

Special Olympics World Games Opening Ceremony



EVENT: Special Olympics World Games
LOCATION: Abu Dhabi

DATE: March 2019

Abu Dhabi welcomed over 7,500 athletes from 190 nations when it hosted the Special Olympics World Games 2019. This is the first time the event has been held in the Middle East and North Africa region, and the UAE made sure it was one to remember.

Creative Technology (CT) worked alongside our client People to deliver all live video aspects of both the opening and closing ceremony for this prestigious and heart-warming event.

CT supplied a 600sqm upstage screen, a total of 270sqm relay screens, 580sqm LED Floor, 90sqm tracking screen, and 2500sqm of mapped floor projection using RZ31k Panasonic Laser projectors.

The impressively large 600sqm LED screen was placed directly opposite the VIP box where the crown prince and heads of state sat, and the relay screens were strategically positioned around the arena to ensure all attendees didn't miss a thing. The floor LED was integrated into the main stage construction, creating a 6m wide "doughnut" display area some 32m in diameter,

which was then covered with a white projection material diffuser.

There was a central circular stage, and outer ring stage which we projected onto and an inner ring of 8mm LED joined the two surfaces. CT used a white diffusion on the LED to open up the viewing angle of the screen fully. The white diffusion also served to turn the LED screen into a matching white surface, so it appeared as one full area instead of a black/negative ring in-between two white stages.

A key feature of the Opening Ceremony production was a 10m diameter flying disc, weighing nearly five tons, the disc incorporated lighting, pyro and, impressively, a 9m diameter LED screen. The disc rose up 30m from the stage at the start of the show and tracked back over the main LED screen, relaying show content throughout to enhance the floor projections. At the climax of the ceremony, the two torch bearing athletes travelled on board the disc as it flew back to its centre stage position.



For the LED CT utilised its new HDMI 2.0 & 12G SDI kit to maintain a fully redundant 4k @60 4:4:4 uncompressed workflow from the media server to screen. In the field, CT had a remote Screen Management system comprised of linked Barco E2 and S3s managing all LED scaling and mapping.

All Projection, LED control and Image Processing was integrated on a centralised fully redundant network ring controlled from FOH and utilised CT's new 1G and 10G fibre networking solutions.

Our 288 x 288 Crosspoint matrix took on all the main feeds and distributed them across the site, and our new Lightware 2.0 matrix managed backup feeds. For disguise, we used a Main and Understudy 4x4pro running HDMI 2.0 VFC cards, a Main and Understudy 4x4pro running 3G VFC cards and a Main and Understudy 2x2 running production.

