

Lecture theatre transformed with **VUE Audiotechnik** sound installation

Executive Summary

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) is one of Australia's most prestigious performing arts institutions, recognised nationally and internationally for its graduates, with state-of-the-art performance and teaching facilities.

An existing lecture theatre was converted into a performance space – The Music Box Theatre. The Music Box Theatre on the Mount Lawley campus of Edith Cowen University is used for contemporary jazz and modern rock performances by students and guest artists. The project needed to deliver the required sound results, whilst taking into account the impact on an adjacent lecture theatre and the limitations of the existing set up.

A demo and shootout was conducted prior to the purchase decision being made with two other systems presented alongside VUE Audiotechnik.

Challenges

The Music Box has a steep rake in the seating and a false ceiling added so there was limited space to fly a system.

The position of the arrays and the anchors for the frames had to be determined and installed prior to the room being refurbished. Consideration had to be given to the large projector screen on the back wall and the lighting bars already in place so array positioning was very important.

Varied sound distribution in the venue was also a concern plus the amount of transmission effect to the lecture theatre directly above the venue needed to be taken into consideration when designing the system.

Results

The technical sales team at Amber Technology provided acoustic prediction built using Ease Focus software to determine the best location for the arrays by the installers, Sinclair Communications.

Using VUE AL4s from VUE Audiotechnik, the system easily overcame the issue of varied sound distribution. The concern about noise to the lecture theatre above was alleviated by carefully focusing the arrays mounted in the frames and the chains used to install them to mitigate the transmission effects.

The venue is booked out most days with lunchtime concerts and ensemble rehearsals for contemporary music ranging from jazz through to modern rock.

The VUE Audiotechnik solution

- System details and placement – 4 x AL4 and 1 x AL4-SB per side flown on AL4-SBFbs placed above the front edge of the performance area. These were powered by 2 x VUE V4i processors
- An A+H Qu32 digital mixer was also installed along with 4 EV monitor speakers running from a VUE V4-D amplifier
- The venue was then heavily treated with acoustic panels to further control reflections and increase isolation.

Client quotes:

"Vue AL4 line array has remarkable performance for its compact size and delivers a massive decibel level. Its low profile and stylish looks were certainly a deciding factor. Gwyn Hewson, Venue Services Officer, WAAPA

"The seamless coverage in the room is now fantastic" Tim Landauer, Venue Services Officer, WAAPA

"I've never heard a more clear and natural sounding system" Laurie Sinagra, Lecturer, Production & Design (Stage Management, Lighting, Costume, Design, Props & Scenery, Sound) and Arts Management, WAAPA