

DIGICO HITS CENTRE STAGE AT THE VAC

At the Victorian Arts Centre Darren Golding, Manager for Production has just installed DiGiCo across various venues. The State Theatre seats 2,085 and has one of the largest stages in the world. A DiGiCo D1 digital console has been installed and Ray Rogers, Sound Supervisor for the State Theatre, says "During the recent Melbourne International Arts Festival we staged George Orwell's 1984 which had 97 sound cues and the D1 managed them well, you press a button and it's done," said Ray. "I can't imagine doing that show on a normal console as I wouldn't have had enough hands! For this theatre it's basically a big fold back job; I've got maybe ten sends of fold back in various locations around the stage and in the pit." With the State Theatre frequently in rep the D1's ability to store shows in the console, is a godsend for Ray who is using all of the onboard effects.

The Hamer Hall hosts varied performances such as the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, concerts, comedy



Darren Golding (L) Nick Carrol (R) from The Victorian Arts Centre.

and gala film events. It seats up to 2,600 over three levels and is now home to a DiGiCo D5 digital console. "It's a fabulous console," said Peter Ripon, Sound Supervisor for the Hamer Hall. "I use the onboard effects and I don't use any outboard. The comps are good, good to read and work better than the ones in the rack. It's easy to use and logical.

Promoters are also very happy with the D5. The previous console in the Hamer Hall occupied 37 seats

whereas the D5 only requires the space of 15. "At \$100 a ticket, you could say that the console pays for itself indirectly," added Darren Golding. Casual crew at the Centre has had training on the DiGiCo consoles at Group Technologies and Darren reports that it has been a remarkably smooth transition. "Group has done a great job training - and they also did a fab fiber optic install so that everything is all plug and play."

