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Advanced Staging Supplies Support For Liberty Medal Awards

BY STEVE WILDEMAN, PRESIDENT, ADVANCED STAGING PRODUCTIONS

PHILADELPHIA, PA—The October 2006 presentation of the Liberty Medal and the gala that followed comprised the largest, most high profile event in the five-year history of Philadelphia's National Constitutional Center (NCC), and it was the first time the NCC staff was responsible for the production. To help ensure a successful event, they called in Advanced Staging Productions, a West Chester, PA-based staging company that serves as the NCC's preferred provider for event technical services.

Because the Liberty Medal was presented to former presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton, security was a critical part of the event. Advanced relied on its experience with Presidential and White House-related events to smoothly navigate the labyrinth of clearances, permits, and approvals.

The presentation of the award was held outdoors on the lawn of the NCC while the following gala was held inside on the Grand Overlook, essentially creating two separate but equal events. As the NCC is a working museum, it needed to remain open during set-up. This created some space and flow issues and required an overnight set made more difficult by the unpredictable weather and inevitable rain showers that made everything just a little more interesting. Our success at meeting our time line and coordinating a smooth-running event was directly related to the competence and hard work of a dynamic team that included Jennifer Darley, NCC Director of Facility Rentals, Karen Homer, a local producer, and Jeff Spence and Justin Covington, project leads from Advanced Staging.

One of the most challenging timing issues related to the live broadcast demands. Advanced developed a tight timeframe to meet the demands of a live



Advanced Staging Productions supplied gear for the 2006 presentation of the Liberty Medal at Philadelphia's National Constitutional Center. Inset: Advanced was responsible for providing concert quality audio outside of the center for performances by Bon Jovi.



broadcast on 6ABC (WPVI), allowing for national break-ins by ABC World News with Charles Gibson.

Advanced audio engineer Brooke Ashman had to provide high level, distributed sound outdoors for the speeches and concert quality audio for the live performances by Roberts and Bon Jovi. He also had to ensure that there were broadcast quality feeds for television. Using 12 Funktion One Resolution Two Series speakers, six as mains and six as delays. Also he used eight EV QRX-115s for front fill and monitors, a Crest XVCA for FOH, a Crest HP 8 for monitors, and a custom processing rack that includes components from XTA, BSS, Lexicon, and Ashley, he hit his mark perfectly.

Outdoors, the video display and broadcast, including playback, live I-Mag and multiple feeds was handled by a team lead by Bill Noecker of Advanced. Video included WPVI personnel on cameras and two Toshiba 15 millimeter

TECHNORAINBOW 9.6x12.6 foot LED walls provided by Mitch Kaplan's Video Walltronics.

The lighting for the show outside was much less complex than the indoor lighting. Advanced used an ETC Express console, 36 ETC Source 4 Par, and eight Arri HMI Pars. The indoor lighting was comprised of a HogPC 1024 control system, a Leprecon LP-624 DMX console, 10 Vari*Lite VL3000 spots, four Vari*Lite VL1000 TS's, 16 ETC Source 4 Lekos, 12 ETC Source 4 Pars, and 60 ColorBlast 12 LED washes, 24 for drape uplights.

With the guidance of the Advanced project team and the management of the logistics and opportunities on site, the presentation of the 2006 Liberty Medal was an event to be remembered for high profile flair, exact execution, and reinforcement of the NCC and Advanced Staging Productions as a premier event team in the Northeast Region. For more information visit www.advanced-staging.com.