The Pet Shop Boys thrill fans with Greatest Hits Tour supported by disguise

London-based Really Creative Media (RCM) reunited with the Pet Shop Boys for the UK and European leg of the band's Dreamworld: The Greatest Hits Live 2022 tour where disguise solo media servers played a key role.

In this case study you will learn how the disguise solo controlled content perspective on the show's kinetically moving video surfaces, including a mid-stage blow-through LED screen in automated flying mode and an array of custom-built, robotic pivoting LED panels.
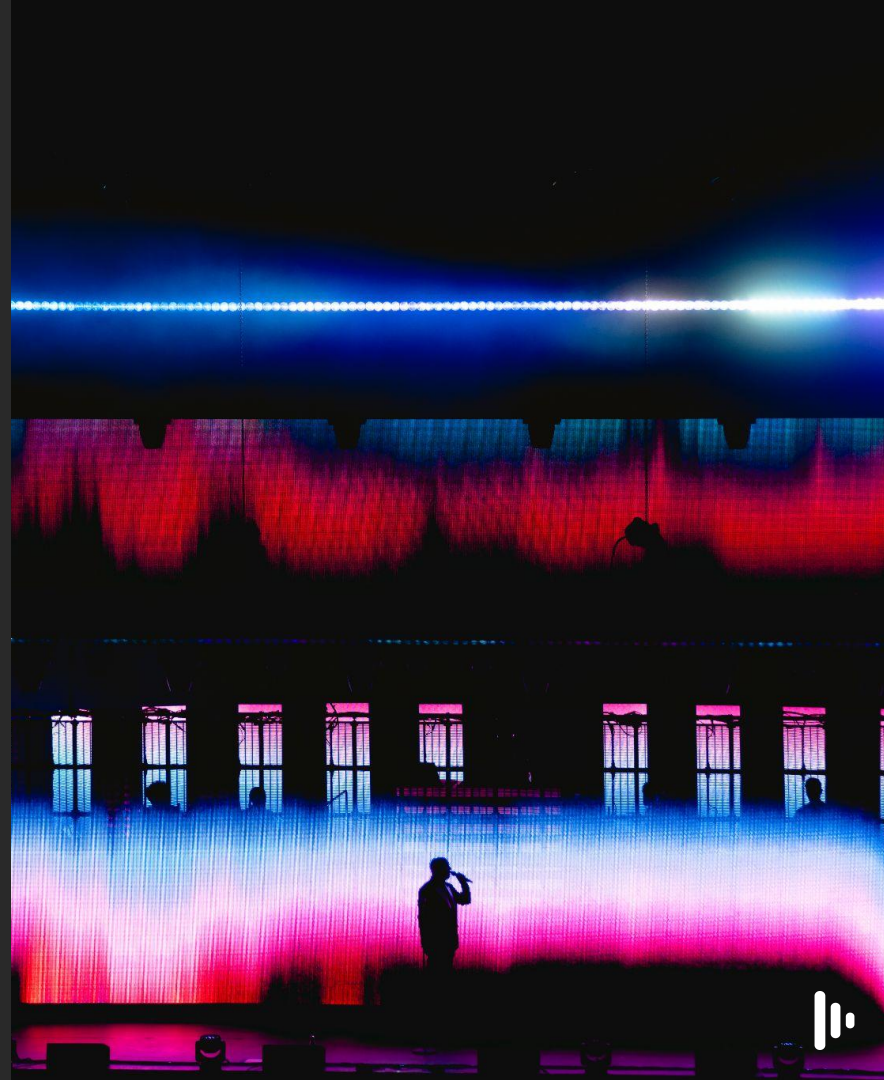
Summary

The European and UK leg of the COVID-delayed Dreamworld Tour kicked off in Vienna in May 2022, with dates in Munich, Brussels, Amsterdam and across the UK before returning to the continent for shows in several German cities, Prague and Stockholm. The show brought RCM back on board with the band, after having enjoyed a creative and technical relationship with the synth-pop duo for more than ten years.

