

Excellence at Afrikaans is Groot



Within just six hours of ticket sales opening, the Pretoria leg of 'Afrikaans is Groot' was sold out. Just goes to show how *Groot Afrikaans is!* The Cape Town leg followed suite with its three performances selling out by the end of that day.



With the calibre of such artists as Juanita Du Plessis, Theuns Jordaan, Steve Hofmeyr, Bobby van Jaarsveld, Bok van Blerk, Robbie Wessels, Lianie May, Karlien van Jaarsveld, Jay, Riana Nel, Jannie Moolman, Arno Jordaan, Jak de Priester, Corlea Botha, EDEN, Dewald Wasserfall and more, the show promised to be a hit.





Featuring this amount of talent meant that the set and production for both the Moreleta Park Church Auditorium and the Grand Arena, GrandWest, had to be on point. Designed by Michael Gill and built by Gearhouse SDS, the set was the perfect balance of light and metal finishes. With concentric circles and strips of light built into the stage, the focus was drawn to each of the performances. To reach as many audience members as possible, two round performance platforms either side of the stage extended the performance area.



MGG's new, state of the art VuePix E-Series Pro 12mm LED Mesh Screen became the backdrop to the impressive portrait LED Walls and reinforced the design cues with light strips and flowing, metallic lines.



A production of this magnitude is no mean feat. It was for this reason that the team called on, for a second consecutive year, the impeccable Project Management skills of Denzil Smith. Smith's meticulous planning, along with his passion ensured that his MGG team, the sole technical supplier, put many hours of hard work into the pre-production and build. The result of such efforts was a definite level of professionalism.



The lighting was conceptualised and programmed by Mauritz Jacobs of Dream Sets. Jacobs thoroughly enjoyed the task due to the fact that Coleske Artist's 'Afrikaans is Groot' is not like any other show. His preparation included listening to the play lists and watching previous recordings of the show. The basic objective was to light for a fantastic live show that had 5 LED Walls to compete with, and also light for the DVD recording.



His gear included over 140 Robe fixtures varying from Robe Pointes to Robin 100 Beams, 70 Clay Paky fixtures including the B-Eyes, great power on control via a grandMA2 Full Size. Another piece of equipment that Jacobs swore by was MDG Atmosphere Hazers which made each beam of light as striking as possible.



After a month of programming, the final week of preparation took place at the premises of Coleske Artists. Jacobs worked closely with Arnold Coleske where Jacobs fondly stated "From the start, I enjoyed the Coleske Brothers and from the word go we got on well".



While the Moreleta Church Auditorium catered for some 7100 audience members and was perfectly central and well maintained, the team had to overcome a few obstacles with regards to rigging points and height restrictions. Jacobs also recalls how the show “looked beautiful on stage, but we couldn’t see anything on television”. “The Robe 1200s were the heroes of the day, mostly used for front and back wash. Thank goodness for their output.”





The best part, for both Jacobs and Smith, was the energy leading up to the show. With that many die-hard fans, it was no wonder that the excitement was tangible.



Not only were the audience and the performances phenomenal, but the team that pulled this show together was too. With a project of that magnitude, it's all about team work "If everyone didn't pull their weight, it wouldn't have succeeded," said Jacobs.



A special thank you must go to the entire team from MGG Productions, and to Herman Wessels and Marcell Wahl whose efforts did not go unnoticed.



Audiences can look out for ticket sales to the November Shows in March, where 'Afrikaans is Groot' promises to be yet another awesome experience, showcasing some of South Africa's hottest acts both onstage, and behind it.



Lighting Equipment List:

24 x Clay Paky Sharpy

24 x Clay Paky Alpha 1500 Spot

12 x Clay Paky B-Eye K10

12 x Clay Paky E-Eye K20

6 x Robe Cityskape Xtreme

44 x Robe Cityskape 48

24 x Robe Robin 100 LEDBeam

24 x Robe Robin 1200 LEDWash

24 x Robin 600 LEDWash

24 x Robe Pointe

12 x Martin Rush Strobe

12 x Philips SL-Nitro

1 x grandMA2 Full Size

1 x grandMA2 Light

1 x grandMA2 on PC

1 x MA Server

4 x Robert Juliat Aramis Followspots

2 x MDG Atmosphere Hazers





