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More details from GLP (http://www.glp.de):

BLOOMINGTON, IL - The progressive Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA) in Illinois recently carried out a technical upgrade that has seen a number of GLP's impression Spot One and Volkslicht Zoom LED fixtures replacing traditional tungsten heads.

These were supplied by GLP dealer, JR Lighting Design, Inc. following an experiment by the venue's technical manager Rodney Stickrod to see whether the new generation of LED lighting was technically capable of providing a full theatrical alternative.

BCPA had wanted to make the upgrade in its newly renovated 1,200 seat main performance auditorium. Having seen the GLP fixtures at LDI in Orlando, he was introduced to Jason Reberski, President of JR Lighting Design Inc., who set up a demo.

The traditional tungsten wash system, used primarily in saturated colors, consumed thousands of watts of electricity. "Aside from energy savings, a brighter, more energy-efficient, flexible automated fixture system would also give Rodney and his team the ability to reposition the fixtures and change their beam angle," Reberski said.

He recommended the Volkslichts as he uses them in his own production rental inventory. "They are quiet in operation and their performance has been flawless," he says. The demo incorporated the Spot One, a 400 watt RGB-powered fully-featured automated profile luminaire.

The BCPA staff were impressed, said Rodney Stickrod. "I knew the power of the LED fixtures

Jason Reberski Steers BCPA from Tungsten to GLP LEDs

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was getting close to being truly usable in a theatre application but I was not convinced until I saw the GLP fixtures in our own space."

"The Spot Ones we use more as a traditional moving fixture with all the flash we can get. But with the ability to soften the focus and change the beam angle it is a wonderful fixture for a special in a nice moment in a production."

in addition to 'specials', with gobos and textured effects, the Spot Ones are projected on scenic pieces or on the BCPA's cyclorama. The animation wheel is a feature allowing for non-linear water ripple or fire effects, and coupled with the LED engine and the designer's creativity, a myriad of effects can be created.

The Volkslicht Zooms are used primarily for their high intensity saturated color. For music events with exposed lighting rigs, they can be used as blinders or beam lights, and as back light in a concert setting, while the combination of RGB color mixing, zoom and repositionability make for a flexible system, note the two designers.

Says Stickrod, "The most exciting thing to me about this fixture is the ability to also use them for ballet or traditional theatre back light. When in a flood setting they are equal to a nice Fresnel fixture. Of course the ability to pick any color in the world to help set the mood is nice."

Other points noted by both men include the light output, the zooming functionality and pricing. As BCPA stages more than 400 performances a year, durability was also an issue. These combined attributes enabled BCPA to secure 15 Volkslicht Zooms and five Spot Ones for the install.

Stickrod says that visiting LDs have been impressed, remarking on the speed of movement and quiet running of the Volkslichts. "We hardly ever hear the GLP fixtures — so far they have been amazing in this factor."

Reberski says GLP has been "a joy" to work with, with excellent support. "The logistical side of GLP is a well-oiled machine. Shipping, tracking and delivery are a breeze."