The tour required a compact package that offered the output flexibility needed to deal with varying festival systems from venue to venue. The show was timecoded from start to finish with IMAG cameras having an integral role in camera effects and content overlays.
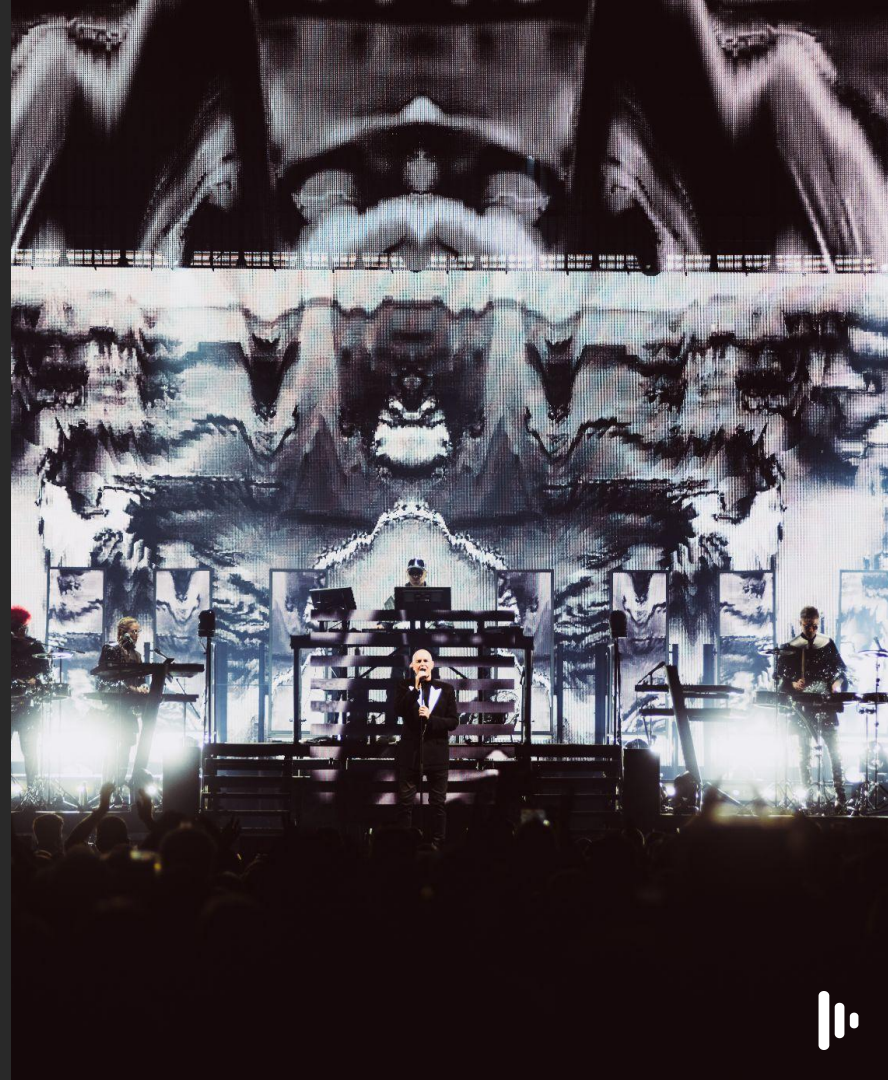
The challenge

The primary challenge for RCM on the tour was the ability to make changes on the road. RCM needed to re-program certain creative elements, such as camera IMAG, while traveling and to process technical screen updates to ready the show for upcoming festival screens with different proportions.

Having used disguise in a similar way on other projects, RCM's disguise Programmer and Operator, Iain Harvey, knew that the solo media server could meet the demands of a fast-moving tour as it crossed Europe and the UK.

The solution

Harvey deployed four solo media servers with HD-SDI capture and 10GbE cards, which he calls "small and compact but powerful." Lightware HDMI 2.0 Matrix allowed for failover while Adder XDIP permitted control of all machines from FOH and stage positions.

The solo's Stage Visualiser allowed Harvey to work on a 3D model of the show and maximise precious time in pre-vis ahead of rehearsals. Perspective mapping of content onto the Array – a set of 16 vertically rotating LED video screen robotic arms on stage – made use of the solo's built-in perspective mapping to match the content with the upstage LED screens. That feature continued to enable Harvey to tweak maps daily to line up content based on the stage screen configurations of a particular venue.

In addition, disguise's Designer software gave Harvey the flexibility of programming and fully visualising the show in travelling scenarios, such as on the tour bus, without having the physical stage setup in place. The ability to view content on a 3D model and update the show file as if he were onsite speeded festival changeovers and facilitated updates offline while the equipment was in transit between venues.

