

# SHOW REPORT

## ET Live

Las Vegas showcases sound systems

By Live Sound staff



**E**T Live, held in conjunction with LDI (Live Design International), has become an annual event for good reason, presenting the pro audio community with the unique opportunity to experience concert sound systems operating live in an outdoor performance environment. It's a win-win for everyone – rather than manufacturers confined to static displays of their gear in the typical trade show format or miniscule demo rooms (“Doesn't this new loudspeaker look pretty? Too bad you don't actually get to hear it!”), the gear is put through its paces for evaluation by audio professionals in real-world conditions.

The event's informal atmosphere and structure also fosters discussions between attendees, a cross-industry spectrum of sound reinforcement specialists, technicians, engineers and manufacturing personnel, with several manufacturers offering comfortable backstage areas to enjoy a cold beverage, take a load off and talk with a

peer. Key media representatives are also on hand, such as *Live Sound International* Publisher Mark Herman, pictured at right talking with Stephen Morris of Crown.

The 2006 edition of ET Live, held in October in Las Vegas, NV, proved the largest to date in terms of both gear providers and attendees. Six stages and systems of various scale and structure offered demonstrations in a round-robin format, most with bands performing live as well as playback of the same pre-recorded track for comparison purposes. However, it wouldn't be accurate to label the presentation as a “shoot-out”; rather, there's a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation among the manufacturers, in addition to the fact that each has its own specific objectives for the event.

For example, EAW's Jeffrey Cox introduced the company's Guinness Focusing technology as applied to a full-scale KF760/KF730 line array rig that also featured the first public use



The ET Live stage for Meyer Sound and DiGiCo.



The ET Live stage for QSC and InnovaSON, where the company utilized compact WideLine arrays.



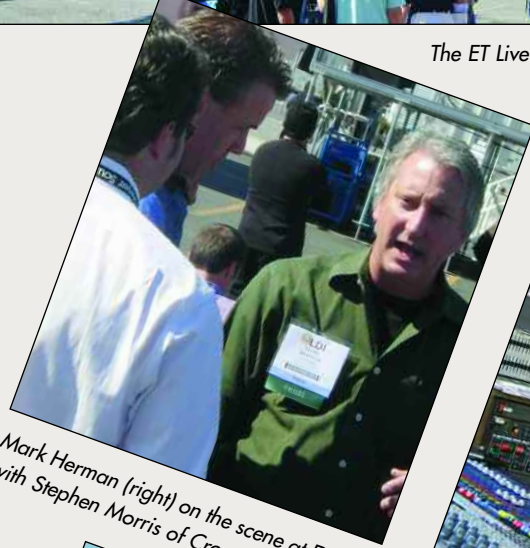
The ET Live stage for A-Line Acoustics



The ET Live stage for EAW.

of SB1000zF flying subwoofers, while David Schierman and JBL offered a surround-type presentation and Meyer Sound's Jim Sides spotlighted the new M'elodie compact curvilinear array system. Additional loudspeaker companies providing demos included QSC Audio, d&b audiotechnik and A-Line Acoustics, with a host of other pro audio manufacturers such as AKG, Shure, Link, DiGiCo, Digidesign, Crown, InnovaSON, Soundcraft, Studer, BSS Audio and dbx also lending support.

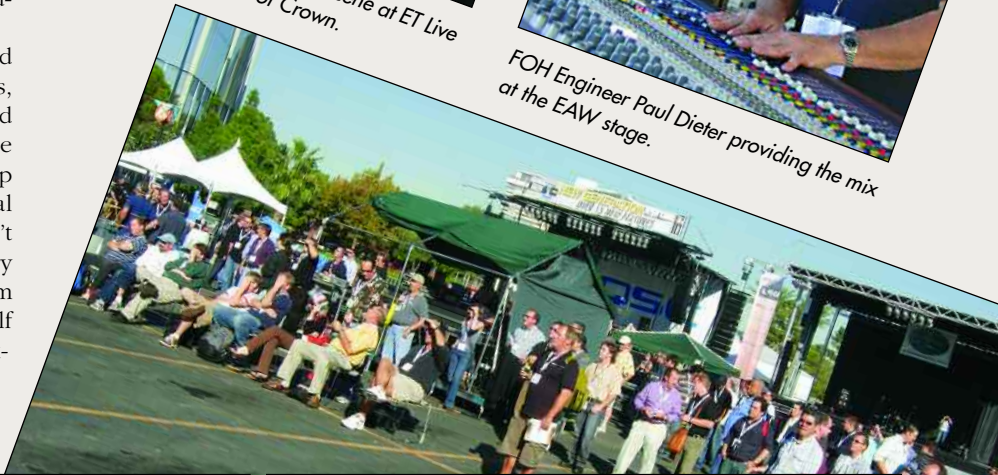
Topping it off were several noted engineers contributing their talents, including Robert Scovill, Buford Jones and Paul Dieter, who took the mix helm at the EAW stage to help guide the public audition of several new technologies, noting, "I haven't had that much fun mixing in a very long time." Indeed, apt words to sum up an event that is establishing itself as a suitable and beneficial networking opportunity for the pro audio community. ■



Mark Herman (right) on the scene at ET Live with Stephen Morris of Crown.



FOH Engineer Paul Dieter providing the mix at the EAW stage.



The ET Live stage for JBL, presenting a surround configuration.



The ET Live stage for d&b audiotechnik and Digidesign.