

engineered solutions

consultancy | design | fabrication | installation | maintenance and inspection



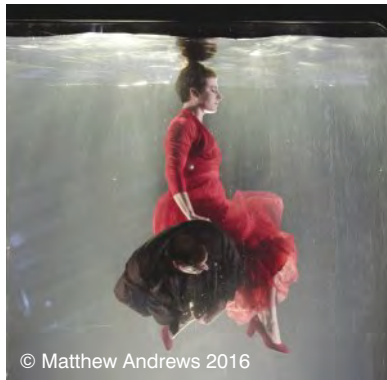
Christmas Lights, Regent Street, London

Challenging. Weird. Wonderful. Off the Wall.

These words could be used to describe many of the projects we have been involved with over the last 30+ years. When we called ourselves Unusual back in 1983, little did we know just how unusual some of them would be. Needless to say, we've grown to suit our name – at any given time we may be creating dare devil feats for prime time TV shows, refurbishing the flying system of a century old theatre, devising solutions which enable museums to hang unique artworks or rigging the opening and closing ceremonies of the biggest sporting events in the world. We've got our fingers in lots of pies – entertainment, engineering, museums and galleries – as well as numerous one-off projects or 'significant others', some of which are featured in this brochure. Enjoy!

“Alan Jacobi and his team share a fondness for working on the occasional crazy idea in the name of art. We have a rapport with Unusual and we trust the team implicitly – why would we work with anyone else?”

Michael Morris,
Co-Director, Artangel



London's Burning Festival



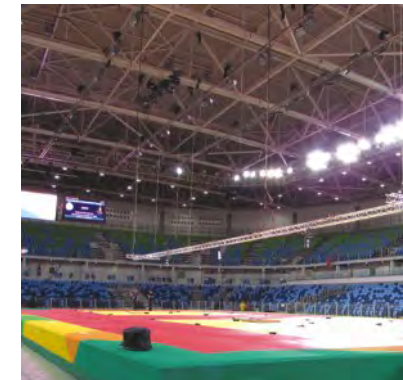
Go Further Shanghai



Chickenshed



Half A Sixpence



Rio 2016



ENTERTAINMENT

We love theatre – it's in our blood and nothing gets us more excited than being involved with the latest big scale musical, play or even ballet. In the past year we've been involved with dozens of productions – *Wicked*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Cursed Child*, *Half A Sixpence* and Matthew Bourne's production of *The Red Shoes*. They've all thrown some interesting challenges at us but perhaps none as much as *Bat Out Of Hell the Musical*.

The brainchild of Jim Steinman and rock superstar Meat Loaf, it's a romantic adventure about rebellious youths. When the songs were penned in the '70s, Steinman dreamed of lifting the tracks from the record to the stage. Forty years on, the production opened in February 2017 at the Manchester Opera House for a 12 week run before transferring to the London Coliseum and then Toronto.

We've worked with Simon Marlow on numerous projects, most recently constructing the temporary theatre space for the David Bowie musical *Lazarus* at the Kings Cross Theatre. Knowing that *Bat Out Of Hell* would throw a number of daunting technical challenges his way, Simon brought us on board to thwart any potential nightmares that the show or the venues might throw at him. This involved:

- providing engineering support for the flying pieces, all of which are flown at an angle
- designing a complex engineering system to ensure seamless movement of every flying piece
- devising solutions to overcome the complex nature of the London Coliseum where a number of lighting bridges throw additional challenges.

“Once again, Unusual Rigging has not disappointed. That I always turn to them for every production speaks for itself.”

