

## Introduction

The sound facilities in the Rhoda McGaw can be daunting for a new comer to festival stage sound. Indeed the equipment available is of a professional standard and can be configured in a variety of different ways depending upon the needs of its users.

For the festival we try to set up the sound facilities to provide both flexibility and ease of use for groups coming in. Not an easy task.

## Sound Sources

Starting at the beginning, the theatre is equipped with the following sources for sound:

- a) Mini Disk player
- b) CD player
- c) 2 Microphones and stands

The Mini Disc and CD player are of professional quality and reside in the Sound Box at the back of the auditorium along side the lighting desk. This provides both a good view of the stage and clear audio feedback of exactly what the audience is hearing.

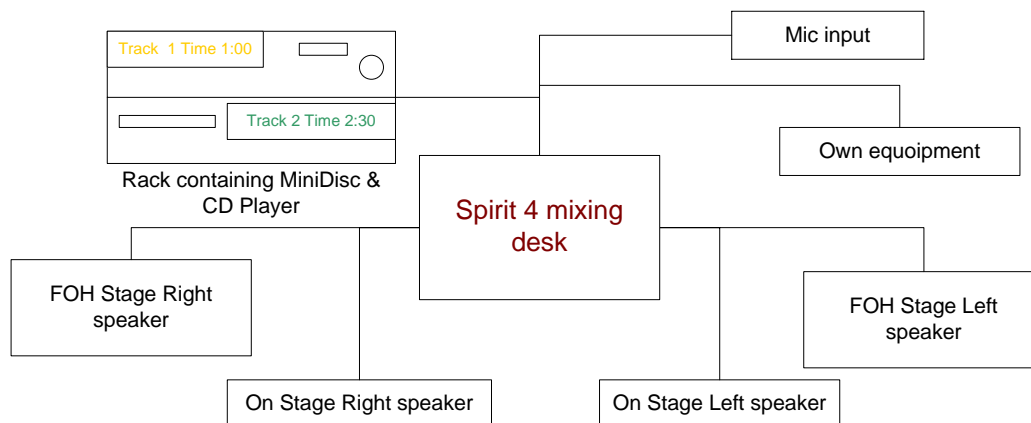
## Sound Mixing Desk

These sound sources are all brought together onto the mixing desk. The mixing desk is a 24 channel Spirit Live 4 desk and is also located in the sound box. It is from within the sound box that the sound operator controls the playing of recorded sounds from CD or Mini Disk, or the capture of live sounds from either of the 2 microphones and decides where the sounds will be transferred to, i.e. the Output.

## Output

For output the sound can be directed to a variety of combinations of 4 speakers. Two of these speakers are located Front of House just in front of the main tabs and 2 located normally at the rear of the stage. However, as the 2 onstage speakers are on long leads so they may be moved to practically anywhere on stage.

Figure 1 gives a diagrammatic representation of the of the whole sound system, while Figure 2 gives a diagrammatic representation of the mixing desk as set up for Festival.



**Figure 1 - Block Diagram of Sound Facilities**



### **Advice, Producers Meeting and Technical Rehearsal time**

We expect each group to supply their sound operator and to operate from within the control room at the back of the auditorium. However the festival stage crew is available to provide advice and guidance on using the equipment in advance of the festival. This can be either at producer's meeting or by arrangement by phone or email. If you have particular sound requirements then please seek this advice – even if you're only thinking of doing something. We'd rather be prepared and not used than disappoint.

During the 35 minutes technical rehearsals the Festival stage crew will be available to instruct sound operators on the use of the equipment and once again offer advice and guidance as well as assist in the setting of any specialist equipment.

We strongly recommend that you run your sound effects and set your sound levels at your stage time. Take particular note of the following:

- a) Familiarisation with the equipments operations
- b) Voice overs, where actors are expected to talk over sound passages.
- c) Quick changes, where there may be the requirement to change CD or mini disk quickly between sound effects.
- d) Singing passages where actors are required to sing along with pre-recorded music
- e) Any use of microphones

### **Operation**

On performance night your operator may come up to the sound box during the 10 minutes allotted setting time and cue up any opening tracks.

When the festival crew have clearance from Front of House indicating the audience is in and seated then control of the sound equipment will be handed over to the participating group's sound operator

Operation of the sound system will usually entail the following process for CD or Mini Disk input:

- 1) Select CD or Mini Disk track required with the deck in pause mode
- 2) Set predefined level for CD or Mini Disk source on input channels
- 3) Start track playing
- 4) Increase volume for either FOH (Yellow Sliders) and/or On Stage speakers (red sliders)

This should have been practiced during technical rehearsal time.

## **Other points to note**

### **Own Equipment**

If a group wants to use their own equipment, it should have either Phono plugs or ¼” mono jack plugs to connect it to the mixer line inputs and 3 pin XLR for mic inputs.

This equipment will generally be brought onto the mixer on one of the spare sets of channels between 2 and 7 shown in Figure 2 by the white sliders.

Any additional equipment used must be set within the allotted 10 minutes and stuck within the 5.

There is a wide range of other setting for each channel - it will be the individual group's responsibility to ensure that channel that additional equipment is plugged into is set according to their needs. No guarantee is made that the channel used will not also be used by another group for something completely different. Therefore – NOTE THE SETTINGS.

### **Additional Equipment Available**

Both hand held and lapel radio microphones can be provided but there will be an additional charge. These work off 9volt batteries and while we do our bet to provide rehearsal batteries we expect individual groups to provide performance batteries.

### **Additional Speakers**

Additional speakers can be rigged and positioned in the gantry of the auditorium and fed off the desk. However, this can only be done if the Festival Stage Director is informed beforehand and agrees.

### **Signal Processor**

The theatre is equipped with a Midi Verb4 signal processor which can be configured to provide a range of effects if required.

## **FAQ**

The MD deck will be set to Auto Pause which means it will pause at the end of each track.

If you want more information then please ask.