



Artistic Licence range used in Manchester Studios upgrade

Artistic Licence products have been used to provide new DMX infrastructure in the Manchester Studios complex, formerly the Granada/ITV headquarters.



Studio 1, Manchester Studios (photo credit [Manchester Studios](#))

Manchester Studios - formerly the old Granada Studios - have been undergoing massive refurbishment since 2016. The Granada Studios were built in 1954 for the purpose of recorded and live filming, and served as the Granada/ITV headquarters until 2013.

As part of the refurbishment, Artistic Licence products have been installed in the ongoing upgrade to Studio 1. This is the largest space within the Manchester Studios complex, housed within a self-contained building complete with wardrobe, props, dressing rooms and production offices.

DMX infrastructure

A central DMX patch houses two [rackLynx octo](#) 8-universe Art-Net gateways and four [rackSplit octo](#) 8-way DMX/RDM splitters. These distribute DMX out to eight wall boxes around the studio floor that each house two further rackLynx octo splitters.



The Artistic Licence rackLynx and rackSplit octo products provide compact, high-density conversion and distribution of the Art-Net/DMX/RDM data.



Two Swisson XES-8G Gigabit switches manage the core Ethernet data from production consoles which can then be sent over fibre to studios 8 and 12.

Two Artistic Licence [netLynx quad](#) Art-Net gateways were also supplied to provide up to eight further DMX universes either on-set or in the top-rig.



Studio 1 (photo credit [Manchester Studios](#))

Above - the boxy netLynx quad 4-Universe gateway from Artistic Licence is convenient for set or top-rig positions.

Network in action

The lighting control network was recently christened by RuPaul's Dragrace UK which required three studios to be controlled by a single grandMA2, outputting twenty universes of DMX across the site. In addition to the new DMX infrastructure, nine legacy Strand Lighting LD90 (24 x 10A) dimmers were completely stripped down and refurbished by the in-house team of sparks. The entire system was designed and commissioned by Paul Swansborough, Head of Production Lighting at Manchester Studios.

"The principal reason for choosing Artistic Licence was simple - we wanted a high quality product that was manufactured and readily available in the UK, post-Brexit", comments Paul.

About Us

Established in 1988, Artistic Licence specialises in lighting control, with a broad range of products that are all designed and manufactured in the UK. We also develop OEM technology for clients worldwide.

For project work, our in-depth technological knowledge enables us to offer custom-build solutions where no off-the-shelf product would be suitable. We routinely work with all the open lighting protocols, including Art-Net (which we invented), sACN, DMX512-A, RDM, RDMnet and DALI.

From stadium rock to sculptural art, and municipal works to designer hotels, we offer an eclectic and international outlook.

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