

Andy Cottey & Gafin Riley



ANDY COTTEY

Lighting Director



GAFIN RILEY

Gaffer

**BBC WALES
CYMRU/WALES & S4C
2015 Welsh
Election Coverage**

To design and light the 2015 BBC Cymru/Wales and S4C Welsh election coverage, Lighting Director Andy Cottey and Lead Gaffer Gafin Riley leaned heavily on LED technology for a significant portion of the job, including the massively successful “Spin Room”, a multi-use lounge resembling a cloud bar for presenters, pundits and politicians to sit between on-screen time and to Tweet to their hearts’ content.

Fortunately for Andy and Gafin – who were charged with minimising power consumption as much as possible – it was Panalux’s proprietary products, including the HiLo™ softsource and LD X90™ LED lights, that delivered exactly what was needed and ended up stealing the show. “The output from the HiLos were unbelievable... we had to get egg crates just to control the amount of light coming out of them and reduce the beam angles. We found that the Panalux LD X90 outperformed all of the main manufacturers’ LED options,” Gafin confirmed.

The two main areas lit by Panalux Broadcast & Event were the augmented reality studio / reception area at BH Cardiff and the former BBC National Orchestra of Wales recording and rehearsal hall which, without air conditioning, was insufficiently outfitted for any large amount of equipment.

In addition to a specific look and feel, the brief specified low power consumption in all areas, and wireless and battery capabilities in several places. The option of using traditional lighting was immediately taken off the table.

“We went down the LED route very early to keep it green and go for a new angle,” Gafin said. “We initially looked at going with traditional lighting. But by the time we added in air con, it was more expensive.”

For Andy and Gafin, designing and installing lighting for each space was a unique challenge in and of itself. “It was quite a big ask really considering the scope. It was a sizeable project that we wanted to get our teeth into,” Andy explained.

Right away, he said that the power consumption aspect of the job was the biggest restriction, “You could say that we were governed by the amount of power available. I wanted the spaces to be LED-driven all the way, and I was determined to put in LED key lights and soft lights. You don’t just want to create a nicely-lit environment, you want to be able to stand being in there in terms of temperature, and you want to be able to say you’re not drawing a lot of power.”

“We were going down another route until we found Panalux versions, which far exceeded what we had been looking at.”

For his turn, Gafin said that one of his real challenges was the amount of redundancies needed, *“If something were to go wrong, there is no way it would go unnoticed and it would be terminal.”* In the end, access to reliable equipment played a big role in the decision to work with Panalux.

In Andy’s case, it was the prospect of working with some of Panalux’s exclusive LED equipment that really wowed the seasoned Lighting Director.

“The HiLo was just the best softsource on the market,” he said of the 400 watt fixture used as a direct alternative to a 4.8kw spacelight or softsource lamp. *“They were a sensation, really. For such low draw on the lamp it gave us a lot of output. We needed it to be “plug and play” without shadows everywhere or having to tell cameramen they can’t walk certain places.”*

In addition to 18 HiLos™, Andy and Gafin used several Panalux LD X90™ lights, having been drawn to their LED function in a familiar shell. *“It’s a Panalux 1K housing that’s been made LED,”* they said. *“Instantly, that’s a footprint that’s familiar to us. It’s a proven casing with new technology on the inside, so we know it and trust it.”*



As far as client services go, both Andy and Gafin were relieved that Panalux Broadcast & Event Business Development Manager David Baker went above and beyond to deliver the best, most hands-on service they could have expected.

“Once David brought the lamps out for us to test, we were sold,” Andy said. *“I trust David’s advice and judgement as well. He’s fantastic because he’s done so many different related jobs – he’s sparked, he’s gaffered – he knows exactly what you need and was on-board as soon as we started talking.”*

Keen to increase their presence in the Welsh market, Panalux Broadcast & Event were pleased to connect with Andy and Gafin, a well-respected pair of lighting professionals. Having worked with Andy for more than six years, Gafin said that Andy linking up with Panalux Broadcast & Event was an exciting opportunity.

“It was almost accidental in that when we first met Dave, we didn’t yet have the elections lined up. He just happened to mention the HiLo and as we started planning the job, we kept that in mind as the perfect light,” said Gafin. *“Dave and the entire team at Broadcast & Event were incredibly positive and proactive.”*

“When we needed additional equipment, it was there the next day and well before the gig. Panalux Broadcast & Event showed us that kind of professional service where they were willing to get up from London and come show us what’s available.”

QUICK LOOK

- Total lights drawing 21.7kW at full intensity, including:
 - 18 HiLo™ softsource lights
 - 22 LD X90™ lights
 - 22 Mac Aura lights
- 5 Avolites / Jands lighting desks
- 100+ metres of truss

ABOUT PANALUX BROADCAST & EVENT

Panalux Broadcast & Event is a leading provider of entertainment lighting systems for live and television studio events, outside broadcasting, concerts, theatre, corporate events and more. Our commitment to innovation and service excellence continues to set us apart as established industry specialists.

Our extensive selection of modern lighting, rigging and control equipment offer the latest in product technology as well as bespoke production solutions that include advanced lighting control systems and state of the art LED fixtures.

Clients benefit from our broad experience and know-how. End-to-end project management, client support and managed transportation enable Panalux B&E to deliver a consistently better customer experience.

Experts in the development of creative, bespoke lighting solutions, Panalux B&E has the resources, knowledge and expertise to bring your ideas to life.

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