

## On Tour With...

DEF LEPPARD



Def Leppard recently toured North America in support of their latest release *Rock Of Ages*, which saw them use a variety of opening acts from June 2005 through to November 2005. Opening acts ranged from Bryan Adams, to Cheap Trick, to The Tea Party. *Professional Sound* was able to join the group for a show in the middle of a Canadian leg of the tour that saw The Tea Party opening for two weeks in August...

### Def Leppard

*Professional Sound* caught up with crew members from both bands, starting with John Leary, Systems Tech from Sound Image, the sound company based out of Escondido, CA ([www.sound-image.com](http://www.sound-image.com)). As Leary explains, his role with the band as System Tech is to get the rig up and running, time-aligned and EQed before turning it over to the

### PA Equipment

JBL Vertec 4889  
JBL Vertec Subs  
QSC Wideline Front Fills

FOH Engineer, Ronan McHugh. "I make sure that everything is working properly and repair anything that needs to be repaired. Also, as liaison between Sound Image and the FOH Engineer, if anything is needed, I facilitate its arrival."

As selected by McHugh, the equipment used for the tour included a DiGiCo D5 for FOH console, which also doubled for all processing, done internally. The only outboard gear they used were four distressors for vocals. "Personally I like using the digital console," explains Leary. "I am very familiar with it because I have been using it for the past few years. DiGiCo has made it relatively easy to jump from analog to digital. The layout of the console is relatively simple and accessing the



### Def Leppard Crew

Ronan McHugh – FOH Engineer  
Jim O'Brien – Monitor Engineer  
Roswell Jones – Monitor Tech  
John Leary – Systems Tech

internal processing isn't too complex. Once you have gone through setting the console up, which can be done with a laptop and a USB key, then it gets fairly simple. I have to admit that it was a little intimidating at first, but that didn't last for too long!"

Leary explains the tour's daily routine: "Upon arrival I speak with the promoter to see a seating chart, what seats are open and which seats they want open etc. Then I speak with my rigger about weight restrictions, trim height for the PA, and then I make my marks on the ground with chalk. I then measure the room to determine its dimensions and enter all of my calculations into my laptop. After determining all the necessary ingredients to hang the PA, I find the house electrician to find out where I'm getting power. I then fly half of the PA (Roswell Jones, MON Engineer flies the other half). Next I set up FOH, then power up all the amps. I do a component check for the whole PA, then start aligning and EQing. We play a few songs while walking the room to make sure all the seats are covered properly. Ronan is usually there for some fine-tuning at that point, then we wait for backline

Crown Macrotech VZ 5002  
DiGiCo D5 FOH Console  
BSS Omniride Compact Processors  
Variocurve Equalizers

to set up. We then do our line check and some minor tweaking of the channel EQs. Then we wait for the band..."

As Leary recalls, the tour definitely went off without any hitches. "I love working with this band. They are all very friendly and treat their crew very well. There were no real challenges except for all the rain and heat that we were exposed to when we hooked up with Bryan Adams for a few shows. The long drives were a bit of a drag, but for the most part everything went very smoothly. There weren't any real problems aside from having to deal with the greenskeepers at the baseball fields. They can be very sensitive about their grass!"



### The Tea Party Crew

Jon Watt – FOH Engineer  
Dave Mitchell – Monitor Engineer  
Ben Lyons – Drum Technician  
Trevor Gilchrist – Guitar Technician  
Glen Murphy – Lighting Technician/Tour Manager  
Santina Richards – Production Assistant

