

# Magic of the Musicals at The Natural History Museum

01/02/2010

**Les Miserables to West Side Story, Phantom of the Opera to Grease, the Natural History Museum became the hottest new West End venue for one night only as CBS Ltd presented Magic of the Musicals.**

bright\* Ltd was approached by production supplier White Light to design the lighting scheme for this special event. The design involved architecturally styling the interior and exterior of the building and a theatrical design for the 45min plus musical extravaganza.

Jason Larcombe designed a highly flexible system which enabled the interior to be perfectly styled. Using automated equipment, and the latest LED luminaires Larcombe was also able to capture the atmosphere of the individual musical numbers, and transform the interior into a magical world.

“Its about telling a story” Larcombe comments “no matter if its in a theatre, for an event or an outside spectacular, if the lighting is to truly work it has to tell the story, to help convey atmospheres, locations, suspend believe and inspire the audience’s imagination”.

The show was programmed on the day, with only two hours of preparation time and no rehearsals. “Its essential to give yourself a flexible and adaptable system when you are working against the clock” comments Larcombe; “I immersed myself in the music for days beforehand so that I knew where, when and how the lighting should change, and then painted the pictures when I got into the venue”.

The lighting design included the latest automated and LED equipment; JB Lighting VaryLED A7 Zoom luminaires to light the columns and wash the stage, and Martin MAC 700 and 2000 luminaires for stage effects, controlled via a Grand MA console. The LED equipment was chosen because of the pure saturated colours that can be achieved and the immense light output of these new compact luminaires.

With less than two hours to install the complete system; these lightweight low power luminaires simplified the technical system, whilst offering a fantastic lighting tool that was the mainstay to create the atmospheres for each scene.



**Credits:**  
Client: Audi Spain  
Date: January 2010  
Venue: Natural History Museum, London  
Lighting Designer: Jason Larcombe (for bright\*)  
Supplier: White Light Ltd  
Photographer: Lixberth Diaz

