

20 / 11 / 2013

Gloria Estefan Makes A Pointe at The Royal Albert Hall

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Universally popular Latin crossover singer / songwriter Gloria Estefan recently sold out London's Royal Albert Hall (RAH) on the UK leg of a tour promoting her new album 'The Standards', where she was supported by a 28-piece orchestra and rhythm section.

Lighting designer Richard Rhys Thomas from the RAH created the lighting design for the high profile show, which utilized eight Robe Pointe and four Robe Robin 600E Spot moving lights together with a host of others from the extensive house rig.

Promoters Kennedy Street approached the RAH to supply lighting for the show and Richard jumped at the chance to use the new Robe Pointes as well as to light Gloria Estefan.

South East based rental company TSL Lighting – a key supplier to the busy venue -provided the show's additional lighting requirements which included all the Robe fixtures.

It was the second time that Richard had used Pointes – the first time being for a classical music event. "I wanted something different from a traditional profile or beam light – and as the Pointe does both it was a great solution," he explains.

The Pointes were part of a floor package for the Estefan show. They were rigged upstage at various different levels and used to create general aerial effects and to fill the tall void in the venue.

"I found there was plenty of scope for creating subtle effects for the slower numbers as well as punchy in-the-face beam looks for the hits and up-tempo sections of the show," he says. He particularly liked the standard and linear prism effects, adding that the zoom range is "Incredibly impressive". The compact size of the fixtures means they could be ensconced in amongst the band members almost without being noticed!

The Robin 600E Spots were utilized to illuminate the RAH's famous organ with colours and give it some texturing treatment with gobos, creating a dynamic backdrop to the stage that emphasized the location and special environment of London's most iconic concert hall.

TSL Lighting was among the first rental companies in the UK to invest in Pointes, and now has 26, the latest of which came straight off the PLASA exhibition stand in October.

“Our company has been investing in Robe since 2010,” explains Managing Director Sam Tamplin, “and with Robe as our primary moving light brand, we now own a considerable amount of their fixtures. Our projects range from supplying and designing high-end corporate shows to concert touring floor packages to theatre productions. A multi-purpose fixture like The Pointe is perfect for us”.

“The products are good and their pricing allows us to deliver maximum value for money to our customers. Robe also care about the way they conduct their business, which is important to me as an expanding rental company,” he concludes.



