

Australian Outback Spectacular

Case Study



The Australian Outback Spectacular overcomes environmental challenges to thrill audiences with Christie Boxer projectors

Australia's iconic Gold Coast is the backdrop to a unique entertainment experience – the Australian Outback Spectacular. This enthralling show is an unmissable fast-moving celebration of Australiana, featuring adorably talented animals, breath-taking acrobatics, memorable music and classic Australian bush tucker. Since 2006, the Australian Outback Spectacular has delighted audiences with its recreation of the country's legendary yarns, evoking the daring Australian spirit with drama, action, humor and excitement.

After seven years of constant use, the show's projectors had reached the end of their service life. The in-house technical team determined they needed a replacement projection system that

could withstand the venue's harsh sand arena environment while delivering high brightness and high-resolution visuals.

"The nature of the venue means our environment is extremely dusty, dirty, humid and hot," said Clinton Dulieu, Technical Director, Australian Outback Spectacular. "We required a dependable projection system that would stand these harsh conditions and give us many years of working life."

Recognizing the power of visual technologies to immerse audiences in a livelier and more visually spectacular performance, Dulieu found the Christie® Boxer 2K30 was the most suitable projector for the Australian Outback Spectacular. "We required high lumen

Customer:

Australian Outback Spectacular

Location:

Gold Coast, Australia

Industry/Market:

- Arts and Entertainment

Partners:

Tyson Niepelt – Customised Technical Solutions

Requirements:

- High brightness and high resolution visuals
- Projector that could withstand harsh environmental conditions

Summary:

Faced with an ageing projection installation, the Australian Outback Spectacular sought replacement projectors which could withstand the harsh environmental conditions of its venue while providing bright, crisp visuals. With the Christie Boxer 2K30 3DLP projectors, Christie Pandoras Box Players and Christie Pandoras Box Manager Pro, the Australian Outback Spectacular has been transformed to truly immerse audiences in the spirit and grandeur of the Australian High Country.

Products:

- Christie Boxer 2K30 (4)
- Christie Pandoras Box Players (4)
- Christie Pandoras Box Manager Pro (1)

Results:

The Christie Boxer 2K30 and Pandoras Box create an immersive experience for the Australian Outback Spectacular, taking audiences on an enthralling journey to the heart and soul of the Australian High Country and the legendary true story of the Battle of Beersheba.



▲ The Christie Boxer 2K30 projectors are able to withstand the harsh environmental conditions of the venue while delivering bright, crisp visuals

output, low maintenance and long lamp life, and a small, lightweight form factor. The 4K upgrade path available was also a factor in our decision. The smaller on-screen physical pixel size with the 4K chip (although only running at a 2K digital resolution) produced a cleaner image on our large screen, which allowed us to deliver more life-like projection.”

The show’s technical team brought in Tyson Niepelt - Customised Technical Solutions (CTS) as their integration partner for the project, which took close to 12 months from the initial conceptualization and evaluation of available solutions through to final commissioning.

The main scenic backdrop element for the show is a 35m wide by 9m high projection surface. To compete with high ambient lighting levels and the audience’s relatively close proximity to the screen, the technical team needed to design and install an exceptional projection system.

Working with CTS and the Christie Australia team, the solution they arrived at is an array of four Christie

Boxer 2K30 projectors, arranged in two double stacks, with a center blend. Content playback is handled by Christie Pandoras Box and each projector has its own dedicated Player Pro machine. Each half of the blend is covered by two overlaid projectors, which provides redundancy should one projector or player fail. Finally, the system incorporates a custom Widget Designer user interface for projector control and feedback as well as monitoring of the Environmental Enclosures.

The decision to use Christie Boxer 2K30 projectors was an easy one. With specs that include 30,000 centre lumens, 2000:1

contrast, and 6x450W NSH illumination, the 2K30 model is one of the Boxer series of 3DLP® projectors that deliver unrivalled performance for high-impact rental staging and large venue events. With the added benefits of single-phase power, built-in warping and blending, omnidirectional capabilities, a full range of connectivity and Christie TruLife™ electronics, the projector creates powerful and inspiring visual experiences.

The Christie Pandoras Box was the natural choice as the media server for the show’s projection system. Its award-winning real-time video processing and show control gave the technical team complete control over the entire workflow, enabling them to create the amazing visual experiences that the audiences expect.

“The Environment Enclosures are an innovative solution to the challenges presented by our demanding environment,” added Dulieu. “For the new system, we carried out a refit of the existing custom environmental projection enclosures produced by CTS. Our enclosures are completely sealed units that support two Boxer 2K30s on individual sliding drawers, allowing the projector to be fully slid out of the enclosure for easy maintenance. We use triple stage filtering to ensure the projectors have a constant source of clean air, and a series of eight redundant industrial exhaust fans



▲ The facade of the Australian Outback Spectacular in Gold Coast



▲ Christie Boxer 2K30 projectors are used to create highly realistic backdrops for the Australian Outback Spectacular

per enclosure maintain a comfortable operating temperature.”

An additional challenge for CTS’ installation team was the fact that they were operating in a permanent venue, with only two dark days per week with which to finish the job. “CTS did an amazing job staging the works over a four week period,” said Dulieu. “This schedule let us make all the required adjustments to our existing enclosures whilst running our old projectors. On the last weekend we swapped in the Boxers and performed the final alignment.”

The end result of the project is an Australian Outback Spectacular Show that has been transformed, to give audiences a truly immersive experience of the spirit and grandeur of Australia and it’s larger than life characters.

“The Boxer 2K30 is the perfect choice for the Australian Outback Spectacular, as it is designed to provide high-quality visuals for large venues. Built rugged, compact and light, it is also able to withstand the harsh environment of the venue without compromising on spectacular visuals, so as to provide the best visual experience for the audience,” said Michael Bosworth, General Manager, Christie Australia.

Lin Yu, Vice President, Christie Asia Pacific, added, “We are proud to work with our partner CTS in this project. Their work on the Australian Outback Spectacular Show has demonstrated not only their technical ability but also their can-do approach to overcoming environmental challenges. With our shared commitment to finding innovative solutions to the delivery



of extraordinary visual experiences, we’re delighted to have CTS as a rental staging partner in Australia.”

Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from Christie solutions.

Photos courtesy of Village Roadshow Theme Parks

Corporate offices

Christie Digital Systems USA, Inc.
Cypress
ph: 714 236 8610

Christie Digital Systems Canada Inc.
Kitchener
ph: 519 744 8005

Worldwide offices

Australia
ph: +61 (0) 7 3624 4888

Brazil
ph: +55 (11) 2548 4753

China (Beijing)
ph: +86 10 6561 0240

China (Shanghai)
ph: +86 21 6278 7708

France
ph: +33 (0) 1 41 21 44 04

Germany
ph: +49 2161 664540

India
ph: +91 (080) 6708 9999

Japan (Tokyo)
ph: 81 3 3599 7481

Korea (Seoul)
ph: +82 2 702 1601

Mexico
ph: +52 55-4744-1790

Republic of South Africa
ph: +27 (0) 11 510 0094

Russian Federation
and Eastern Europe
ph: +36 (0) 1 47 48 100

Singapore
ph: +65 6877 8737

Spain
ph: +34 91 633 9990

United Arab Emirates
ph: +971 4 3206688

United Kingdom
ph: +44 (0) 118 977 8000

United States (Arizona)
ph: 602 943 5700

United States (New York)
ph: 646 779 2014

Independent sales consultant offices

Italy
ph: +39 (0) 2 9902 1161



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