LED strips and walls of the corridor between the stairs were lined with mirrors on the left and right. “We placed a video wall at the back of the corridor to have multiple images of girls and footage,” said Joshua. The signature lighting feature, which accentuated the ramp, were 12 Robe BMFLs hung above the ramp to glamour the girls as they walked. “It was very clean, very simple and classy,” he said. “It was a full Robe lighting rig and it was great!”

A further 12 Robe BMFLs were used as an accent above the main set for strong beams and air effects.

“I used 17 Robin LEDWash 800 fixtures to give me a nice soft blanket of colour over the stage and the trusty 16 Robe ColorWash 2500E AT as my main fill light from the front of house truss,” said Joshua. “What I love about them is I can get a nice soft punch with a great colour temperature for television.” He also used 12 ColorSpot 700E ATs for accent lighting above the stage and 24 Robin LEDBeam 100s positioned on trusses in the auditorium to zap around the crowd.

For control Joshua worked on a grandMA2 full size, a grandMA2 NPU and a grandMA2 OnPC for back-up.



Another main feature was the back of the set, where large format high resolution LED screens ran from Coolux players which Joshua used to add texture and background for sequences as the girls walked.

While the set was designed by Joshua, it was built by Dream Sets who were also the technical supplier. “We have a long relationship with Sic Entertainment and Dream Sets to create awesome television productions. Eben Peltz was the Project Manager from Dream Sets and we have formed an intuitive working relationship.”

For a lighting designer it’s very important to have a strong relationship with the vision controller, who is responsible for setting all cameras from light levels to colour temperature and overall colour, which is sometimes referred to as shading.

“One of the best vision controllers in the country is Berenice Baai, who I have worked closely with for many years,” said Joshua. “She fixes and ensures that each camera shot looks the same and matches even if my lighting is not perfect in those moments. Berenice cut her teeth at SuperSport and has worked with me on Idols, SAMA and most of the shows that I do.”

The show, broadcast with a crisp HD image on MNET and Mzansi, was stunning. Congratulations to Liesl Laurie who was crowned Miss South Africa 2015.