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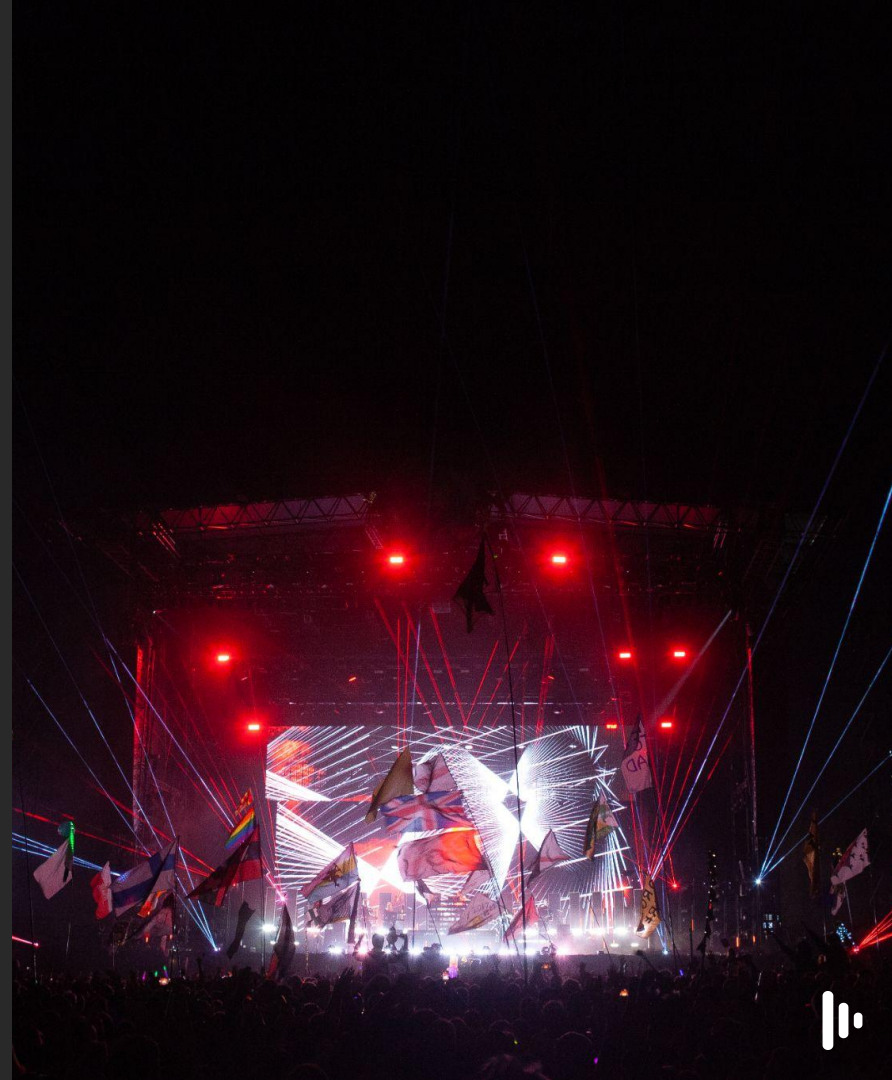
"The disguise solo unit is a really deployable server, especially for touring environments, that gives me access to the full disguise toolkit of features in the software. They are small and compact, saving rack space and contributing to the weight reduction of our touring systems, which helps us achieve sustainable touring targets."

Iain Harvey, disguise Programmer and Operator, RCM

Success

3 months
on tour

20
countries

33
shows

7,500
miles travelled

27
touring crew

The show delivered an aesthetically pleasing look with great effects as the combined perspective of all the screens integrated with the lighting, to support an evening of music that fans won't soon forget.
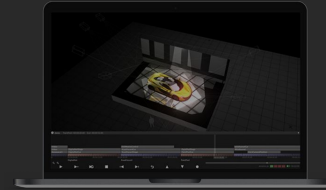
disguise equipment used

solo

Compact and powerful, the solo brings the power of the disguise solution to smaller productions and experiences.

[Find out more](#)

Designer software

Designer is the ultimate software to visualise, design, and sequence projects at every stage, from concept all the way through to showtime.

[Find out more](#)

In partnership with:

disguise Programmer and Operator: Iain Harvey
Racks Engineer: Roberto Esquenazi Alkabes
LED Engineer: Phil Leach
Video Design: Luke Halls Studio
Images: Stevie Kyle & Really Creative Media

RCM
REALLYCREATIVEMEDIA

▶ disguise

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Curious to know more about us? Want to master our production toolkit? Need support on your project?
Our team will be happy to speak to you, whatever your query:

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training.disguise.one

**Find out more about
disguise:**

info@disguise.one
+44 20 7234 9840