

and took some time to set. We use Soundweb - I did the calculations first, set it, and then walked around making final subjective tweaks based upon what I heard. You can't expect the TMS3s to throw 40m up to the top-most stands, so the house system proved invaluable. There is a bit of slap-back off the grandstands, but the stadium system, coupled with what we've brought in, is enough to overwhelm it. Noise pollution-wise, we don't have too many problems. The stadium is not fully enclosed - something that's actually a bit of a blessing, allowing the low-end energy to escape. At one end are trees, the other is a railway line and then we're overlooked by the University of Cape Town."

large circular central stage. Built by ULTI, a local stage specialist, it comprised 32 wedge-shaped sections, each weighing 900kgs, which rest upon huge fibreglass skids spread the load and protect the grass. The whole thing neatly straddles the 'wicket' area, though groundsman Christopher Erasmus pointed out "it doesn't actually rest upon any part of it."

Lighting essentially comes from six large scaffolding towers around the perimeter, but more on that later. The question is how did Lowey come to this project? "The executive producer, Penny Jones, went to the same school as Jeremy Railton when he was studying in Cape



Lighting designer Marilyn Lowey and her team of Dennis Rudge, Scotty Duhig and Seth Rapaport

Even though this is a one-off event, and it's unlikely that something even remotely similar will be repeated here more frequently than once every few years, the City officials informed all the local residents and asked them to accept a little disturbance for the few days of rehearsals and the actual opening ceremony. Griesel reported no complaints.

"Control is a from an Allen & Heath desk, monitors (wedges and the inward-facing system) are complemented by a Shure in-ear system for the president and the narrator, both of whom use Crown microphones. President Mbeki is very softly spoken but clear - anything he says will get through. As for the playback, it's all from DAT machines, with sync'd back-up run through split feeds - the whole thing is time-coded and linked to the lights. There were no problems on the day." Whatever the simplicity of Griesel's system, there's no statement a sound man likes to make better than that last one.

LIGHTING

In terms of bang for bucks, the same qualifiers applied to lighting as to sound. Let's be fair, cricket is not soccer, batsmen do not sign up for seven figure fees do they? So deep pockets are reserved for ball-tampering devices, not stadium lighting budgets.

Besides the obvious need to light the pitch and all the previously mentioned dancers, designer Marilyn Lowey - an accomplished and respected LD - was presented with a

Town," explained Lowey. "She also went to Salt Lake City for the Winter Olympics, which was designed by Jeremy Railton. So she called him up to ask if he'd do the design for the cricket."

Time did not allow, but Jeremy had a local solution, "He was my instructor from school, Keith Anderson." Which she promptly did. It's clear that despite the fact Railton wasn't ultimately involved, there was an overlap of contacts between himself and Lowey (check the credits on her Profile on page 82). "Penny then called me," continued Lowey. "We had a meeting, and away we went."

"This has been a very unusual project," Lowey commented with an almost British sense of irony. "Understandably, they have champagne wishes and shekels money." Beer might have been a better comparison, but then Lowey's a Brooklyn lady and their tastes are different there.

"There was a very limited amount of money, and this is the first time an opening ceremony has ever been planned, so inevitably there was a gap between expectation and what is possible. It's been a learning curve for us all. There's no shame in that, and this is no cheap show."

Which is refreshing to hear, especially from a leading US lighting designer. It would be so easy to do down the event and its location - Lowey's denial is comfortably emphatic. A