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Portal Design Services and Motorcycles at the Opry

Texas-based **Portal Design Services** proved once again how pre-programming can make the seemingly impossible possible, at a meeting for Honda dealers at the **Grand Ole Opry** in Nashville, Tennessee.

The event, produced by **Martin Brinkerhoff Associates, Inc.**, had to co-exist with the Opry's set and lighting rig due to a scheduling conflict. The problem was that an Opry concert was to be held the night before the last dealer meeting show the following morning. Lighting designer **Gregory Cohen**, and programmer/associate lighting designer **Cameron Yeary**, both from New York-based **Ingram Associates, Inc.**, decided early on that pre-visualization would be of enormous benefit.

"We had a very short and very difficult load-in to supervise, but by the same token, we were also desperately short on programming time," commented Yeary. "Having a WYSIWYG system on-site allowed us to be on-hand to make the difficult calls that are always going to happen when you are working on top of another show. WYSIWYG helped maximize our time programming the show in a back room at the Opry." Portal Design Service's traveling 5,000-channel WYSIWYG Perform System was used throughout the rehearsal period. For control, Cohen and Yeary chose two Flying Pig System's Wholehog IIs, with an expansion wing each and two overdrive boxes.

Jordan Ray, of Portal Design Services, created the WYSIWYG drawing and a number of renders for the design team. To augment the completely **Martin Professional**, 70-fixture strong Opry house lighting rig, Cohen and Yeary brought in 48 **Vari-Lite VL2000 Wash** fixtures and 36 **VL2000 Spot** fixtures, along with strobes, conventionals and over 50 **Color**



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Kinetics Color Blaze 72 and **Color Blast 12** LED fixtures all supplied by **PRG Orlando**.

"We really needed to create a Las Vegas vibe for when the bikes drive on to the stage," explained Cohen. "We used the Color Kinetics fixtures as additional 'flash and trash' by pointing them straight out into the audience while video images of Vegas were played back on the large LED screen upstage. This is a job that demanded pre-visualization. The load-in schedule, combined with the heavy reliance on time-code driven media and the multi-phased scenic elements would have been almost insurmountable without the extra time Portal's system created."

The show featured the full 2005 line up of Honda Motorcycle's production range.



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