

St John Bosco Art College, Liverpool

Specialist in Flame Retardant Fabrics. Manufacturer and Installer of all types of Theatrical Drapes and Stage Equipment

Corporation Mill
Corporation Street
Sowerby Bridge
Halifax, HX6 2QQ
West Yorkshire
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1422 833 835
F1: +44 (0)1422 835 157
F2: +44 (0)1422 839 642

mail@jcjoel.com
www.jcjoel.com



St John Bosco High School. (2004) St John Bosco High School, [online]. Available from: <http://www.stjohnboscohighschool.com/about.php>

Tracking and curtain specialists J&C Joel has designed, specified and installed a complete and fully flexible performance area at St John Bosco's Arts College in Croxteth Liverpool.

The multi-track drape installation is in two parts. The first divides the auditorium of the College's multi-purpose theatre and concert room into five sections, and the second sees the stage completely refurbished with a flexible stage which consists of a full set of legs, borders, stage drapes, front tabs and supporting stage machinery.

The new track and curtain system is part of a complete refurbishment project that transformed the room into a dynamic, modern, functional performance and learning environment for St John Bosco, which is also host school for the adjacent City Learning Centre. The College specialises in arts courses featuring dance, drama, music and physical and expressive arts.

The refurbishment was financed through funding that became available when St John Bosco's attained Arts College status in September 2004. Formally, the room had only seen general maintenance since the 1940s, when the place was originally built!

The project was driven forward by Head teacher Mrs. Anne Pontifex, who contacted locally based company ADLIB Audio to tender for supplying a complete sound, lighting and AV system. They in turn contacted J&C Joel to provide the specialist tracking, mechanics and curtain elements needed to partition the room for maximum flexibility.

Mrs. Pontifex has previously worked with ADLIB on a similar project, as the company has one of the best reputations in the UK for specifying appropriate production systems for schools, colleges and educational establishments.

For J&C Joel, the project was managed by Tony Griffiths who at the completion commented, "It's been a really rewarding project to work on. The feedback from Anne, the school, the students and everyone now using the new space has been incredible! Having the new facilities available has opened up a new world for them in terms of what they can achieve with their creative projects".

Onstage, J&C Joel supplied three pairs of specialist moving legs which enable the 9m x 6m stage area to be divided in half in both width and depth as each performance dictates. To support the moving legs there's also two pairs of moving stage backs, three sets of moving borders and a cyclorama.



Onstage, J&C Joel supplied three pairs of specialist moving legs which enable the 9m x 6m stage area to be divided in half in both width and depth as each performance dictates. To support the moving legs there's also two pairs of moving stage backs, three sets of moving borders and a cyclorama.

In the auditorium, Tony specified over 100 metres of Triple E's PLASA Innovation Award winning 3-way track, which was installed around the full exterior of the room and in configuration shapes to enable the room to be sub divided. Chosen because of its cosmetic appeal and very smooth travel the 3-way track is a flexible hardwearing track purposely designed for this style of project. In total, along with the stage curtains over 1,000 square metres of black and coloured wool serge fabric was used.





The auditorium is also sometimes used to house peak time overspill from the School's dining and cafeteria room next door, when again the curtaining proves invaluable.

"We're all absolutely thrilled" states Anne Pontifex, "its pleasing having a really workable space of our own and especially one that is so versatile. Previously we had to share a smaller stage at the adjoining CLC. The theatre has gone from no-one wanting to use it before, to being fully booked for all types of activities. It's a massive success".

Content

Stickland, L. (2006) J & C Joel Ltd Publications, 'Loosplat', +44 (0)1865 202 679 / +44 (0)7831 329 888, louise@loosplat.com [Accessed 23|01|2006]

St John Bosco High School. (2004) St John Bosco High School, [online]. Available from: <http://www.stjohnboscohighschool.com/about.php> [Accessed 23|01|2006]

J & C Joel Ltd © (2006)