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Filmpark Babelsberg upgrades to Showscan 4D technology

Existing Showscan customer "Filmpark Babelsberg" upgrades venue to Showscan's 3D filmprojection and 4D effects

HOLLYWOOD – Oct. 15, 2004 – The Metropolis Action Cinema of the Filmpark Babelsberg has been recently upgraded from the ground up. Old technology was removed and replaced by new components for projection, motion control, 4D effects and show control systems.
3 different films from the Showscan film library are currently showing, one being the classical ride film "Street Luge" in live action with very dynamic motion effects. Together with the newly installed 4D effects technology, the spectator is brought "inside" the movie. Riders experience an immersive feeling driving on real curvy roads in an open car or motorcycle. Custom-built wind machines with shutters provide high energy wind effects on cue. Fog effects produce dust and fog when a car makes an abrupt stop in front of our eyes. Additional smell effects add a realistic atmosphere when driving through bushes and fresh grass.

This project was technical realized in corporation with Entertainment Resource GmbH, Showscan's European partner.

The original motion base was upgraded for more realistic effects. It has 4 degrees of freedom and is extremely dynamic, with swift movements. The Babelsberg plan is to keep the whole Venue at a very high level of performance for visitors as well as keep the quality of the visual experience of the films.

The projection system consists of two Showscan film projectors modified to 3D. Those two projectors are synchronised and run in parallel in either 30FPS or 60FPS depending on the film shown.

The 4D effects have 3 elements: Wind, Smell and Fog. The wind effects are realized with 6 5000W industrial blower units delivering a high volume of air. The blower units were modified and shutter systems attached to generate wind on quick cues, thus adding the feeling one is driving an open car or riding a motor bike or flying in old open dual wing airplane.

The smell unit manufactured in Germany consists of 4 small nozzles, driving a mixer unit. The result of this unit is then distributed through a pipe system to the seating rows. In other venues smell effects are distributed through the air-conditioning system.

The Fog system has also pipes as a distribution system. The Fog machines are fed with short lasting fog fluid to allow for short effects.

Another client request was a user friendly system. Only two employees run this venue of 50 seats including 3D glass distribution to the visitors for each show. The newly installed show control system automates the whole venue including facility management. A graphical user interface structures the flow of the show and works with minimum user interaction. The system automatically reports problems to the park management.

Showscan is a market leader in motion based simulation attractions. Over 70 venues worldwide uses the large format projection systems either digital or film. Showscan provides a full library of 2D, 3D and special venue films.

Entertainment Resource GmbH is the European partner for Showscan. Entertainment Resource develops technology for motion based attractions and have converted numerous venues into 4D attractions.

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