



## CASE STUDY

# Old Laundry Theatre

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TUNGSTEN TO LED  
LIGHTING UPGRADE

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Photos: Steven Barber





Many theatres and performance spaces are considering their options for upgrading their tungsten lighting rigs to energy-efficient LED fixtures.

As with most upgrades, an initial investment will be required, but how long until the original outlay is repaid? Are the benefits solely economic, or are there other perks too?

Stage Electrics recently helped the Old Laundry Theatre achieve its ambition of running an all-LED venue. With specific requirements and a short turnaround time, would the reality of the LED upgrade meet their expectations?







# THE CHALLENGE

A desire by the owners of the World of Beatrix Potter Attraction to reduce the carbon footprint of their venue in Windermere led to a future-forward upgrade of the lighting rig in the Old Laundry Theatre.

Minimising the negative environmental impact of their venues is close to the hearts of Roger Glossop and Charlotte Scott, who had already upgraded the lighting of the World of Beatrix Potter Attraction and installed solar panels on the roof of their premises.

The brief was to supply LED lights that would satisfy the needs of the Old Laundry Theatre – the rig needed to be versatile to accommodate the requirements of the many touring shows that appear at the venue. The power and data distribution system also required improvement to facilitate the operation of LED lights.







## THE SOLUTION

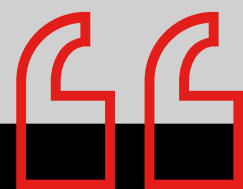
The first step was to assess the existing electrical infrastructure and design the new system. Three 32-way dimmers were removed and replaced with two distribution boards providing 144 ways of hot power, with each outlet being individually RCBO protected. The original cables were assessed, found to be in excellent condition, and terminated into the new distribution boards. Repurposing the cables brought many benefits to the project, saving money on the installation costs of new wiring and reducing the waste created during the upgrade.

As dimmed circuits don't send DMX to the lighting fixtures, a fresh data infrastructure was needed. Stage Electrics engineers designed, specified, and installed an XLR5 and ethernet data distribution network, with 29 DMX Sockets and 18 data sockets spaced out in the grid, which terminated back to

a new data rack positioned at high level in the control room. As all this work was being carried out, the lighting fixtures were being chosen, ordered, and installed. Technical Manager Andrew Barrow and resident Lighting Designer Jason Taylor had an open mind about which brand to choose, but after an on-site demonstration of CHAUVET Professional, they were impressed enough to attend an in-depth demonstration at CHAUVET's demo facility.







The lighting fixtures at the Old Laundry Theatre need to be able to light a wide range of shows, from family-focused productions of Beatrix Potter classics to stand-up comedians and musicians. Selecting fixtures that could be used for different lighting setups was of paramount importance. The lights installed were all from the CHAUVET Professional range and included: 20 Ovation H-55FC house lights, 32 Ovation F-415FC Fresnels, 12 Ovation P56 LED Pars, 16 Ovation E-910FC ERS-style profile lights, 4 Maverick Force S profile moving lights, 16 Rogue R1 beam wash lights, and 8 COLORdash Accent 3 small wash lights. The lighting control console was upgraded to an ETC Gio @5 desk.

The lighting fixtures were rigged by the Old Laundry Theatre team, with Stage Electrics engineers installing, commissioning, and testing all electrical and data circuits.

Changing over to fixtures with LED is the obvious way forward for sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of the venue going forwards.

During the fixture demonstrations with the venue team, we were able to show that the Ovation Full Colour range from CHAUVET Professional could offer the luminosity required to replace the older generation of tungsten-based fixtures whilst offering greater functionality for the designers within the theatre space. The Rogue and Maverick fixtures sit perfectly alongside the Ovation fixtures for added dynamics and versatility.

Key to this installation was also being able to meet the opening show deadlines for the upcoming summer season.

**Simon Cox**  
Business Development Manager  
Chauvet UK



Pictured: Matthew Burke, Theatre Technician at the Old Laundry Theatre



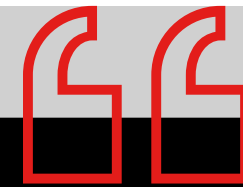


## THE RESULT

The Old Laundry Theatre is proud to operate an efficient and practical lighting rig that maximises workflow efficiency and creative capacity.

The new system saves touring productions money by eliminating the need to purchase consumables such as gels and gobos. The flexibility of moving lights enables quicker turnaround times by reducing the need to adjust fixture positions.

One of the greatest benefits of the upgrade has been the improved energy efficiency. The Old Laundry has reported using 88% less electricity compared to when it used a tungsten lighting rig. With no lamps to change, their waste is now almost zero.



The rig at the Old Laundry Theatre needs to operate in two ways: in a fixed, multi-purpose manner for touring productions and as a flexible palette of options for the in-house productions, which I usually light.

Although we had our own initial ideas about which products to use, we explained our needs and were thoroughly impressed by the range of CHAUVET Professional products shown to us by Stage Electrics.

The new LED lights have given the venue enormous flexibility, and as a designer, I now have a fantastic selection of fixtures to light productions with. The new lights have quite simply transformed how the venue works and had an outstandingly positive impact.

**Jason Taylor**  
**Lighting Designer**  
Old Laundry 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 facilitates 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 Prescot 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 supports 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 and 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.

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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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