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Bullet Proof ... I Wish I Was: The Lighting & Stage Design Of Andi Watson



Synopsis

Thousands attend stadium rock concerts around the globe and experience the artistry of lighting designer Andi Watson through his work with bands like Radiohead and Oasis. This visually arresting monograph presents a decade's worth of his extraordinary designs through hundreds of stage photographs. The foreword by Radiohead's Thom Yorke reveals the relationship between band and lighting designer, while other critical essays elucidate the history of stage lighting. An ideal book for devoted Radiohead followers and those interested in the intersection of contemporary art and pop culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Scoates is the director of the University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach. He lives in Southern California. Thom Yorke is the lead vocalist and songwriter for Radiohead.

I had to do a book report on this so I did. I thought it was going to be about Andi and reviewing his work, his process, and how he uses technology to enhance his designs. It was to an extent but was mostly a history lesson, a comparison to other designers, and a picture book. I liked it but it was not what I expected. It was more of a coffee table book or easy reading on a flight.

The book is really a compilation of short articles, some relevant, some I have no idea why they are included. However, if a picture tells a thousand words then this book is worth it. The photography of

the lighting designs is incredible. The text after the first main article is just filler at best. Most of the text was pointless to me. Can we have a version with the first article and twice as many pictures? That would be worth twice as much.

Andy Watson is one amazing guy! He is genius in creating amazing and unique stage lighting. I really admire his style and the designs he has done all thru out the world. It was really great to see how each stage was built with detailed designs and descriptions. Any one who is interested in stage lighting and see how the top notch LD does his art work, must check out this book.

good book

Through a series of worldwide tours from the bands Radiohead and Oasis, millions have seen the breathtaking work of lighting director Andi Watson. Watson's light beams and computer based concert staging are both deceptively simple and memorably striking. In "Bullet Proof...I Wish I Was The Lighting and Stage Design of Andi Watson" author Christopher Scoates unpacks the intricacies behind the effects with a series of interviews, diagrams, photographs and behind the scene details that bring life to the designs and explain the background and development necessary to create the illuminating effects that represent these bands in the live arena. Scoates, the director of the University Art Museum at Cal State, Long Beach, has taking a welcomed leap first, by even deciding to cover what may seem like an esoteric subject and secondly, by doing such a thorough and complete job of detailing the multiple dimensions brought to bear to create the final, dramatic product. Scoates first met Watson at the Radiohead "IN Rainbows" stop at the Hollywood Bowl well into the second phase of the lighting director's career. In backtracking, the author relates Watson's colorful history (he worked for bands like INXS, Prince and the Cure before signing on with the nascent Oxford band Radiohead) as well as dedicating a chapter to the history of concert lighting, from the early work of Lazlo Mohony-Nagy in the 1930s to the liquid light movements of the underground 60's to the major stadium undertakings of Pink Floyd (The Wall), the Rolling Stones (Steel Wheels tour) and U2 (Pop Mart, Zoo TV and 360 Tour). In his analysis of Watson's work - including Oasis, Dido, the Arctic Monkeys and others - Scoates breaks down the concepts, implementation and even the influences (Jean Cocteau, cubism, the Matrix) that create the awe-inspiring work combining laser light, mirrors, large-scale LED tubes, oscilloscopes, videos and more to create lighting and set designs that are as unique and identifiable as the bands he represents artistically. With essays by Dick Hebdige, J. Fiona Ragheb and an introduction by Thom

York, Bulletproof is a completist's monograph of one of the most significant modern day concert designers in the market today and is thus a worthy and unusual addition to the world of live art.

very interesting books for the photos and plots, not as much for the writing. I had the impression the writer didn't know how to fill the pages. Too many names and cultural movements superficially and sometimes randomly mentioned one after the other.

Lot's of material here for lighting designers. I found book helpful.

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