



# Priscilla, Queen of the Desert



Photo: Jeff Burby

For this 2007 production of the iconic Australian show we worked with producer Garry McQuinn to bring an enhanced experience to a Melbourne audience.

Our role involved providing the Regent Theatre in Melbourne with a variety of automation and lifting technologies and included installing an automated tracking system in order to fly the three Divas who sing many of the 20 plus show tunes either above the Priscilla bus, or over the stage. We also provided automation for the flying lighting ladders that flew in and out above the offstage wings.

Central to the performance is the 12 metre ring revolve which was controlled via our Qpos and nextQ technology. The revolve, which operates continuously throughout the performance, delivers a myriad of props and scenic elements to the performers as they undertake their journey through the outback.





Two hydraulic scissor lifts were required, one large and one small. The smaller scissor lift was used to create a platform downstage for the three central characters but also had to be capable of holding up to 12 performers later in the show. The large lift, concealed by the bus, measured 6m long by 2m deep and rose from a compact 300mm to a maximum height of 3.5m. Both of the scissor lifts were integrated into the 300mm show deck with a modest penetration of 1000mm x 800mm through the venue's stage. Using the latest Qpos 4, our dual channel hydraulic controller, the lift was operated using two synchronised rams travelling in master/slave mode. This was used to move the performers from stage level to the bus roof height in 10 seconds, allowing for a spectacular show finale.

Our fully integrated control system, nextQ, was used to coordinate and control all of the elements of the automation system. With over 120 individual automation cues throughout the performance, nextQ has again shown its versatility as a robust theatrical control system that meets the most complex needs of the modern stage musical.

We are looking forward to increased involvement and new challenges associated with implementing the iconic Priscilla bus in this production when it makes its debut in London's West End, early in 2009. We are also looking forward to continuing and diversifying our relationship with Really Useful Group, working with the London side of the company on Priscilla in the West End at the same time as working with their Antipodean counterparts in Adelaide on an arena production of Phantom of the Opera.

