

## A tribute to John Reinders

04 April 2012

**We hereby pay tribute to John Reinders (18 April 1985 to 29 February 2012). If you have stories or photos to share, we would like to add it to this page. Please send this to [sales@dwrdistribution.co.za](mailto:sales@dwrdistribution.co.za).**

Here's to you John.



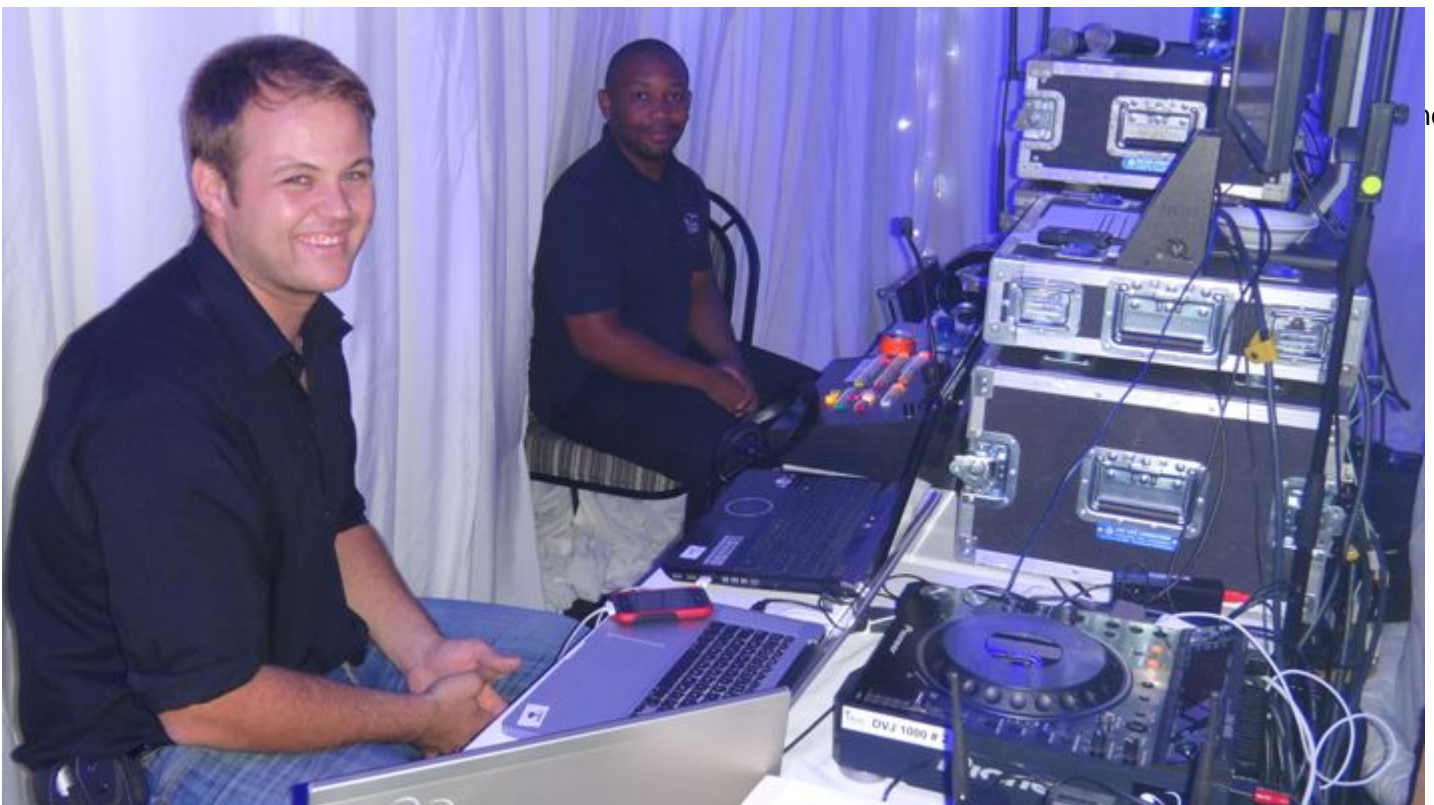
I had the pleasure of

knowing and working with John when he was studying Entertainment Technology at the Pretoria Technikon. He, like many of us in this industry, got his grounding and first experiences at the Technikon, and this is how we met.

I had just moved my business out of my parent's garages and things were on the up and up. We needed more help and this resulted in us using second and third year students on a freelance basis. There was a rumour of this guy "John" who was very, very good and so he soon ended up helping us out with setup and gigs. My first impression right from the beginning was here was a person with passion and unbelievable work ethic, no matter what time, how menial the job was he would be there. He had an insatiable appetite for how things worked, understanding how it worked and implementing his new knowledge into shows.



Things went well for the



This was 2006 I think and during this time John was very busy with his technician work and freelancing for us. The first order of business that John helped me organise was Code 10 licenses for our crew and himself. This helped us out immensely as at that time it was a long waiting list. However, it was sorted out with his 'contact'



heavy vehicles, he  
then loaded vs speed. I think  
He was always on time.

Starting out working for us I

think John got his first taste of multi disciplines, Sound, Lighting and Audio Visual and driver. Jack of all trades, he was very good at everything.

It was the start of the calming effect that John had for me and for the many different people he would meet over the coming years. I would start the day knowing that John was on the event and all would be fine with a happy client at the end of the job.

It was also the start of his rigging experience, this I think turned out to be his strength. We had just started with our inventory of motors and truss and we were very inexperienced. John helped me to get confidence in flying rigs instead of using our trademark push up stands.

I think it was the first time he met Paul Newman from Lucidity. The brief was to hang some exhibition banners and signs. John organized all the rigging and with the help of one crew member they managed to hang everything perfectly angled and straight. Over the years he honed his skills and became a master rigger, extremely confident at heights and efficient on any size projects. The one that we should mention is the speed and accuracy he rigged with Siya for Dreamsets Miss SA 2011 Sun City – 50 points in a single morning.





A memory I have

from when we hired John (when he was working for himself) was for a function at Constitution Hill. I had worked through the night before and had managed to tip the truck at the venue and meet John early on setup morning. The brief included the rigging of lighting as well as the programming and control of lighting – it was on a MA full size lighting console. I asked, “Are you sure you know it?”, to which he replied, “Go to the next gig and we will handle this.” I remember coming back to the venue just before the guests were to arrive. The lighting looked



run back to back. The one  
ing lighting and AV. I  
the client didn't even know.





The second one

was for Roche. John has been doing this particular conference for four years, same client but different technical requirements. What he wants to share is the extra kit that he had was the extra lighting pictures of



John also liked to

build huge yet functional FOH control areas. He would prep extra kit so that he could lean, stack and make a

wall of kit that would be like a NASA mission control! He would network everything so that it would work with his iPad and laptop.

Further to Paul Newman from Lucidity's speech at Johns memorial, it is amazing to see the far reaching effect of his death. For the delegates, the night loading, the conference, the day and will miss him.



He was truly a

“supertech,” an all rounder who excelled at everything he undertook to do. In the process left fond memories with everyone he interacted with.





