

THE ELECTRIC CANVAS

LARGE FORMAT PROJECTION SPECIALISTS



SYDNEY OLYMPICS CEREMONIES

High powered PIGI projection

OPENING CEREMONY:

Four 7kw PIGI projectors were used to project images of Olympic heroes onto the giant flag as it was passed hand-to-hand by the audience on its way down to the field of athletes below.

The projection equipment was mounted on a temporary platform on the roof of the eastern grandstand. The images were distortion corrected to compensate for the considerable horizontal offset as well as the lay-back angle of the stand itself. All four projectors carried the same set of nine images that were overlaid to achieve the necessary broadcast brightness for the 70m high pictures.



A 70m long dove-of-peace projected onto the huge 120m x 85m white flag held above the heads of 10,000 athletes during the opening ceremony.



The unsuspecting crowd is engulfed by the world's largest flag as it unfurls from the top of the southern stand.

The projection of the dove required careful design and calculation due to rigging limitations and the position of the flag that would be held approximately 2m (6') above the surface of the field. It was impossible to simulate the final result as there would be 10,000 athletes holding this enormous flag aloft.

Three positions were nominated on each of the eastern and western roof gantries for the location of six 7kw PIGIs each of which projected an overlapping portion of the dove image. The angle from each projector to the field centre was about 35° below horizontal resulting in considerable keystone distortion that was corrected after the image had been split into six parts by our film artists. Footprint predictions and correction solutions were plotted entirely in CAD.

"Peter Milne and his company The Electric Canvas provided all the projection requirements for both the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. I worked closely with Peter and his team on both the administration and creative aspects of the elements they were responsible for. Electric Canvas delivered a world class product and delivered it with flair and skill under incredible pressure and with the world watching. They did a remarkable job! The image of the Giant flag with its accompanying projections travelling over the heads of thousands of audience members then held above the world's greatest athletes with the symbols of peace and the Olympic rings projected on it remains one of the most memorable and most defining moments of the Opening Ceremony. Congratulations Peter, you and your team have done us proud!"

David Atkins - Creative Director
Sydney 2000 Opening and Closing Ceremonies



PHOTO INSET: Peter Milne
Managing Director, The Electric Canvas



THE ELECTRIC CANVAS

Unit 6, 9-11 Chaplin Drive Lane Cove NSW 2066 Australia
Ph: +61 2 9420 8817
Fax: +61 2 9420 8892
Email: info@theelectriccanvas.com.au

PM PRODUCTION DESIGN & MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
abn 73 066 262 511, trading as THE ELECTRIC CANVAS

WWW.THEELECTRICCANVAS.COM.AU

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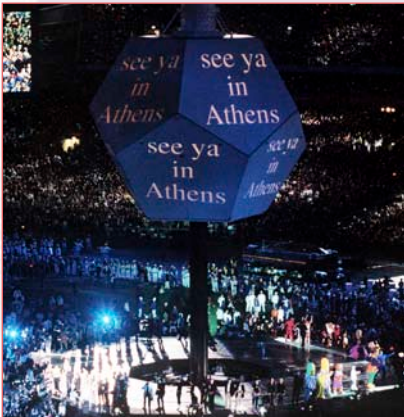


CLOSING CEREMONY:

The Electric Canvas was asked to project onto the ten vertical sides of the Geodome globe as well as onto the multi-leaf flat stage mode. Access to the stadium for testing and final set up was not possible until midnight before the show. All testing, programming and rehearsals, therefore, had to take place off-site.

For the vertical sides, four PIGIs were used from corner locations in the lower seating areas of the stadium. For the flat mode, two pairs of projectors were located at the centre of both the eastern and western roof gables.

CAD modelling had to be exclusively used to develop masks so that images could be positioned accurately into each of the five leaves of the flat stage. Each of the four corner PIGIs needed to be able to project keystone-corrected images accurately onto each face in a variety of modes and positions. The positions and their relationship to the geodome needed to be simulated at the off-site rehearsal location (a disused airfield) where the geodome was being set up and tested. With the scissorlifts set to simulate the stadium positions, film masks were created and film production was fast-tracked in four days allowing just enough time to program the projectors before the Geodome had to be dismantled for its move to the stadium.



PIGI projections were used on the centrepiece of the closing ceremony - a large mechanical structure called the "Geodome" that formed several shapes including a flat stage and a full "globe" that could ascend and rotate.

One effect required a 360° image of the earth rotating around the Geodome. Various other images were designed and corrected to fit each face including a scene that had to follow the geodome as it rose to its top height during the show's finale (achieved by using the programmable rear foot on each PIGI).

The set up of the geodome at the Olympic stadium commenced around 2am on the day of the closing ceremony. Darkness for testing of the projections was not possible, so a unique daytime line up strategy had to be developed to allow each of the projectors to be accurately pointed at the structure. The lineup was finally achieved at 4.30 pm when the Geodome was fully operational. All the line-ups fell nicely into place confirming the accuracy of all our calculations and processes. When the first PIGI cue was called during the show, no further line-up adjustment was needed.



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