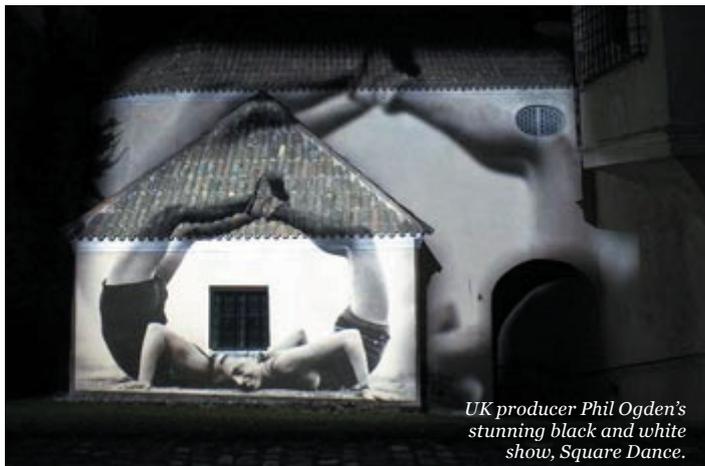


PAINTING WITH LIGHT FESTIVAL



UK producer Phil Ogden's stunning black and white show, Square Dance.

A truly international gathering of enthusiasts, the Painting with Light Festival in Italy celebrates the beauty of imagery – and the bigger the better. Rain, lack of sleep and stubborn trees are all part of the fun. Traditional multi-image and WATCHOUT shows topped the bill.

PAINTING WITH LIGHT 2006 took place at Goldrain Castle, Vinschgau, South Tyrol, Italy. Festival director and coordinator Alex Rowbotham (AGRfoto) and Sabrina Horak worked tirelessly to put the biennial event together. Festival contributions fell into two main categories: traditional multi-image using Dataton, and digital multi-image using Dataton WATCHOUT.

Alex Rowbotham: “We had full attendance for all four of the indoor multi-image sessions as well as the inauguration evening. These single-screen traditional slide programs using

Dataton, proved very popular with the audience. Everything went like a dream thanks to Giorgio Civaldi (Filo Multivisioni) who staged the sessions with help from Roberto Tibaldi (Studio Immaginare) both also contributing artists.

“Huge applause was given to Francesco Lopergolo (Il Parallelo, Padua) for the installation in the courtyard of this mediaeval castle. Programmed on-site using Dataton and 20 slide projectors, “Comoedia” covered all the wall spaces creating an atmosphere and experience inspired by Dante’s inferno.”

The 500 m² facade of Goldrain Castle was transformed again and again at the Painting With Light Festival.





Organizers: Alex Rowbotham, Sabrina Horak
Dataton gear: Mediawerk, AGRfoto
Tech support: Hans Ruedisueli
Venue: Goldrain Castle, Italy
Soundtrack: Bombay Dub Orchestra
Photos courtesy of: AGRfoto
More info: www.multivisione.com

Demanding outdoor venue

The festival is held in the Italian Alps where rain is always just around the corner. The organizers commissioned projection towers to be constructed to house the projectors and WATCHOUT display computers together. The seven WATCHOUT displays were placed next to the projectors, with network cable to cover the long distances from the production machine which was safely tucked away in the production ‘tent’. The screen area was effectively two grids, one using four overlapping displays for the castle face, and one using three displays which ran in a 10m wide inset.

The courtyard environment presented its own special challenge, according to Alex Rowbotham. “Trees in the castle garden made it impossible to place one of the projectors square to the building but the acute key-stoning was easily and quickly resolved using the new geometry adjustment which now comes in version 3, very welcome indeed when comparing it to fine-tuning the line-up in the rain atop 2.5m towers.”

Artists from far and wide

Rowbotham created the works called *Luce dipinta* (“Painted Light”) which covered the whole front of the castle, an approximate surface area of 500m². He worked with composer Andrew T. Mackay of the Bombay Dub Orchestra who created six original soundtracks, plus two remixed tracks from the new album with Garry Hughes.

The three-screen WATCHOUT shows by other international artists – Mal Padgett (Australia), Phil Ogden (UK), Bruce Hornstein (USA), Darryl Williams (UK), and Aldo di Russo (Italy) – were screened in a matted-out 10m area directly on to the castle wall. As these shows conformed to the same configuration of 25% overlap panoramas, the whole evening program could run from one time-line and one rig.

Summer weather

“The rain arrived during the final show *Caught* and everyone dived for cover,” Alex recalls. “However, we managed to save everything and the weatherproofing did us proud, the computers and casings supplied by MediaWerk in Holland never faulted!”

The organizers give special thanks to Media Werk’s Hans Ruedisueli for his help in preparing and staging this event. “He thought he was coming on holiday but then just jumped right in and didn’t stop until we had de-rigged the event.” Dataton equipment and support was provided by MediaWerk, Netherlands and AGRfoto, Italy/UK.

The event proved so popular that it was featured on national TV, Rai 3, generating an enormous response. The next festival will be held in 2008 – keep an eye on the website for more info: www.multivisione.com