



featuring Steve Baird,
Lighting Designer and *wysiwyg* user

wysiwyg R27 tours Europe with Dream Theater



wysiwyg Shaded View - Dream Theater, 2011 Summer European Festival tour



photo - Dream Theater, 2011 Summer European Festival tour

The 26-year career of progressive rock band Dream Theater has been engaging audiences worldwide year after year. The 2011 Summer European Festival tour, hit 20 major music festivals and one-offs beginning in Rome and ending in Hungary, drawing legions of fans to their monumental catalog of releases and dynamic, marathon live shows.

The band, formed in 1985, is comprised

of James LaBrie on vocals, John Myung on bass, John Petrucci on guitars, Mike Mangini on drums and Jordan Rudess on keyboards.

Steve Baird, longtime *wysiwyg* User and LD for the band, shares how *wysiwyg* proved to be a tremendous friend on the road:

"Festival Tours are always lots of fun. Knowing that I had the challenge of never

getting the same lighting system twice, I needed to decide whether to busk, or run my show cue to cue style.

For Dream Theater, I built a show cue to cue, using spot, wash and LED type moving fixtures with *wysiwyg* R27. After I programmed the initial show, I advanced each event, got the technical spec sheets, drew up each layout in *wysiwyg* and then cloned my show to all the different layouts.

Having *wysiwyg* on the road was the right choice because most of the festival designers use *wysiwyg* too, and they were more than happy to share their files with me. This was a huge benefit, especially for the larger shows such as High Voltage Festival in London's Victoria Park and Sonisphere in Metz, where the fixture patch and position distances were all set.

It was awesome to be able to playback

my show on my laptop. The beams looked so real. It was like having the lighting system in front of me. If there were any glitches in the cloning I could see them. It was stress free on show days as all I had to do was adjust focus positions and work with hard edge focus for gobos. The rest I did on *wysiwyg*.

There were lots of positive comments from techs and LDs on the beams and

the speed of *wysiwyg* R27. Also the band appreciated the consistent look of their show. Plus *wysiwyg* allowed me to work on the shows anytime I had a chance...on the tour bus, in a hotel room and travelling through airports."