Simon Marlow, Production Manager,
Bat Out Of Hell



Photo: Matt Crockett

Wicked UK tour



Chickenshed



Harry Potter And The Cursed Child

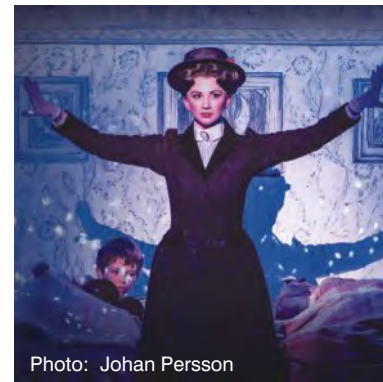


Photo: Johan Persson

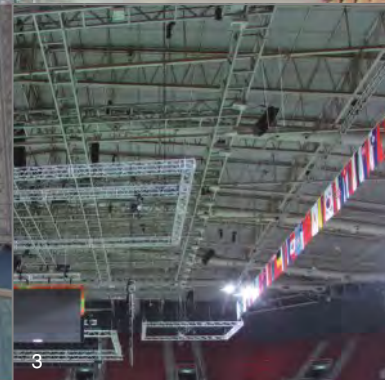
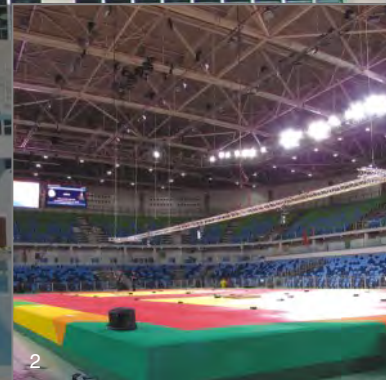
Mary Poppins tour



Photo: Manuel Harlan

Half A Sixpence

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS





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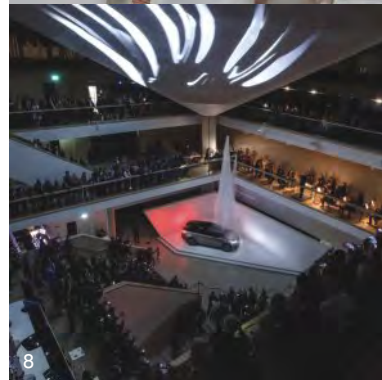
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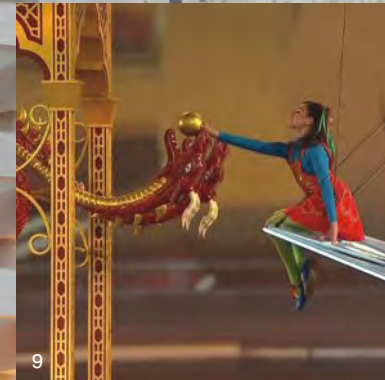
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1, 2 & 3 – Rio 2016. 4 & 9 – The Baku 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games.
 5 – It's Not Rocket Science. 6 – London's Southbank Centre. 7 – Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.
 8 – Launch of new Range Rover, Design Museum, London. 10 – London's Burning Festival

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



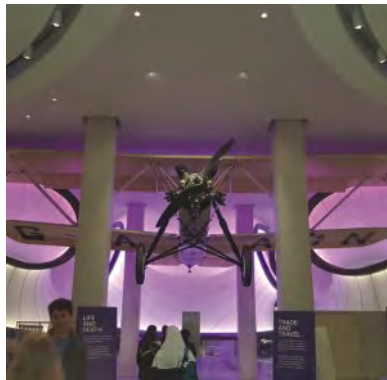
We like to hang things – and luckily our reputation for doing this well means our expertise is always in demand in museums and galleries across the UK and beyond. We get a kick from figuring out how to install a unique piece of art in a listed building, or how to get an aeroplane into a museum and up to a third floor gallery. We've not failed yet – ask our clients at the Science Museum, the Tate or the V&A to name just a few.

One of our most recent projects took us to Norway via Scotland – where we found ourselves working at the Norwegian Aviation Museum at the start of 2017, on a permanent exhibition called ViFlyr which details the history of civil aviation within Norway. Michael Loftus, curator at the museum, had previously worked for Engineering Conservation at National Museums Scotland, where we'd hung some aircraft in 2016. Michael was briefed with the task of organising the preparation and suspension of the aircraft and so brought us on board to come up with a solution that would show off the objects to maximum effect while ensuring each item was conserved and protected. Understanding just how complex this installation was, Michael asked us to devise a complete solution which involved:

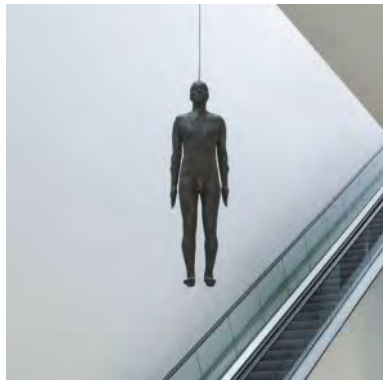
- attending preparatory meetings and aircraft inspections in Norway prior to the install
- manufacturing and supplying attachments which were fitted to the aircraft and in many cases replacing the wing bolts
- devising a four point lift using chain blocks to install the C5 Polar craft on a day that no crane was available so that work could continue unhindered
- providing fully documented safety certification and compliance procedures.

