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Litecom Puts Robe on the Rig

Products Involved

FORTE® **PAINTE®** **Spiider®** **BMFL™ FollowSpot**

Litecom, one of Denmark's leading lighting, visual and rigging rental companies and a major supplier in all broadcast areas – music, games shows, entertainment plus multiple sports events including e-sports tournaments – has made a massive investment in new Robe moving lights.

The company is based in Copenhagen and has a branch in Stockholm, Sweden, and works extensively across the two countries and throughout Scandinavia.

2024's purchases include 50 x FORTE Profile moving lights, 60 x PAINTE Profiles and 136 x Spiider LED wash beams, all delivered by Danish distributor, Light Partner. This was followed by a further investment of 24 more FORTES, another 50 x PAINTES plus 3 x BMFL FollowSpots.

"This decision was based on boosting our inventory with reliable stage lighting products that are universally useful across all our projects," explained Litecom lighting designer Martin Wallin.

Martin has been with the company for 19 years and oversees all the major broadcast projects which have included supplying lighting to the Eurovision Song Contest four times and rigging for the 2024 event in Malmo.

This opinion on the new lighting products was echoed by project manager Andreas Christensen who added that they also wanted fixtures that were cross-rentable and in general circulation and therefore sourceable for shows requiring more units.

Before these latest Robe fixtures, Litecom had purchased large stocks of BMFLs and Pointes for both Danish and Swedish operations and the Pointes are still in active service, and before the FORTE investment they had used older profile fixtures from another brand.

“We knew we needed to upgrade, and we really needed multifunctional kit,” emphasised Martin. Shoot-outs and comparative sessions were staged in their studio, testing aspects like mid-air effects, key lighting and general features. “FORTE does all this extremely well which was a great bonus,” he said.

Martin has designed the Danish version of X-Factor for the last few years, and his artistry and experience as a lighting designer further informed the choice of Robe moving lights.

For X-Factor, he generally needs luminaires with much dynamic scope to light around 90 different songs across the seven ‘live final’ shows, making each contestant look individual and interesting.

Sometimes it’s left entirely up to him to choose the treatment, while other times he will get input from the judges as to how their mentored bands / artists should look, and the artists themselves can also have input.

For X-Factor Denmark 2024, Martin utilised 50 x PAINTES positioned all over the stage area, 24 x FORTES for key lighting and three BMFL Follow Spots, plus other fixtures.

The Spiiders were run in mode 3 so they could additionally be used for pixel mapping effects, and having the Robes on the rig really made a noticeable difference. He found himself using a lot of gobo and colour options on the artists this year, saying that transitioning from Pointe to PAINTE was a “super smooth” process.

X-Factor 2024 was recorded in Litecom’s own studio space, located around 500 metres from their main warehouse just outside Copenhagen.

One of the largest studios in Denmark, it is an old industrial building once used as a testing facility for undersea cables, and now busy with band and production rehearsals and other TV shows.

Some of the Robe pre-purchase tests they did took place in the studios. It was in here that Martin realised that PAINTES would provide the great effects that the Pointes had done in previous years AND most of what the old other brand profiles had also accomplished.

“I was really amazed at first that one compact fixture like the PAINTE could fulfil both functions so effectively and well.”

Martin has worked on X-Factor since series two (2024 was number 17 and they are now on 18). His X-Factor journey started as a lighting technician, progressing up to programming and running key lights before taking over as the series' main lighting designer. Last year, he worked with graphics and video producer Katja Forup - who created all the screen content - to present a full visual picture for each contestant. The series director was Jesper Hvenegaard.

Andreas is equally happy with the new Robe fixtures, and the benefits of having fewer fixture types to deal with in rental stock and on shows, although he mentioned that - thanks to Robe's excellent engineering and build quality - the service department rarely must deal with any malfunctioning lights!

Litecom now has around 800 moving lights available in the Copenhagen warehouse including the new Robe luminaires, and all their main fixtures above a certain size are now Robe.

Martin has liked Robe's products for some time and is constantly in touch with Johan Kvartborg and the team at Light Partner team about what's cool and what's new in the Robe universe and highlights the importance of a good relationship with and information flow from the distributor.

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