



Martin Professional fixtures put on a blazing show for Mötley Crüe's final tour

GALLERY



A lineup of Martin Professional lighting fixtures are illuminating the way for acclaimed metal band Mötley Crüe's final tour. Lighting designer Matt Mills deployed an array of Martin MAC Viper AirFXs, Martin MAC Quantum Washes and Martin Atomic 3000 DMX strobes in a light show intended to dazzle huge arena crowds. Mills' previous work includes tours with Nelly Furtado, 3 Doors Down, Disturbed and Linkin Park. The tour began in July 2014 and has covered more than 80 cities in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. The tour will wrap up with a three-night run at the Staples Center, culminating in a final show on New Year's Eve.

Mills said the band wanted to pull out all the stops for its final tour. *"The band wants no ambiguity,"* he said. *"After 30 years, Mötley Crüe is going out with a bang and wants to treat audiences to an unforgettable light show."*

The stage concept is centered around drummer Tommy Lee's famous "Crüecify" drum kit, which is attached to a platform and fastened to two metal tracks, nicknamed the Tommy Coaster. The drum kit is welded to plates on the track, with secondary attachments for the individual parts. Lee's drum solos begin on stage before he and his drum kit move slowly up the track, rotating 360 degrees during the ascent, going as high as 60 feet above the stage before descending. Mills says the Tommy Coaster has drawn huge applause from audiences.

"Tommy wanted a look similar to airport runway lights," Mills said. *"The Crüecify has two runs of truss, each approximately 200 feet long, that support Tommy's drum kit during his solos as he slowly rides on the tracks, starting on the stage and ending up at a landing platform behind the front of house (FOH). It's pretty wild."*

With the goal of creating an extravagant light show, Mills selected 36 MAC Viper AirFXs, which provide huge aerial looks and rich textures for the stage setup. He also noted the MAC Viper AirFX's zoom capabilities and gobo package, which he said allowed him to experiment with lots of over-the-top lighting designs. Mills added 10 MAC Quantum Washes to the trusses to provide adequate front wash for both Mötley Crüe and supporting act Alice Cooper.

"We wanted a powerful wash light, which is what we got with the MAC Quantum Washes," Mills said. "On top of that, we added 66 Martin Atomic 3000 DMX strobes- it's a true lighting explosion."

Mills said another key benefit of Martin lighting fixtures is their flexibility when it comes to placement. In this case, the fixtures work in concert with a huge pyrotechnic show. *"We actually had to make sure the fixtures wouldn't get engulfed in flames, which meant figuring out how to fit them into tight spaces,"* he said. *"We knew no matter what the stage setup was, we could get the Martin fixtures situated in the right spots."*

Mills cites the reliability of Martin fixtures as the primary reason he has used them for more than a decade. *"First and foremost, the rig has to work,"* Mills said. *"And with Martin, it always does. Plus, our vendor, Christie Lites, is a large Martin rental house that keeps the gear in great condition, so reliability is never a concern for me. The feature sets are great, but the confidence I have in the fixtures working night after night is why I'm still a Martin customer after all these years."*

Martin Equipment

36 MAC Viper AirFX

10 MAC Quantum Wash

66 Martin Atomic 3000 DMX

PRODUCTS INVOLVED



MAC Viper AirFX



MAC Quantum Wash



Atomic 3000 DMX