

mendoor

KOY NEMINATHAN

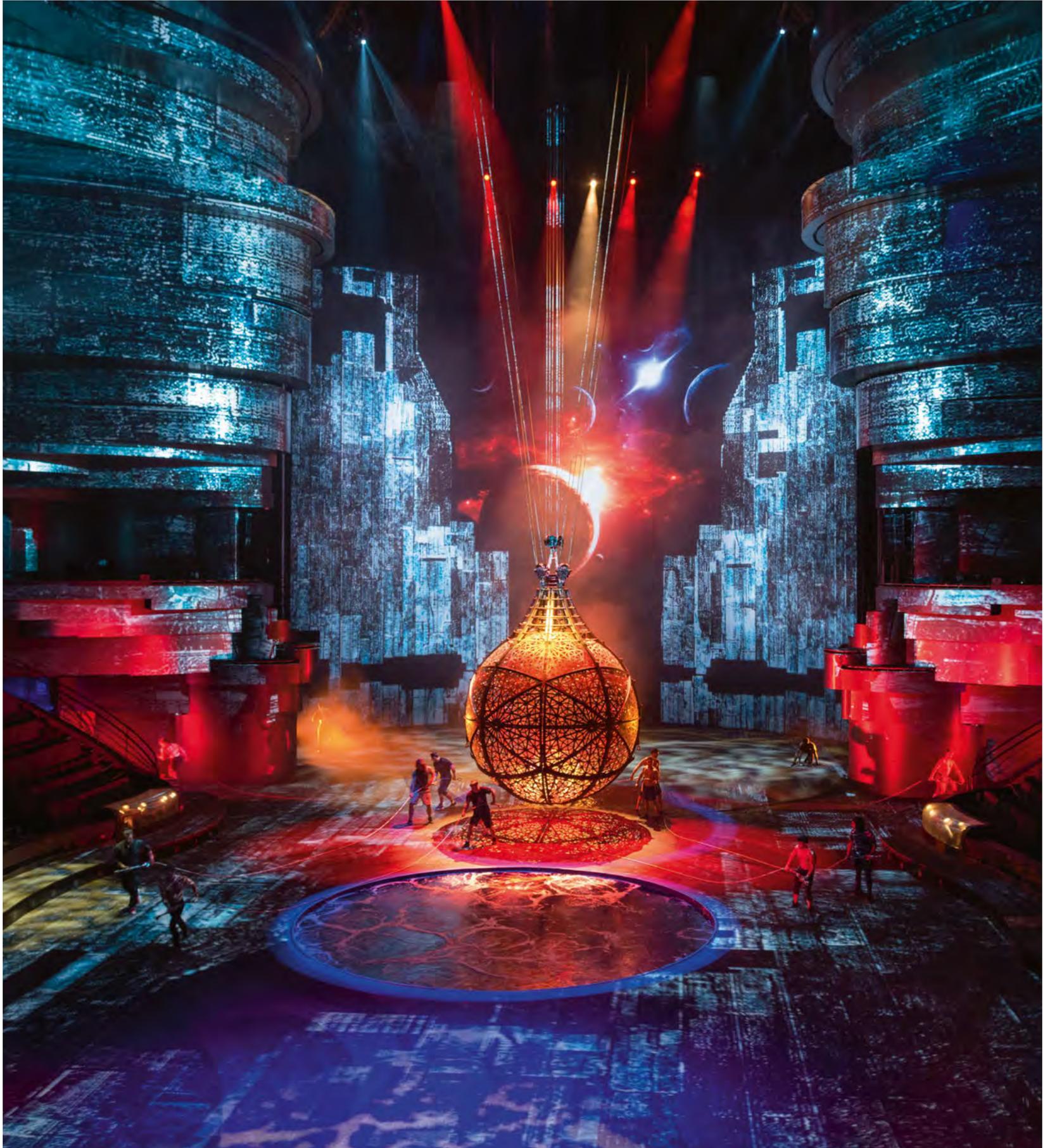
Avolites' Sales Director discusses his 18-year journey at the company.

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EDEN COURT THEATRE



INVERNESS, UK
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Originally built in 1976, Eden Court Theatre underwent a major renovation back in 2005, after almost 30 years in operation. The refurb pulled the theatre firmly into the 21st Century, while still retaining some of its historic charm. The upgrades continued recently with the first UK installation of Cadac's new CDC seven.

Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, Scotland sits in a stunning location on the banks of the River Ness. Having been there over 40 years, the theatre itself has almost become part of the picturesque landscape. It's a decade since the theatre underwent a complete refurbishment and extension carried out by Robertson Construction and Page\Park Architects, which made Eden Court the largest combined arts centre in Scotland. It houses two auditoriums - Empire Theatre and One Touch Theatre - and two cinemas, La Scala and The Playhouse, as well as two dance studios, conference rooms and stage in the bar.

Looking after all the technical needs of these areas is Chief Technician, Graeme Watt, who has worked at the theatre for 31 years, so he definitely knows his way around. Managing a team of five people daily, he said: "As a receiving house a typical day can be 'get-in, fit-up, show and get-out'. There are also longer runs such as ballets, operas and West End musical tours. For shows that require in-house crew for technical support, we design and operate lighting and sound. Alongside that, my duties also include rotas, maintenance,



health and safety, as well as the organisation and arrangement of technical specifications for upcoming shows.”

