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- Void Acoustics Indigo 6
- RUSH By Martin
- AJA Kumo SDI Router Family
- Chroma Q Inspire

CX NEWS:

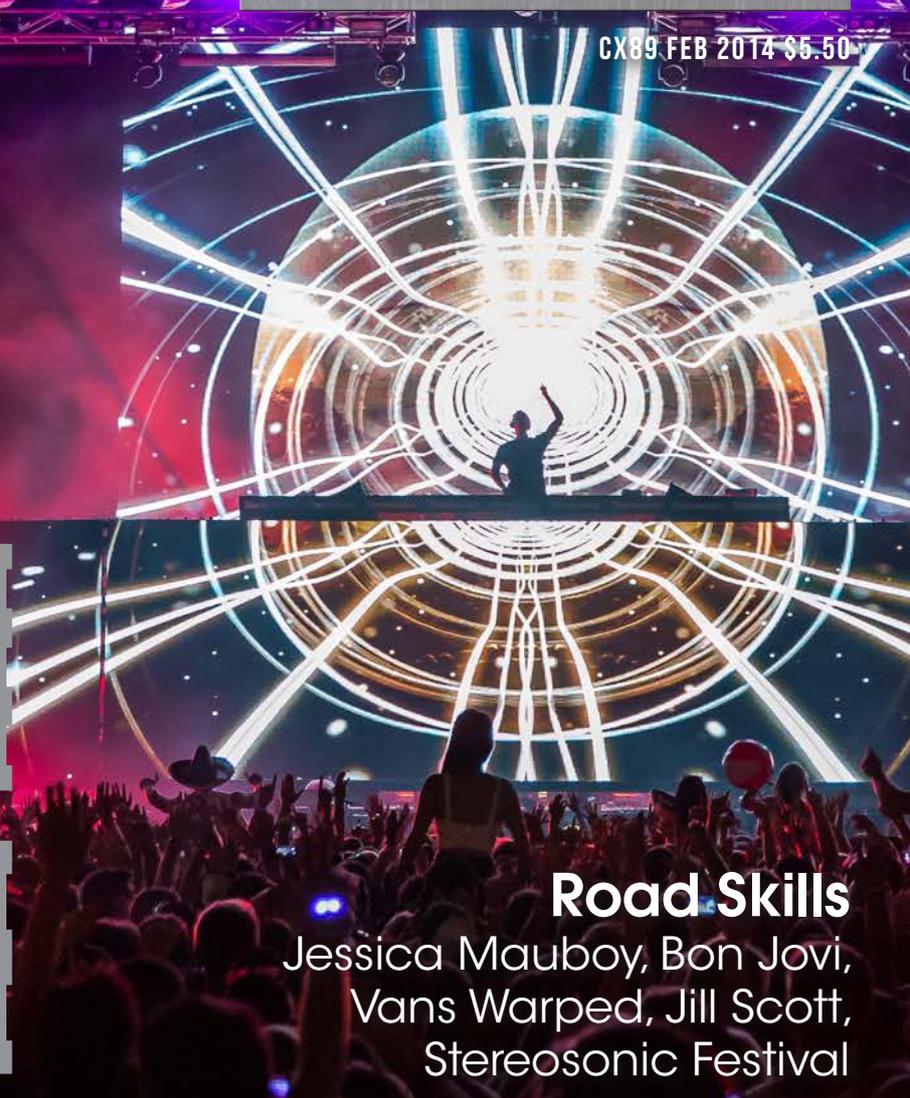
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Road Skills

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VLZ4 SERIES



Gig Fail (3) - Wet'N'Wild NYE Failure Blamed on Village Public company appears to have dropped ball



NYE Water Festival. All set up and no gig

New Years eve at Sydney's new mega water park was a miserable scene as thousands of punters were turned away due to same-day cancellation of an electronic dance party. Media (including CX) laid blame at the feet of young promoters One Cube Entertainment, who certainly were out of their depth.

Facing a blizzard of anger, the four directors of One Cube went to ground, while Village Roadshow Theme Parks issued vague and possibly misleading excuses for why their major venue faced a massive hit to its reputation.

A Fairfax media investigation later revealed the reason for the cancellation was not due to "technical difficulties or public transport issues" but rather because the theme park itself employed a security contractor which could not satisfy police the event would properly proceed. "The

venue failed to provide an adequate crowd safety management plan to police", Fairfax reported.

