

(MALAYSIA)

Concept Audio Makes Waves @ Inaugural ACVMF

By Elissa Nadine

For one night only, the inaugural Asian Cultural Village Music Festival (ACVMF) brought together local and international EDM artists for a party like no other. Organized by local rental company, Unipix, the festival featured music from American socialite and TV personality Paris Hilton, 8ky 6lu from LMFAO, Mauritian Australian DJ cum dancer Havana Brown and the DJ Soda from South Korea. Not to be outdone by the international acts, local artists such as Malaysia's top rapper Joe Flizzow, girl group De Fam and top TV host Datuk AC Mizal also set the stage on fire in front of 12,000 screaming fans.

Held at Surf Beach @ Sunway Lagoon in Kuala Lumpur, setting the stage (literally) for the show was no easy task. As a loyal

customer of Concept Audio, Unipix, brought on the official distributors of Shure and NEXO products in Malaysia as the Official Sound Equipment Sponsor for the show. "Unipix was looking for big sound system that capable for this kind of major event, therefore, we took this opportunity to present the NEXO STM system, as it can perform very well, no matter the size of the show or stage," shared Andrew Lee, Chief Operation Officer at Concept Audio.

Setting up of the 30 x 60ft stage was no small task, especially considering that there were an additional 2 rise-up stages for DJs. Representatives from both Shure and NEXO flew in to help the teams set up and ensure they got the most

out of their systems. The stage design had to accommodate 2 DJ sets, one on the ground for the opening DJ and one elevated for the 'Star' DJ. Therefore, 2 x DJ monitoring systems has to be deployed, while still maintaining enough room on-stage for the dancers and rappers, that needed stage side fill monitoring.

"It was important to maintain the same sound all over the stage and DJ areas, so using the same systems was the best and most efficient approach," said Andrew. "We used 6 stacks of 1 x S118 sub and 2 x M46 mid-hi speakers to achieve this uniformity. And, it turned out amazing because the sound was pretty much the same quality and power as the FOH itself."

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On-stage there was also the matter of the stage thrust for the special catwalk extension, created for Paris Hilton who was using a wireless Shure mic, which required its own set of monitors. With enough power and throw to reach across the entire stage, Concept arranged 2 arrays of 45N12 wedge speakers in a 3-box configuration which allowed for full stage coverage while keeping the vocal clear and the bass solid.

According to the Nexo Asia Sales Manager, Nicolas Kirsch, the venue is always the main consideration part while designing the sound system, therefore, Nexo System Engineer, Mark Bollenberg fine-tuned the system with the NEXO free software, NS1. A simulation and configuration tool, the NS1 enables a sound engineer to implement the most appropriate sound system for venue, using the amount of systems the rental house already had in-house. This means that the speaker placement, best position angle and heights, and safety regulations can all be without having to bring in extra cabinets.

"On our side, we made sure that everyone received their equal amount of sound energy and even tonal quality, so that every single audience member was getting the music right, warm, solid and clear," Andrew explained. "That is the way to make people enjoy their time, even at 80m away from the stage, you might not be able to see the stage well,

but the sound that you get is so good that it makes you forget everything else and dance."