“Unusual has the experience and competency to deliver big-scale installations whilst providing all the necessary documentation and compliance procedures. We will undoubtedly work together again since this is exactly what you need when you're playing with the big stuff.”

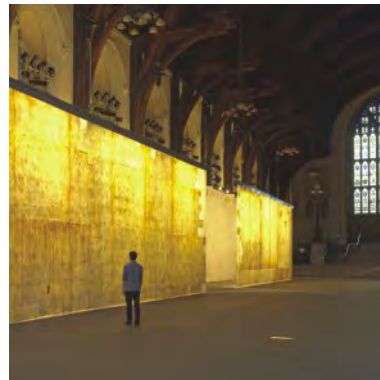
Michael Loftus, Curator ViFlyr,
Norwegian Aviation Museum



The Science Museum



National Portrait Gallery



Westminster Hall



National Museum of Scotland



Tate Modern

ENGINEERING

Garsington Opera Pavillion
Photo: Colin Willoughby



Photo: Clive Barda



Photo: Dennis Gilbert

Our engineering projects are as diverse as they are challenging, taking our skills and expertise into very different sectors. From working with Network Rail on the amazing New Street Station redevelopment in Birmingham to installing a working platform at the Piccadilly Theatre in London, we also get involved with large scale conference and exhibition centres like Vox in Birmingham and the Belfast Waterfront development.

We've been working with the wonderful team at Garsington Opera Pavilion since 2010. Little did we know that what began life as a temporary structure would eventually become a permanent fixture in the rolling landscape of the Chiltern Hills.

We originally won the contract to coordinate the detailed design, procure specialist suppliers and to construct and commission the Pavilion to the architect's design. Initially the Pavilion, made from a limited palette of materials – timber, fabric and steel – was designed to be re-erected each year. But thanks to the popularity of the venue and its productions, it has undergone numerous alterations, extensions and reincarnations over the years which have seen us build, amongst other things, a back stage extension to the 600 seat pavilion.

Ahead of the summer 2017 season, Angus Boyd-Heron, events manager at Garsington, asked us to help evolve the venue even further. This included:

- re-configuring and adding to the outer sliding screens which provide weather protection
- additional glazed panels and doors to complete the exterior weather protection envelope
- converting the area below the seating tier into a gallery space by constructing a new deck, flooring it and adding walls and a ceiling.

“Once again Unusual Rigging has pulled out all the stops to give us a first class venue for the upcoming season. We are extremely proud of our beautiful structure which, thanks to Mark and his team, is constantly evolving as our audience continues to grow.”

Angus Boyd-Heron,
Events Manager, Garsington Opera



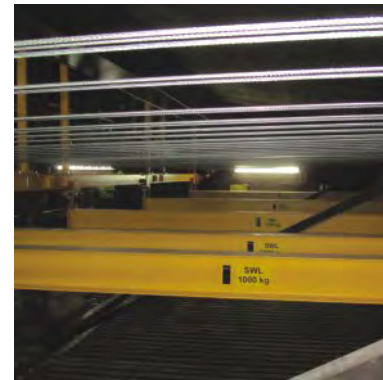
Piccadilly Theatre



Vox Birmingham



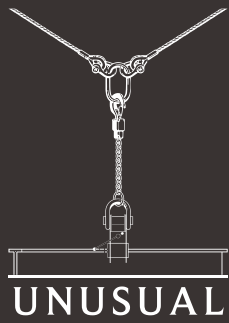
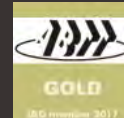
Birmingham New Street



Dominion Theatre



Piccadilly Theatre



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