

Mill Theatre, Dundrum

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J&C Joel have supplied an award winning (Plasa 2003, Award for Design Excellence) Unibar lifting system for the newly opened €14 million Mill Theatre in Dundrum Town Centre, Dublin 14, on the site of Ireland's largest shopping centre.

J&C Joel's project manager Tony Griffiths, who along with Nick Dykins of Slingco are co-designers of the award winning Unibar which was specified by Maurice Power Theatre Consultants. J&C Joel worked closely with its premier Irish distributor, Stage Lighting Centre, on the installation and commissioning of the system.



portfolio

The nine 4-line Unibars – eight over the stage and one advanced bar in the auditorium - are each designed to raise and lower up to 400kg on 10m long suspension bars, The Unibar system allows the quick and easy raising/lowering of suspension or bars for scenery, lighting and AV equipment with a motor-driven unit.

Unibar was seen as the ideal solution to fit into the confined spaces of the Mill Theatre. The main auditorium is built underneath a cinema, so both stage space and flying ability are restricted. However the Unibar itself is light, flexible and can be located at 400mm centres, therefore a lot less space is required than for a conventional Pilewind winch system. This coupled with low power requirements made Unibar the ideal choice.

Ireland's first ever Unibar system was also installed by Stage Lighting Centre - in 2002 at Liberty Hall in Dublin - since when it has gained many fans!

At the Mill Theatre, the standard multi directional control facility is a key feature of the system – allowing suspension bars to be raised and lowered simultaneously. The Unibars can also be grouped together, so several can be raised or lowered together.



“As with all flying systems, safety was paramount” explains Tony Griffiths. The Unibars design safety factor of 8:1 provides additional confidence to clients this along with working and back up limits give piece of mind”.

The Theatre is staging a wide variety of productions and particularly championing the staging of new, experimental work and interactive productions. Technical manager Noel Hagan states, “The Unibars are user-friendly and very quick and easy to set up – everything you need for a busy receiving house, we can operate them in and out with no hassle at all for everyday tasks like re-gelling and re-lamping, pre-focusing, etc”.

In addition to the Unibar system and control, J&C Joel also supplied a full set of stage blacks (borders, legs, cross and rear stage) and damson coloured proscenium and valance drapes to the intimate 200 seat space. Also, to increase the flexibility of the equipment four, Swl 120kg, 4-line manually operated hemp sets were installed for the lifting of light loads.

Griffiths says, “It's been a challenging project that's generated great teamwork between Stage Lighting Centre, Slingco and ourselves. We completed everything in just 10 weeks from receiving the order to completion – that included designing, manufacturing, testing, installation and commissioning of the project!”

Content

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