



The auditorium at Rospadskiy Palace of Arts, in the Siberian mining town of Mezhdurechensk, has undergone a complete technical refurbishment

Last issue's regional focus revealed that the Russian theatre sector is especially vibrant. David Davies reports on a trio of recent installations carried out by Moscow-based company StudiTech

Sounds of Siberia

An alternative headline for last month's overview of former Soviet territories might have been 'Russia Rising', such is the current level of optimism in the country's pro-AV business. The theatre sector appears to be particularly robust, with a string of new-builds and redevelopments occasioning important commissions for installers and suppliers.

Moscow-based company StudiTech is among the beneficiaries, and over the past year-plus has opted for Outline-dominated

In the main hall, the sound system was centred around Outline's Butterfly line array, with uniform coverage achieved by the specification of six full-range CDH 483 cabinets and two CDL 1815s per side. A pair of Outline Topsub Plus subwoofers was also provided, primarily for use during pop and rock concerts.

Several more budget-conscious options were considered during the run-up periods, says StudiTech's chief engineer, Alexander Klinushkin, "but after a discussion of different

Other fixtures chosen for this part of the complex included two pairs of three-way Digita Plus N cabinets for stage monitoring, with an Audient Aztec AZ48 mixer sited at

'The Butterfly system is more expensive than some other options but it provides better uniformity and headroom, and the fact that it is compact helps architects and designers' Alexander Klinushkin, StudiTech

specifications during work on three revamped theatres and performance spaces. The first of these took place at DK Neftyanik in the city of Uray, situated about 1,700km to the east of Moscow in Western Siberia. The sound-fit was designed by StudiTech, which also installed equipment across the complex in collaboration with Universal Acoustics and Strojtisirk.

solutions with the customer, we all decided to settle on the Butterfly system for this hall. In spite of the fact that it is more expensive than some other options, it provides better uniformity and more SPL headroom for undistorted signal reproduction. [The fact that] it is very compact helped our architect-designers to 'inscribe' it into the construction and final look of the proscenium."



An Outline Butterfly array installed in the main hall of the DK Neftyanik centre in Uray

www.outline.it
www.studitech.ru
www.audient.co.uk
www.innovason.com

front-of-house. In the main foyer, the selected system included Integra A cabinets and Spectra Bass subs.

The second project – at Raspadskiy Palace of Arts – again saw StudiTech setting out for Western Siberia. The theatre – located in the mining town of Mezhdurechensk – instigated a complete renewal of its audio and lighting systems to begin in spring 2005. While Novokuznetsk-based outfit Sound Design won the tender for system projection and equipment supply, StudiTech acted as a sub-contractor for audio supply and installation.

The need for a versatile system capable of handling concerts and conferences with equal aplomb led, once again, to a specification based around Outline Butterfly. Although Sound Design director Alexey Bokov had considerable experience of Outline equipment stretching back to 1994, Butterfly was – until that point – an unknown quantity.

“It was my first experience with one of the newest products made by Outline,” he recalls. “What surprised me during the installation part was the simplicity both of the installation itself and of setting up (minimum equalisation).” Alexey also notes that Outline’s VIP (Vector Implementation Protocol) acoustic simulation software played an

important role in finessing the system.

Klinushkin also emerged highly satisfied from his reacquaintance with the Butterfly system. “Once again I have obtained a better result than I expected. With each new project where I use Butterfly I have more and more demands, and once [the system has been] set up and put into action I understand that I haven’t reached the limit yet.”

An extensive specification list included 16 units of CDH 483 and eight CDL 1815s, plus Outline Kanguro and H.A.R.D. fixtures for side-fill and monitoring; the mixer of choice was an Audient Aztec AZ-40. A broad selection of microphones included items from Beyerdynamic, Shure, Audio-Technica, Sennheiser and Schoeps.

The last of the three projects found StudiTech working in rather closer proximity to its Moscow base, and involved a fit-out at the Russian Cooperation University (RUK) in the city of Mytishi, located to the north of Moscow. Once again, it saw the company supply equipment and expertise to an on-site performance venue in the process of renovation.

The customer’s desire for a setup with a long life resulted in the specification of an Outline Butterfly line array system in the main hall. Used in conjunction with an InnovaSon Sy48 digital console, the system comprises



The impressively specified front-of-house position at Raspadskiy Palace of Arts

six CDH 483 cabinets and four CDL 1815s per side. Additionally, four JBL Control 128Ws were fitted into the front panel of the stage.

“These are intended for the very first rows of the audience, and [in the instance] that there is additional removable seating places provided in the space between the first row and the stage,” elaborates Klinushkin. “At the same time, this solution helped us to reach a better uniformity of sound in the remaining main audience area and to get higher gain before feedback for microphones on stage, especially during conferences and symposiums.”

Stage monitoring was handled by four H.A.R.D. 212SPs for the front stage lines and a quartet of H.A.R.D. 115SPs for the backlines. Meanwhile, out in the foyer the specification comprised two distinct subsystems – one for a dancing area, the other to handle the bar. Outline Integra and Outline Topsub Plus units were chosen for the former, with a grand total of 16 Outline IC-5T ceiling loudspeakers selected for the latter.

StudiTech – up and running since 1992 – has interests in distribution and many other areas of the install business, from sports centres to restaurants. Nonetheless, as these three examples illustrate, it is likely that the theatre sector will remain an important source of new projects as the government of Vladimir Putin continues to signal its long-term commitment to the arts. ■



The foyer area of the Russian Cooperation University in Mytishi has two distinct systems – one for the dancefloor area, the other for the bar (above)