



**STAGE  
ELECTRICS®**

**CASE STUDY**

# Tivoli Theatre

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ZACTRACK REMOTE  
FOLLOWSPOT SYSTEM

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Followspots are arguably the most important fixtures of any lighting rig, ensuring the performers on stage are always illuminated and never stray from the limelight.

Conventional followspots have been a staple component of theatre productions for over a hundred years, but rapid improvements in tracking technology have pushed remote followspot systems into contention.

Could a remote followspot system satisfy the challenges facing the Tivoli Theatre, a much-loved local theatre in Wimborne?

Are they just a gimmick or the new era of followspotting?



The Tivoli Theatre are proud to have a longstanding relationship with Stage Electrics —over the past decade or so, they've become our technical supplier of choice.

When you work with Stage Electrics, you'll immediately sense their experience. It's difficult to put into words, but they just 'get it'.

With our followspot conundrum, Stage Electrics understood our problems, presented a range of solutions and organised on-site product demonstrations. They assisted us during installation and have provided us with first-rate support when needed. We couldn't be happier.

**Kyle Best**  
Production Manager  
Tivoli Theatre





## THE CHALLENGE

A recent health and safety audit at the Tivoli Theatre identified a requirement to move the followspots from their current positions to create extra space in the fire escape routes.

This, in addition to aging equipment and the ongoing challenges of sourcing experienced crew, led Production Manager Kyle Best to contact Stage Electrics and discuss which upgrade options were best suited to their venue.

As a local theatre which welcomes many touring shows, Kyle needed to find a solution which could be easily adopted by their own productions as well as the many touring shows hosted at the Tivoli. One which provided value for money and affords Lighting Designers a broad palette of creative options.





## THE SOLUTION

Stage Electrics visited the Tivoli Theatre and presented a range of followspot upgrade options. Whilst replacing the current system with newer, more compact followspots would have alleviated some of their problems, others would have remained.

zacktrack Mini, a remote followspot system trusted by hundreds of venues around the world, quickly emerged as the preferred solution. In partnership with Ambersphere Solutions, zacktrack's UK distributor, we organised a demonstration of the zacktrack Mini system, utilising the Tivoli's lighting rig and control console. It was clear to see: a remote followspot system was the ideal solution for the Tivoli, solving their problems with numerous additional benefits.

The zacktrack Mini system installed at the Tivoli uses six anchor points which detect the location of up to five trackers worn by performers on stage.

The anchors, positioned on the front truss, in the wings and on stage create a 3D map of where the performers are.

zacktrack takes a DMX signal from the master anchor and feeds it into the lighting control console, which tells the lights allocated as followspots what to do. One significant benefit of zacktrack over conventional followspots is that multiple lights can be assigned to track a single performer.

Customisable settings such as beam size, colour, focus and frost are all easily adjustable through the lighting console. A useful feature of zacktrack is that when a performer leaves the stage, the lights following them automatically fade down. When they reappear on stage, the lights reposition themselves, before fading the followspot light back up.

Stage Electrics supplied four Ayrton Diablo Si moving lights, also distributed in the UK by Ambersphere Solutions, which were integrated into the lighting rig and help with followspot duties.



## THE RESULT

zackrack has ushered in a new era of versatility and efficiency for the Tivoli Theatre. The system has enabled shows at the Tivoli to be produced more cost-effectively with greater creative freedom than ever before.

Once limited to tracking one or two performers on stage, zackrack Mini enables lighting designers to follow up to five performers at any one time, using fixtures already in the lighting rig. No auditorium seats are lost to accommodate followspots and technical crew are free to perform other duties during the show.

The Tivoli technical staff and touring crew who've produced shows in the venue all agree: zackrack is a revolutionary tool in the followspotting arsenal.



We're thoroughly impressed with the suitability and reliability of the zackrack mini system installed at the Tivoli Theatre.

Following a few sessions of testing, to identify the best positions for the anchors to pick up the trackers on stage, the zackrack system has worked brilliantly.

During the year since we installed zackrack, we've only had a handful of occasions when the 'followspots' didn't behave as expected—we analysed why, made changes to the setup and those issues have never been repeated.

The quality of customer service from Stage Electrics has been first-class, from our initial enquiry through to post-sale aftercare.

**Kyle Best**  
Production Manager  
Tivoli Theatre

# How Can We Help You?

Stage Electrics provide technical services and products for venues and production companies.

We take care of our clients through the three specialist divisions of Stage Electrics: Projects, Equipment Sales and Venue Services.

## Projects

Our Projects department facilitate a wide range of projects and installations. Our experts will look after all your design, installation and commissioning needs for new-build and refurbishment projects. We work on installations of all scales, from village halls and schools to multi-million-pound projects like the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott or Soho Place in London. Our Projects team are ready to help with as much or as little as you need us to do.

## Equipment Sales

Stage Electrics support thousands of venues and professionals across the UK with their production technology and consumable needs. We stock products by over 100 manufacturers in our Bristol warehouse, many of which are available for same-day dispatch. Our online store is quick and simple to use. If you require personal assistance, our Equipment Sales team would be delighted to provide you with all the help and guidance needed to make a well-informed decision.

## Inspection & Testing

The Stage Electrics Venue Services team will help you maintain a fully functional and legally compliant venue and performance space. We are a NICEIC certified contractor; providing tailored packages for electrical and mechanical inspections as required by BS7671, ISITEE, PUWER and LOLER. Our specialist onsite crew are highly qualified, and DBS checked to enhanced level—the safety and functionality of your venue couldn't be in better hands.

**WE  
MAKE  
PERFORMANCE  
POSSIBLE**



# Let's Talk

If you'd like to learn more about our Equipment Sales services, we'd love to hear from you.

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Production photographs: Made to Measure Productions,  
Cinderella 2023 – 2024, Lighting Designer - Dave Tozer.

