

### ACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGIES PARTNERS IN THE DIGITAL ARTS AT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Australia's Griffith University is the largest provider of creative and performing arts training in the country and its Brisbane South Bank campus hosts its Queensland College of Arts, the Griffith Film School and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Located on the Brisbane River, directly opposite the city centre and the seat of government, the South Bank creative precinct presents a complete range of performance environments for its artists, audiences and professional stakeholders. From smart lecture theatres, to corporate facilities, open air stages, recording studios, film sound stages and some of the best acoustic performance venues in the southern hemisphere, Griffith University develops and supports excellence in its artists and likewise, demands the very best in the technologies it utilises.



*Acoustic Technologies Director Harry Lloyd-Williams and Head of Digital Arts Professor Paul Draper*

Professor Paul Draper leads up Digital Arts at Griffith. This encompasses all those creative elements who work with digital sound, multimedia and performance production. Based at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Draper pays particular attention to quality and reliability in sound technology. He says, "We're now using Acoustic Technologies products in a range of spaces. Not only do their products deliver outstanding performance, it is the focus of their design team, their responsiveness to challenges and their attention to detail that makes all the difference for us."



*Blackbird TLA306 Line Array System*

Acoustic Technologies systems are now used in jazz vocal teaching rooms, recording studios, performance venues and negotiations are underway to feature surround sound reinforcement systems in the Griffith Film School as well as in South Bank outdoor concert events. Draper continues, "We've just installed a state-of-the-art Blackbird line array system in one of our premier performance theatres, the Ian Hanger Recital Hall. This is a difficult space because it has to respond to a wide range of sound reinforcement demands - from large university lectures, music theatre, jazz and rock, to classical music and external corporate hire. The Blackbird system is just outstanding in all settings and we are thrilled to have such high quality sound in the venue."

The Ian Hanger Recital Hall presents challenges because it is located in a busy university setting with needs that change on a daily, even hourly basis. The Conservatorium delivers some 280 public concert events each year and, throughout every day, the theatre changes purpose from lecture to workshop to performance. In a typical lecture setting, the Blackbird system is outstanding: at relatively low volume levels, the line array system can be heard perfectly in all 250 theatre seats. Often, lecturers delivering classes in music analysis will talk about different pieces of music then play examples on CD, which must then be able to be heard and understood perfectly in order to be able to deliver and assess these important university degree components. Advanced design technologies allow students to not only clearly hear and understand the sometimes complex musical examples, they can still speak and interact well with the lecturer and each other without being swamped by the sound reinforcement.

On a typical weekday, this kind of class work can go on all morning, then at a flip of an input preset, the system is reconfigured for a lunchtime jazz concert. Then back to afternoon workshops and performance classes, then changed again to a high profile, ticketed public concert in the evening. All of which the Blackbird excels at: from quiet and accurate listening and evaluation, to smooth hi-fi jazz, to loud rock 'n rock and multimedia events - the system is flexible, smart, beautiful to look at and effortlessly accomplishes all the tasks that the Conservatorium requires of it.

Griffith's Digital Arts units are working with some of the best international standards for content production systems - in film, music, multimedia, and ICT. Acoustic Technologies produce a myriad of sound reinforcement and monitoring solutions which Griffith regards as world class and second to none. Draper closes with, "We look forward to continuing to work closely with Acoustic Technologies and the association of excellence that both our organizations bring to the creative and performing arts in Australia."



*The Blackbird system gets the seal of approval from Harry Lloyd-Williams (Acoustic Technologies), Graeme Whitehouse (Norwest Productions), Pascal Bonnet (Acoustic Technologies) and Paul Draper (Griffith University).*