

Robert Juliat Arthur followspots for The Lowry, Salford,  
Manchester

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Dave Wimpenny, one of the Technical Managers at The Lowry, testing out their brand new 800w long-throw LED followspots.

Stage Electrics recently installed a pair of Robert Juliat Arthur 800W LED followspots at The

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Lowry, Salford Manchester. The Arthur 5°-15° followspots were supplied to Stage Electrics by Ambersphere Solutions, Robert Juliat's exclusive UK distributor.

The 1700+ seat Lowry is an important theatre for the north-west of England and runs a varied programme of plays, musical theatre, ballet, opera, stand-up comedy, and rock and roll gigs, and has also hosted ITV television's *Britain's Got Talent* and The Royal Variety Performance.

The RJ Arthur followspots were selected for their impressive output which is capable of matching the lumen output of an HMI 2500W Aramis followspot at similar angles.

"The Lowry has been operating with RJ Aramis followspots since we opened in April 2000," says Dave Wimpenny, one of the Technical Managers at The Lowry. "One of them finally gave up the ghost in late 2021 so we took the decision to upgrade to two new spots after 22 years! We looked for LED alternatives to the Aramis and the Arthur looked very good on paper. I spoke to Jayney Bell (Technical Sales Consultant at Stage Electrics) who assured me that these would be the best option and managed to bring them in within our budget."



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The RJ Arthur units were installed in The Lowry's front-of-house followspot box which is 15m above the auditorium floor with a throw distance of 28m at 37° from the edge of the stage. Their first mission was on a run of *Les Miserables* in April. "They proved themselves to be good units which were plenty bright enough," says Wimpenny. "Mark Eastwood, one of our experienced operators, reported using them for the song *Bring Him Home* at around just 25%-30%!"

Now the technicians have had a chance to use the new Arthur spots, what do they think of their performance? "They are of a very high spec and have a similar punch and colour temperature to the Aramis," confirms Wimpenny. "I compared the two Arthurs and one remaining Aramis together and the difference is very slight. The spot ops found them comfortable and easy to use. I like the placement and smoothness of the dimmer and it's right next to where your hand sits while operating."

If past experience is anything to go by, the Arthur followspots are looking forward to a long career at The Lowry: "Our remaining, original RJ Aramis followspot is still in service as a backup or a third spot if needed," says Wimpenny.

For more information on Robert Juliat Arthur and any of its wide range of followspots and other lighting solutions, visit [www.robertjuliat.com](http://www.robertjuliat.com)

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Mark Eastwood using one of the new RJ Arthur followspots on The Lowry's production of Les Misérables.

**Photo Credits: Courtesy of The Lowry**