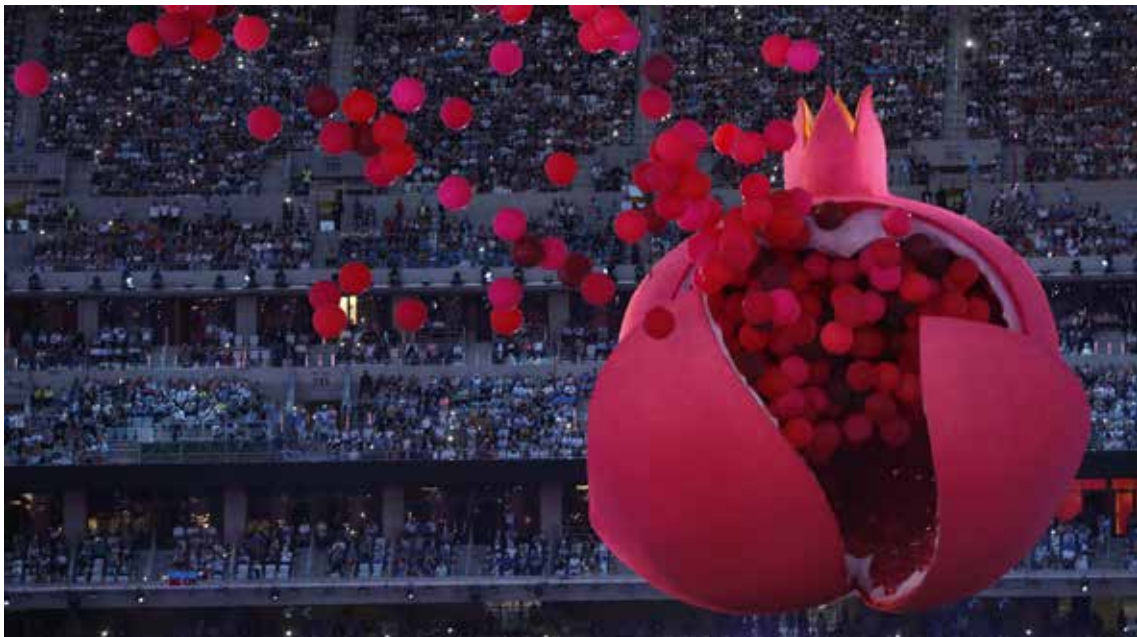




Baku 2015 European Games

A complex integration of staging, technology, scenic treatments and finishes saw us deliver an extensive package for the opening ceremony of the inaugural European Games in Baku.

Working for Five Currents and the Baku European Games Organising Committee, we delivered the dramatic 'cracked earth' stage; the huge flown pomegranate and the stunning eclipse cauldron.



The Stage

Working to the designs of Dimitris Papaioannou, we used a series of twenty stage lifts to dramatically transform the stage during the show. The combination of scissor and column lifts, all with rock-like scenic treatment and LED petroglyphs, synchronised to form a multi-levelled 14m high mountain. The highest lift incorporated a cage to enable the hero to 'magically' appear at the mountain top at the appropriate point in the story.



The 'scorched earth' surface treatment of the entire stage area had to take into account a number of different effects including the extremes of fire and water. A chasing flame was used to draw an image of the symbolic 'burning man' in the stage surface; whilst the scenic finish also had to accommodate a 30 metre by 8 metre lake that filled to a depth of 100mm in just two minutes. Another effect included the gradual reveal of concealed 'vegetation'.



The Pomegranate

Our scenic interpretation and technical teams also created the stunning pomegranate, the symbol of host country, Azerbaijan. At 14m, this vast scenic item was made with extraordinary attention to detail, from the fruit's outer skin and layer of pith, to the thousand jewel-like 'seeds' inside. The pomegranate was manufactured to open out mid-flight, releasing a controlled flow of seed-like balloons, whilst revealing the inner layer of fixed seeds.



The Cauldron

The cauldron was designed to mimic the dramatic effects of an eclipse, a halo of flame being revealed around a silhouetted black disc. We provided both the mechanisms and control to enable the two 30m arms to rise up at the key moment, raising the 5m central disc. Once fully elevated, the disc rotated in front of the flame, creating the stunning eclipse effect. With exposure to such extreme heat as well as television camera scrutiny, the 'eclipse' cauldron required scrupulously researched and executed finishes.

