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Smarty Hybrid™ contre-jour on Amon Amarth

Swedish melodic death metal band Amon Amarth was one of three bands that opened up for Slayer this past spring on the metal rockers' extended farewell tour. Martin Müller has been designing lighting and serving as lighting operator on Amon Amarth shows since 2016 and for the 16-date trek across the southern U.S. and east coast chose to reinforce the band's melodic guitars and growling vocals using Elation Smarty Hybrid™ moving heads as contre-jour lighting effects.



With lyrical themes that deal with Norse mythology and history, the opportunity for interesting supporting visuals on Amon Amarth shows, such as a center stage Viking ship, is great. "On an Amon Amarth tour, we have a lot of stage props, fabrics and other shushu that needs to be lit up in a tasty way so that the audience will always be able to discover something new when they look on stage," Müller said. "Therefore I always use a reasonable amount of LED battens, hidden all over the stage. Moving light wise, I keep it to three types of fixtures (wash, beam, spot) even though lately I am going more and more the hybrid way, so actually going down to two types of fixtures. For the Slayer run, I used Smarty Hybrids as my main, floor-based, contre-jour hard edge."

The designer mounted the punchy, 3-degree aperture Smarty Hybrids on upstage pipe to produce the backlighting technique, an aggressive look that reinforces the power behind a band like Amon Amarth. "I really liked the backlit, straight in the face, look with the prism and beam reducer," he said, adding that the design approach looked especially good in powerful numbers like "Raise your Horns" and "Guardians of Asgard."

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Dallas-based Gemini served as lighting vendor for the run, a production house that has emerged as perhaps the top provider of entertainment technology for metal tours in the U.S. "I've worked together with Gemini a lot in the past and Jason Cain and I toured together for quite some time," Müller comments. "I always send a request out their direction once I have to plan another tour. Gemini was, as usual, very supportive during the advancing and when I got the gear on the first day of the tour, it was well prepped and easy to understand and to set up."



With DARTZ to be found on big budget acts like Paul McCartney, Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson, as well as smaller set ups for bands like Chon, Lamb of God and Amon Amarth, the powerful yet compact moving head is proving to be a useful luminaire in configurations both large and small.

Amon Amarth opened up Slayer's spring shows together with Cannibal Corpse and Lamb of God (another band with an Elation lighting package) and released a new album "Berserker" just in time for the May run. With 25+ years and 11 albums under their belt, Amon Amarth continue to be a powerhouse of heavy metal.

About Elation Professional

Elation designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of innovative lighting and video products known for their excellent efficiency and outstanding performance. As a company in expansion with a presence in a growing variety of market segments, chances are you've experienced Elation lighting at a concert, special event, TV, theater, late night venue, House of Worship, theme park, cruise ship, exhibition, architectural space or elsewhere. For more information, please visit www.elationlighting.com

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