

# Flexibility Key to Total Structures

**Total Structures, Inc.**, formerly Total Fabrications Inc. (*Production*, June 12), completed installation of two 30-foot wide by 23-foot tall video screen frames mounted on concrete towers in the water on either side of the stage at **Jones Beach Amphitheatre** in Wantagh, N.Y., May 22. Built to withstand winds of up to 90 mph, the structures were tested when tornadic winds whipped through the area the following week. They didn't budge.

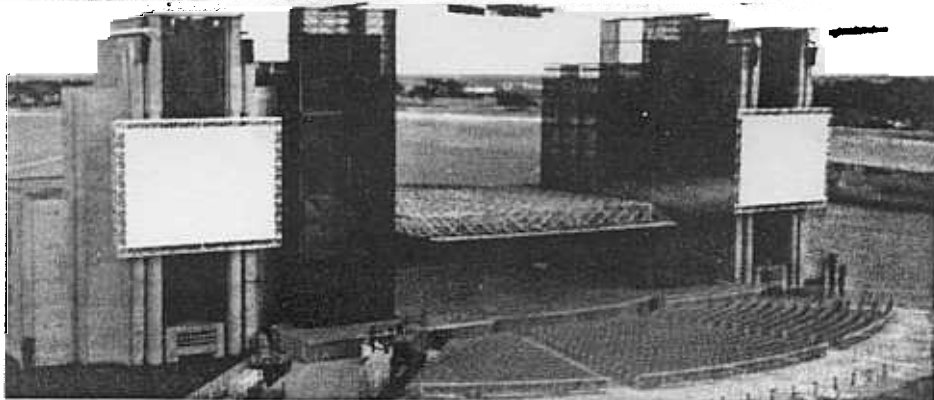
Originally built in 1946, the amphitheater's location directly on the water presented a unique set of problems for installation of the system, Total Structures' **Rick Stuart** told *PERFORMANCE*. "Each of the massive 3,300-pound structures had to be constructed in position, in the air, over open water," he explained. "The local crew, led by head rigger **J.R. Cassidy**, went way above and beyond on this install. What could have been a relatively simple project, had we been able to assemble the structures on flat ground then fly them into position, became a challenging task."

The structures could not be constructed on the ground, because there was no solid ground in the immediate vicinity. "In the front of the stage is seating where, underneath, there used to be a moat," Stuart explained. "It's not rated for that much weight, so we could not bring any heavy equipment out there. Much of the work had to be done using barges."

Square standard aluminum truss was used for the 19-foot-10-inch vertical and 39-inch horizontal ladders constructed to hold the state-of-the-art steel screen modules, manufactured by **Tel-Vi** of St. Louis, Mo., for **Nocturne Inc.**, which was contracted by Jones Beach for the video installation.

"We had to use all square tubing, which is unusual and difficult to work from," Stuart explained. "It's much less forgiving than round. We had tension in four directions. But, we had to use square because the screen panels had to have something to attach to."

To circumvent the rigidity problem, Total Structures slightly modified the truss. "The modi-



Total Structures constructed frames for the permanent installation of two state-of-the-art video screens, manufactured by Tel-Vi, for Jones Beach Amphitheatre in Wantagh, N.Y.

fication increased tolerance and it doesn't affect the engineering," Stuart explained. "And the problem was solved."

The screens were given a demo run shortly after the job was completed. Stuart said the images were some of the best he has seen. "They were really crisp. Crystal clear."

In addition to the Jones Beach project and a custom-built installation for Far West Rodeo (*Production*, May 8), Total Structures has built a number of artistic and thematic structures as well as sound towers, grids and modular, expandable load bearing stage roofs for clients in the past year. Future plans include freestanding, modular, temporary structures with applications for governments and the military, in addition to work for entertainment and corporate clients.

Based on the versatile nature of the company's business, it changed its name earlier this month. "We will certainly continue to sell our high-quality truss to customers in addition to finished complete structures to an ever expanding client list," said Total Structures' **Peter Johns**. "We continue to be the front-runner and innovator in this industry. With new products such as our award-winning XO truss and our brand new Intelligent Fixture Pre-rig, we're the company people call on and have confidence in for either a stick of 12-by-12

box or a complicated, difficult structure. Our customers are only limited by their imagination when it comes to what we can build."

## News You Can Use

**Ani DiFranco** and her monitor/recording engineer **Andrew Gilchrist** tied the proverbial knot May 30 in a private ceremony...**David Middleton** re-joined the sales staff at **Creative Stage Lighting Co.**...**Alex Welti** is now national service manager for **Soundcraft** and **AMEK U.S.A.** In other Soundcraft news, the company introduced its new Series FIVE and SM20 monitor consoles at NSCA this spring, and, through **Electrotec Productions**, had its 40-channel SM24 monitor console used on tour with **Queensrÿche** in South America. Soundcraft also launched Broadway, a new modular theater console specifically designed for live theater production applications.

Just in from **Light & Sound Design's** U.K. office: **Mark Cunniffe** and **Martin Nicholas** designed a "mega" rig of 50 LSD™ ICONS®, 30 Martin Mac 500s, 36 each of **High End Systems** Studio Colors® and Icon washlights, 62 six lamp bars of pars, and "shed loads" of dimming fluorescent tube "thingys" for the June 27 **Princess Diana Memorial Concert** at **Althorp Park** near the Spencer family home. ■