Obviously, with the venue in constant use, it’s important to continually upgrade the technology.

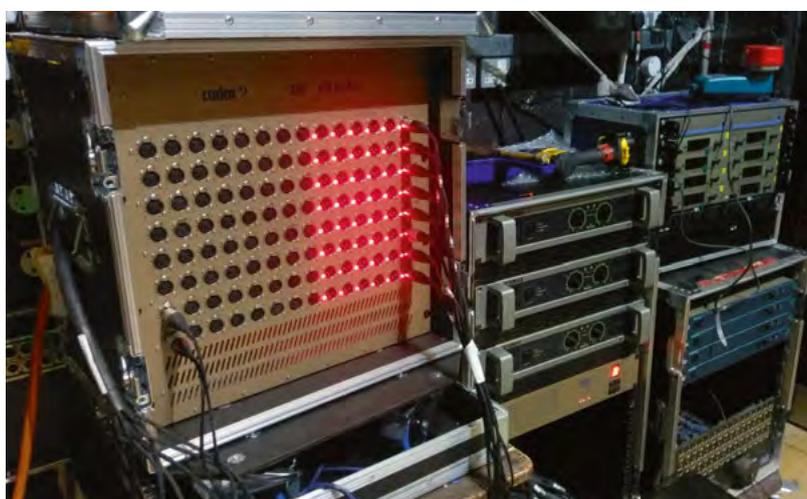
The latest piece of kit that required an upgrade was a mixing console.

The existing one had reached the end of its life, so Graeme embarked on a hunt for its replacement. “I went to Scarborough for the demo of the CDC six with Mike Walker of Loh Humm Audio, Andy Fox of Opus Audio and Rob Hughes of Cadac,” he said. “After that, over the period of about a year, I assessed the market and had in-house demos of what I would describe as the four leading consoles. None of the others could match the sound quality of the Cadac desk.”

Due to the timeframe of Graeme’s decision, a new desk was available from the manufacturer, the CDC

seven. Eden Court is actually the first venue to have a CDC seven console installed, making it a flagship project for both the theatre and Cadac. “I’m very proud to have the first Cadac CDC seven in our venue,” continued Graeme. “It’s a classic brand.” In comparison to the CDC six, the CDC seven has two screens, has an increased number of faders - 36 in total that feature stereo metering - and it expands the input count to 96. It still remains as user friendly at its predecessor, but provides the user with the luxury of an expanded physical user interface. “It’s a stunning sounding desk, so coherent, you just connect with it musically and it’s very quick in operation,” Graeme added. “I’d like to thank Rob Hughes in particular for his assistance with this installation. His knowledge on the product and the aftersales support has been excellent.”

The new Cadac CDC seven works [▶](#)



• Top
The new
Cadac CDC
seven in all
its glory.

• Above left
The Cadac
CDC I/O 6448
stage box

• Above right
Chief Tech,
Graeme Watt
and Deputy
Chief Tech,
Michael
Savage.

in perfect harmony with the pre-existing audio set-up. This was installed when the theatre closed for two years, from 2005 - 2007, for the major refurbishment. Opus Audio speakers were installed in the Empire Theatre and the One Touch Theatre - this decision was made by Graeme and was based on the high sound quality reproduction. The Empire Theatre is kitted out with five Opus PSD 800T top boxes, eight Opus SB18 subwoofers and four Opus ISO6's for front fill. This is where the CDC seven is installed. The PA is powered by a complement of Opus Audio HD amplifiers and crossovers. "These were chosen as they deliver clarity and detail," said Graeme. "Opus Audio Design

systems offer the best solution in my opinion because each component is matched and designed to work together." There is a full inventory of microphones available at Eden Court too, which productions can make use of, brands include Shure, AKG, Sennheiser, Rode, Neumann and Audix drum mics. Lighting wise, as you would expect there is a full line-up of ETC Source Four fixtures, which are accompanied by eight Robe 700AT Spots, two Robert Juliat Super Korrigan followspot and 12 Chroma-Q Scrollers. Control is provided by an ETC Gio with four universes and an Avolites Arena console with eight universes. The lighting has also been in place since the 2007 renovations. 

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

THE EMPIRE THEATRE: 1 x Cadac CDC seven console; 1 x Cadac CDC I/O 6448 stage box; 5 x Opus PSD 800T top box; 1 x Cadac CDC MC MADI network bridge; 8 x Opus SB18 subwoofer; 4 x Opus ISO6 front fill; 8 x Opus HD Series amplifier

LIGHTING

THE EMPIRE THEATRE: 100+ ETC Source Four fixture; 8 x Robe 700AT Spot moving head; 12 x Chroma-Q Scroller; 11 x Strand Alto fresnel; 10 x Selecon Lui 4 fixture; 2 x Robert Juliat Super Korrigan followspot; 1 x ETC Gio console; 1 x Avolites Arena console

www.eden-court.co.uk