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AUSTRALIA

# The Art House Wyong Already Creating An Impact

*The P.A. People provide audio and lighting solutions for keynote venue*



**T**he Art House Wyong is a new, much needed fly-tower equipped performing arts venue in the heart of the NSW Central Coast. Having just opened in May 2016, the centre is already a success, boasting a 500 seat proscenium arch Theatre and a flexible 130 seat 'Studio' space, suitable for emerging artists or digitally linked to the Theatre as an orchestra room. Amazingly, this beautiful venue was 100% council funded, and brought in at a cost just below \$14 million, an incredible return on investment that has not only hosted productions by beloved local companies, but is already attracting Australia's finest touring acts.

Sydney's The P.A. People installed the heart of the Art Houses' technical systems; the equipment that makes the everyday use of the venue possible and viable. Along the way, they helped ensure that the equipment was industry standard, fit-for-purpose and made the venue as attractive as possible for touring performing arts companies and local groups alike, for years to come.

"It's great to see local councils building theatres," said architect Tim Greer of Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects. "They're very difficult buildings to deliver, with their

multiple stakeholders. Wyong, with their limited resources, now have a great asset. Not everyone in the community agrees that there should be a substantial amount of money committed to the performing arts, but Council has a responsibility to build projects in all areas, whether its sport, arts or public spaces. They have to manage constrained budgets. It's terrific they've delivered this. There's a strong culture of theatre and performance groups within the local government area of Wyong who have agitated for this venue for a very long time, and it's good they've got such a great facility."



"The P.A. People are fantastic," said Simon Austin of theatre engineering consultancy Schuler Shook. "There's not a lot of companies in the market that can handle fitting out performing arts centres with high-end audio and high-end stage lighting. The P.A. People are pros, there's no question."

Adding to Austin's comment is Simon Koenig, Technical Manager, The Art House Wyong, "The P.A. People are very knowledgeable. They walked the council through the process and as we changed and updated a lot of the specified equipment throughout the project, The P.A. People were prompt with re-quotes and keeping council up-to-date."

"As a result, the council got amazing value for a regional theatre, and the community is now enjoying a very professional space," he continued. "We didn't have to sacrifice on the technical aspects, and we installed industry standard equipment. The lighting and sound equipment we use every day isn't where the cost savings were made. The equipment that makes the venue run is where the quality is, so the shows don't suffer."

### Gear List

The Theatre's PA is a **JBL VRX 900 Series system**, with four elements each of VRX932LA-1 at left, centre and right. Two VRX918S subwoofers are flown above centre. Front fill is provided by seven **JBL AC18/26s**. The rig is powered and processed by a combination of **Crown DCi 4 and DCi 8 amplifiers**. Further processing for the Back-of-House system is courtesy of a **BSS BLU-100**, also connected to the Dante



network. The Studio's PA is a flexible system of **JBL EON615s and 610s** that can be flown or tripod mounted as required. The house mic kit is a mixture of wired and wireless models from **Shure**.

Mixing desks are **Yamaha digital** on a Dante backbone, with a QL5 for large shows in the theatre, and a smaller TF1 for



the Studio, or smaller, single operator shows. A Yamaha Rio3224-D sits at the Theatre's prompt side, a Rio1608-D at opposite prompt. A second Rio1608-D is sleeved and can be deployed anywhere on the Dante network as needed. An eight-in Ri8-D and an eight-out Ro8-D are mounted in the bio box for local I/O. Dante sits on a separate switch from the building's IT network, with the Primary and Redundant connections run on separate V-LANs. There are 24 dedicated Dante patch points throughout the building.

The stage management console is a custom P.A .People build, and houses a **Jands EZICOM 401 master station**, a **Leon Audio QLM16 MK4 cue light master station**, Shure mic and a dual 8" LCD video monitor. Comms headsets are from **beyerdynamic**, and Back-of-House area paging is through a combination of **JBL and TOA** ceiling and surface-mount loudspeakers.

Theatre lighting control is from an industry standard **ETC Gio**, while the Studio is run from a smaller **ETC Element 40**. The system is built around 20 **Jands HPC12 digital dimmers**, which control a predominantly LED rig built around **ETC Source 4 LED models** and **Selecon Rama LED Fresnels**, flown from **Jands JLX-Pro lighting bars**. Cyclorama wash is provided from seven **Chroma-Q Color Force CF72 LED battens**.

The P.A. People also installed Jands curtain tracks in the Studio, 11 LED displays and three cameras for digital signage and performance relay throughout the building and the video infrastructure to support it, including HD-SDI links between the Studio to the Theatre to enable the Studio to be used as an orchestra room.

[www.papeople.com.au](http://www.papeople.com.au)