NYE a sad night for punters

The report goes on to say that Village put the security contract to tender prior to the park opening, and awarded the tender to a small firm without suitable experience. Further claims were published alleging that the Security Supervisor was somehow linked to the winning tender.

Village will have trouble hiring their venue for similar events, while facing legal action from One Cube who are entitled to costs plus loss of profits, possibly for future New Year's Eve events they could have run at the venue.

INVESTIGATIONS: julius@juliusmedia.com



The P.A. People Showroom ...30 years on Now the only full-service Pro Audio retail space in Sydney?

In a city with more gigs and performance spaces than you can poke a stick at, it's troubling that there is a dearth of professional audio 'one stop shops'. There is a need in Sydney for retail spaces that an integrator or venue manager can walk in to, get good advice from product-neutral professionals and then walk out with everything they need from the connectors to the speakers.

The P.A. People have been quietly and professionally fulfilling this need for 30 years, and do so currently from their Rhodes Showroom near Concord Road (not far from either the M4 or Victoria Road). With their technical background in major PA installations such as ANZ Stadium and complex AV installations like Randwick's new grandstand, their staff are also in a unique position to advise anyone fitting out a restaurant or retail space or

those wanting equipment for their church, school or local performance space.

"We pride ourselves on selling our customers the correct solution", said Karen Jones, head of Sales Hire Service Division at The P.A. People. "It's all very well selling a school hall a delicate \$2,000 studio microphone, but we all know that's going to get broken pretty quickly. Our staff are focussed on providing the most 'Fit for Purpose' solution, and we do so with access to brands from both major Australian suppliers and niche overseas manufacturers."

**Find the P.A. People at:
9 - 11 Leeds Street, Rhodes NSW 2138,
or call on (02) 8755 8700. Find them on the web at
<http://www.papeople.com.au>**

There's an on-screen keyboard which you can bring up by pressing the SET key twice, but you can also plug in a USB keyboard if you prefer that. I tried a USB mouse too and that worked fine as well, though that said the touch screen is pretty good. Some of the buttons (eg: the X buttons to close each window) are quite small, but there's a big "close window" button in the corner which shuts the active window. There's more than one way to achieve the process, and that's quite true for lots of other facets of the console.



The four encoders have small clear/silver buttons adjacent and these allow you to do a variety of things such as jumping values. Much of the console can be customized including the bank of function keys, which can do anything from selecting fixtures through to playing cue lists. Assigning cue lists to faders initially confused me a little, but it's just a case of different button sequencing from what I expected. Once you get that through your head it's all good.

There are four on-board DMX outputs around the back of the console, plus two network ports. The HogNet port is used to connect DP8000 units which give you more DMX universes, the other port connects to ArtNet equipped fixtures. The console supports more DMX than I can think of any practical application for, so it's certainly not short on capability or value. Our test unit came with a nice LED lamp which can be switched in the preferences from white to blue – both colours work well for the text on the keys. You can also adjust the level of the front mounted LED bling (sorry, I mean reading lamps!).

Shows are saved locally but can also be backed up to the included USB key. The surface includes a recessed USB port, and while getting the key into that is a little fiddly the reduced potential for

damage is well worth it. The same port is used for console restore/ upgrades which also happen via USB. There's a console restore stick included in the box.

The effects engine is better and way more in-depth than I expected it to be, and to an extent this comes at the expense of ease of use. Still, pulling out some canned effects and offsetting parameters is quickly achieved, and for many users this will be enough. There's scope to do more if you invest a little learning time.

Overall the Road Hog 4 is a very user-friendly and forgiving beast. I expected to get a bit lost on it, and that didn't actually happen. Not even close. Even with my somewhat outdated thinking I'd be very comfortable taking it to a show, and a decent show at that (not just lighting some crap indie support band in a nothing venue). In case you do find yourself completely lost, there's a comprehensive help function. This pig knows how to fly.

BRAND: HIGH END SYSTEMS
 MODEL: ROAD HOG 4
 RRP: \$18,290 INC GST,
 SUPPLIED IN A KEAL ROAD CASE.
 PRODUCT INFO: WWW.HIGHEND.COM
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