

The search is on for the best Battle of the Bands Lighting Operator

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DWR Distribution and CUE Lighting are delighted to be sponsors for the St Mary's Battle of the Bands Lighting Operator Competition hosted at the schools' theatre, The Edge in Waverley, Johannesburg. While Battle of the Bands is an annual event schools look forward to, this is the first time this category will form part of the festivities.

An Avolites Titan 1 Dongle, which will transform a laptop or PC into a powerful lighting control instrument, a Leatherman multi tool, LED Laser Torch (each LD has to see in the dark) and a few other prizes like a Robe jacket and rigging gloves are up for grabs!

"We only have space for 12 entrants as there will only be 12 bands in the final," commented Barry Strydom, Theatre Manager at St Marys and owner of CUE Lighting and Sound. Interested

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students have to enter before 1st April, and entries will be on a first come first served bases.

“When the bands for the final are announced, each lighting operator will be given a band for which they will be responsible” said Barry. “The first choice would be a band from your school, but if your school did not enter a band or your band did not make the final, a band from another school will be allocated to the lighting designer along with a recording of their song.”

To give all young operators a confidence boost, Barry will be hosting training on the Lighting Control System (Titan 1) at St Mary’s Senior School’s The Edge Theatre on Friday, 3rd April.

“The final lighting rig for the event will be ready on Thursday , 9th April and each operator will have time to work with the rig,” he explained. “The rig will be fixed and will be the same for all operators. There will be a number of pre-programmed standard effects, chases and looks that can be used. Each operator will be given one page containing ten slides on which they can programme their own chases, effects and looks.” The lighting equipment on the rig will also give operators something fantastic to work with and includes Robe Pointes, Robe 300 Spot Calssics, Robe 300 LED Wash fixtures, various generic fixtures and a Le Maitre MVS Hazer.

Operators will need to be present at their band’s sound check to have a practice run with them on the afternoon of Friday, 10th April. Times will be confirmed. Each operator will be responsible for lighting the two songs their band performs on the night of the final (10th April).

DWR Distribution’s Dave Whitehouse, a former lighting designer working on many productions across South African theatres, and Gareth Chambers, who previously worked as a lighting operator, technical designer and currently presents regular training on lighting consoles at DWR, will form part of the judging panel.

All entries can be sent to Barry Strydom’s e-mail address at: barrystr@gmail.com