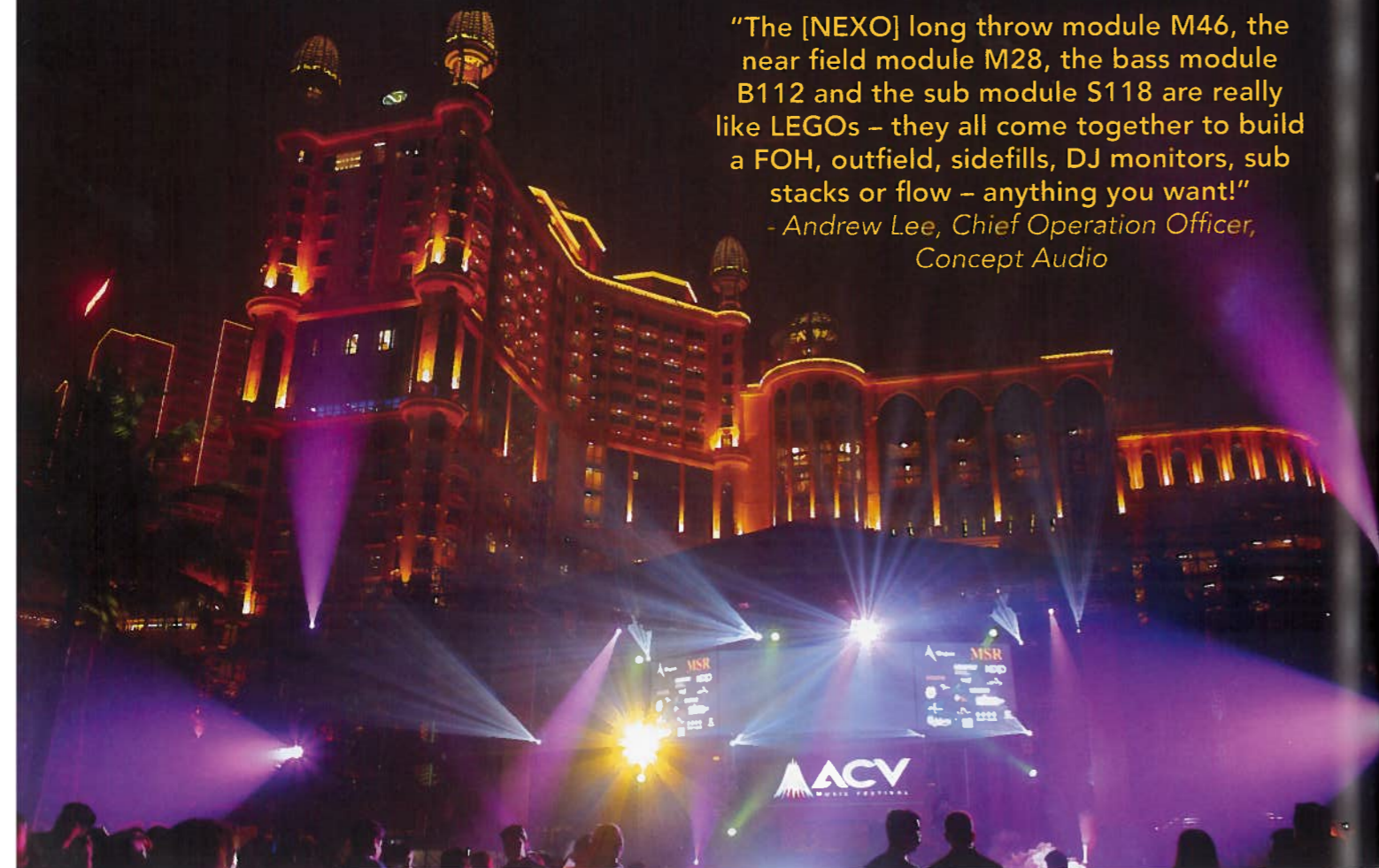
A few days before the show, Mark and the teams gathered together to implement his sound design by following the software model provided by the NS1. Altogether, the FOH system was made up of 6 x speaker line. The 2 flown main clusters on the left and right of stage consisted of 15 x STM M46 + 15 x B112 subs and 1 x M28 downfill. Providing extra energy were 2 sub lines of 6 x S118 per side and 2 outfills of 3 x B112, 3 x M46 and 6 x M28. The ground subs system was designed as 4 stacks of 6 x S118's, in W cardioid mode.

In total, there were 10 different elements that needed to work together to produce one sound, all powered by 17 x NUAR amplifiers. "This was a precise job and that is why we used the NS1. It really makes the best use out of high-end technology, which is what you need especially since the era of point-and-shoot sound systems is over, and the sound quality standard is now higher than ever," noted Andrew.

The system design from the NS1 ensures that energy is evenly spread out through the audience area, with the right delays implemented to avoid interference and to get the best phase summing out of the distributed clusters and stacks. Once the systems were rigged and set, final

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- Concept Audio's certified Shure Engineer, Mo

system tuning became a quick game of plugging in the artists and fine-tuning the systems to meet their individual 'artistic needs' by EQ or other DSP.

Working alongside the NEXO NS1 was the Shure WWB6 which offers comprehensive control for networked Shure wireless systems. The tool provides a rich interface to manage every facet of a performance over the network, from pre-show planning to live performance monitoring.

Concept Audio's certified Shure Engineer, Mo found the RF noise floor was initially too high (-90dBm) and this caused the RF to leak to the receiver channel. A major distraction especially for the artists as the RF indicator from the receiver kept blinking at 1 or 2 bars,

even when the handheld mics were turned off. In order to bring down the RF noise floor from -90 to -100dBm, the gain setting of Antennae were set at 0dB, even though it was running with the length of a 10m RG213 RF cable.

"With the power lock feature of ULXD2 handheld mic, the mic would remain on throughout an entire performance, even if the artist accidentally turned the mic off," said Mo. "With the AXT600 spectrum manager, we managed to find the best coordination frequency as well as back-up frequency for every channel of the wireless system by using the frequency plot from the WWB6 software."

With a new successful EDM show under their belt, Andrew only had good

comments for the NEXO system. "The long throw module M46, the near field module M28, the bass module B112 and the sub module S118 are really like LEGOs – they all come together to build a FOH, outfield, sidefills, DJ monitors, sub stacks or flow – anything you want! If you can do the job with smaller gear it's an advantage. Basically, the NEXO STM is able to cover a spectrum of needs and with just 4 modules, we are always able to create the perfect configuration, or find the best acoustic control."

Adding, "this show was clearly for people who love DJ music and we saw people having a great time which is the best sign that all the technical suppliers and artists have given their best. Ultimately, DJs nowadays have high

expectations for their sound, and I think we blew them away."

Organizer, Unipix also shared in the elation of a great show, "The mixture of music genres from different artists drove the night. While it was a great party it was also, most importantly, a safe party where the crowd behaved and allowed for a healthy and safe party environment."

The ACV festival gets its name from a tourist attraction project based in southern Thailand. Unipix are looking forward to hosting the follow-up ACVMF in 2016.

www.acvmusicfestival.com
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nexo-sa.com

