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LD Connor Sullivan reimagines Fall Out Boy with Elation and Magmatic

American rockers Fall Out Boy released their first new album in five years in March, *So Much (for) Stardust*, and then kicked off their *So Much For (Tour) Dust* tour in style on June 21, playing a 27-song set at a packed Wrigley Field. Lighting design is by Connor Sullivan of So Midwest, Inc., who is using Elation's new [Fuze Wash 500™](#) on his tour design, along with [Prisma Wash 100™](#) lights from Magmatic effects. Lighting supply is by Upstaging.



Two sides

The new album has been described as 'cinematic' and indeed the tour's creative directors Amber Rimell & Bronski of TAWBOX, along with Connor, talked about doing something for the tour that was more story-telling and theatrical. The entire point, says Connor, just like the new album, "was to show separation and difference while also showing balance. We have our outward sides that we show the world and our inside that we keep to ourselves and we wanted to capture that on stage."

Connor and TAWBOX conceived a captivating concept based on asymmetry, involving two distinct halves of the stage merging into a harmonious, balanced whole. Connor elaborates, "I explored the idea of intentionally overloading one side of the stage, while leaving the other side relatively bare. Stage right represents the facade, the outward-facing aspect that showcases theatrical elements, while stage left embodies the raw essence, stripped down to its rock 'n' roll

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core. It serves as the backbone of the show.” In order to accentuate the contrast between the two sides, Connor opted to minimize the use of horizontal trusses spanning from right to left, instead incorporating numerous toms. On stage left is a collection of hybrid fixtures capable of producing both beam effects and rock 'n' roll aesthetics, while on stage right, spotlights and wash fixtures dominate the lighting setup.



Fuze Wash 500 pod

And where do the Fuze Wash 500s come in? Connor explains, “Positioned directly above the band, there is an automated downstage pod. One particular scene transports us back in time to when the band was just starting out in Joe's attic and to bring this concept to life, we conceived an automation pod. Initially, I considered using parcans or moles, but I wanted something that offered greater versatility. The Fuze Wash 500 stood out with its giant lens and the perfect color.” Connor reveals that the setup is a bit of an homage to the Nine Inch Nails *Tension* tour, with the pod descending right above the band's head, unaccompanied by any other fixtures.

The automation pod is made up of 60 Fuze Wash 500 fixtures housed in two 30 ft x 4 ft truss pods. Each pod contains two rows of 15 lights each. “They come down as a unit and as the show progresses they start moving and getting more animated with different positions,” Connor explains. “Their first appearance is in the show's third scene (out of eight total) then they disappear for a while and reappear in the last two scenes for full-on rock 'n' roll looks.”

The Fuze Wash 500 is a full-spectrum LED Fresnel moving head that houses a 500W RGBMA LED engine with high CRI. It projects a soft field light up to 17,000 lumens and includes a wide zoom, high-speed strobe and more. “They have such an amazing front lens and that was the look I was going for, a small fixture with a wide lens and LED and it works great,” Connor says. “The color looks amazing and it's been great to see them in action on tour.”

A moment in the show that Connor eagerly anticipates is during the song "Heaven," which is a song off the new album. “It's halfway through the show and it has a slow build to it. It's a full-on, pump the brakes, stop what you're doing and turn off all the lights look where Patrick sings with only one light on. Then we bring in the lights slowly and subtly and by the end of the song every single light is on in radiant white and strobing and going crazy. It's an impactful moment and a definite fan favorite.”

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UV

Due to the absence of LED screens or a backdrop LED wall that allows for easy visual changes, the scenic designers at TAWBOX sought to explore additional possibilities for their scenic pieces. “Everything you see behind the band is ‘hard’ scenic, either painted backdrop or inflatable,” Connor explains. “Really the only way to change that is to color it with light. We wanted to expand our options and one of the ways to do that was to use UV paint.”

The UV-painted scenic called for a UV wash light to set it aglow and the task fell to the Prisma Wash 100™, an IP65-rated UV wash luminaire that produces 365nm peak true UV output with zero visible light. “It’s a bit of a secret in the show,” Connor says of the effect. “We wait and wait and then we snap it on! All of a sudden the backdrop glows – giant starfish, submarines – it’s really cool. We have 12 fixtures mounted to the mid-stage proscenium that cover the entire upstage.”

Upstaging

Supplying the 300+ fixture rig for the Fall Out Boy *So Much For (Tour) Dust* tour is Upstaging, an invaluable partner that Connor expresses his admiration for. “I absolutely adore Upstaging. They are always on top of everything and are always ready to accommodate anything I happen to ask of them. They have the best crews and I love that they are more than just a warehouse with gear but a bunch of good-hearted Midwestern folks who really look at the show and come with great advice and input.”

Fall Out Boy is playing outdoor dates in the U.S. through the summer with an indoor European tour launching in the fall.



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Crew:

Creative Director: Bronski, TAWBOX

Lighting Designer: Connor Sullivan, So Midwest Inc.

Production Manager: Chad Olech

Tour Manager: Joshua Scott

Lighting Crew Chief: Sandy Paul

Lighting Crew: Max Mackintosh, Olivia McGahan, Benjamin Meserole, Paul Mundrick, Ian Waite, Adam Zies, Dave Zuniga

Video Director: Jack Edinger

Video Crew: Jeff Dooley, Daniel Norris

Photos 1, 3-5: Andy Jauregui

About Elation Professional

Based in California with facilities in Florida and Mexico City, as well as European offices in The Netherlands, Elation designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of innovative lighting products known for its superior performance, excellent efficiency, and outstanding price: value ratio, all backed by a hard-earned reputation for Total Support. Elation also offers an advanced line of lighting control products through Obsidian Control Systems, as well as a full range of dependable specialty effects called Magmatic. Our mission has always been simple: to provide best-in-class products and service while offering the best value: performance ratio in the industry. Elation products continue to be a part of the industry's most exciting projects across the globe. We invite you to take a closer look at www.elationlighting.com

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