



## When Mass Produced Doesn't Fit

Mass production of materials has reduced the cost of many of today's products and services. In theatre applications however, conforming the space to a mass-produced product can sometimes lead to reduction in functionality and, reduced life of the rigging system.

The unique nature of the theatrical space as well as the individual needs of the client demand specially tailored systems. Customization can increase the life of system by optimizing fleet angles and loads so one part is not overburdened. Using mule blocks, creating spanned loft blocks, or fabricating something totally new, can provide additional options not available with prefabricated products.

Pittsburgh Stage provides individualized solutions to optimize your performance space. Our in-house designers and engineers can provide solutions to even the most complicated engineering challenges. As with anything else, prefabrication does drive down production costs. Over the life of the system however, any savings in the short term usually does not translate to true value. Go with a customized system and increase both the life and functionality for relatively the same long-term cost.

## What our Customers Are Saying



"Terry, Matt, and Brandon were a joy to work with. They were professional and diligent in their work while in my humble opinion good down to earth men. Everything we counted on from Pittsburgh Stage was met again with the highest of standards. Thank you!!!  
-The Meadows Racetrack & Casino

"The curtains look great. I am very pleased. Please thank everyone for all the great customer service!"  
-Pinecreek Elementary  
Brookville, PA

"Thanks and your guys did a great job."  
-Bethel Park School District  
Bethel Park, PA



## A Sensible Approach to the LED Lighting Craze in Theatre

LED technology is inching closer toward solving most of the needs of everyday lighting applications. In theatre, where several specific types of lighting fixtures are used, that is just not the case. To help determine exactly where LED technology is a viable solution in theatrical applications, we contacted Nicholas Champion, Vice President of Sales at Altman Stage Lighting, Yonkers, New York.

### What are the best usages for LED technology in theatrical applications?

"Hands down, cyc lighting remains the most effective and most practical use of LEDs in a theatrical setting. LEDs are most effective in replacing incandescent fixtures when saturated colors are needed.... From a budgetary standpoint, LED fixtures work best when you can consolidate fixtures and LED cyc lights offer that ability to go from four incandescent cyc lights down to one single RGBA or RGBW LED cyc light."

### What are the applications in which LED technology still needs improvement?

"Current LED ellipsoidal technology is still not at a place that it can match a traditional incandescent source particularly when a long throw is required... The other issue is quantity. ...a full ellipsoidal rig can easily run over one hundred units making the investment in ellipsoidal LEDs a large commitment."

Pittsburgh Stage has also found another unique application for LED technology in theatre with the development of our LED index lights. Pittsburgh Stage's new LED index light reduces energy consumption from the conventional 300-400-watt-per-unit average, to 6.6-watt-per-unit. Each LED strip is rated for over 35,000 hours of usage. This produces a substantial savings in materials and man-hours over the life of the unit.

Although the LED bandwagon may seem tempting, caution and education on the proper application of the technology is required.

## Contact Us

: Click to Email

: 877-734-3902



We thank everyone for coming out to visit our booth on July 22nd & July 23rd at The 2013 West Virginia Association of School Facilities Administrators Annual Conference and Trade Show Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV

Our Vice President Dave Seifert and Lighting Manager Brian Strom had a great time manning the booth answering your questions. Keep them coming!

## Did You Know?

Although the origin of the term "Ham" actor, for someone who overplays or exaggerates the part, is a bit unclear, it is most attributed to the practice of using ham grease as a base for makeup. Actors would use ham grease mixed with pigment such as brick dust and charcoal to create makeup. When professional makeup became available, lesser quality theaters kept up the ham grease practice. To be a "Ham" actor became a term used for an actor from a poor theater, then was adopted as a term for an unskilled actor.

## Ask AN EXPERT

"The blackouts on the side of our stage have become uneven. One side of the curtain drags on the ground while the other is too short. Do curtains stretch and shrink unevenly?"

-Matt Akron, Ohio

Great question Matt. This is actually a common occurrence in theatres. Curtain material does shrink and stretch, however this issue is more likely due to loosening of the tie lines. Blackouts, also known as side legs, are usually attached to a batten via tie lines.



These curtains get a large amount of use. They are pulled, yanked, and twisted into and out of position. These adjustments will loosen the knots in the tie lines. This can cause the side leg to slide on the batten, and the curtain will begin to sag and become uneven. It is also possible that the batten has become out of level. A safety check by a reputable theatrical rigging company can diagnose and repair this issue. Pittsburgh Stage reinforces the end tie lines on our battens with several wraps of gaffers tape. This is a simple and easily adjustable solution to prevent side legs from becoming uneven.

Have a question

Email Ask an Expert

Interested in how LED technology can be properly and affordably utilized in your facility?

Contact our Lighting Department for a no-cost consultation

## EMERGENCY REPAIRS



Have a problem **TODAY** and a performance **TOMORROW**? Contact Pittsburgh Stage for Fast and Reliable Service in an Emergency  
Call or Email Today  
**877-734-3902**  
pghstage@pittsburghstage.com

