

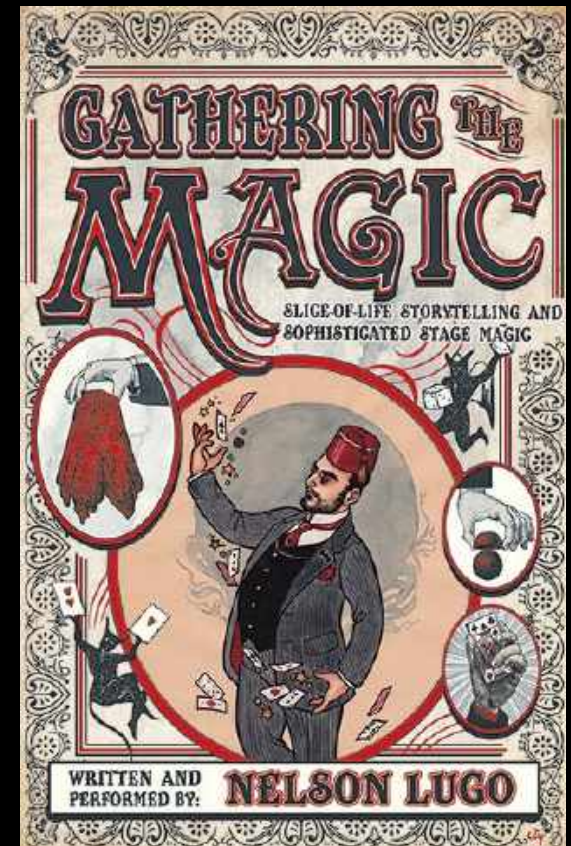


SOUND DESIGN AND LIVE MIXING FOR NELSON LUGO'S "GATHERING THE MAGIC"

Coralie Monamy – Department of Entertainment Technology

SUMMARY

- Nelson Lugo's show "Gathering the Magic"
- Around 1h30 of magic and storytelling
- My role as sound designer:
 - Designing original music for each trick
 - Supervising pre and post show music
 - Live mixing





THE PROCESS

- Review script, determine what kind of emotions each trick conveys and how to translate that to music
- Decide what instruments to use and what songs to use as reference tracks
- Meet with Nelson Lugo to confirm his vision for the music

THE PROCESS



- Production phase: making the songs, recording instruments, manipulating samples, mixing, mastering, etc.
- Done using Ableton Live 10 and Pro Tools Ultimate
- Finalizing the music by finding music for the pre and post show music

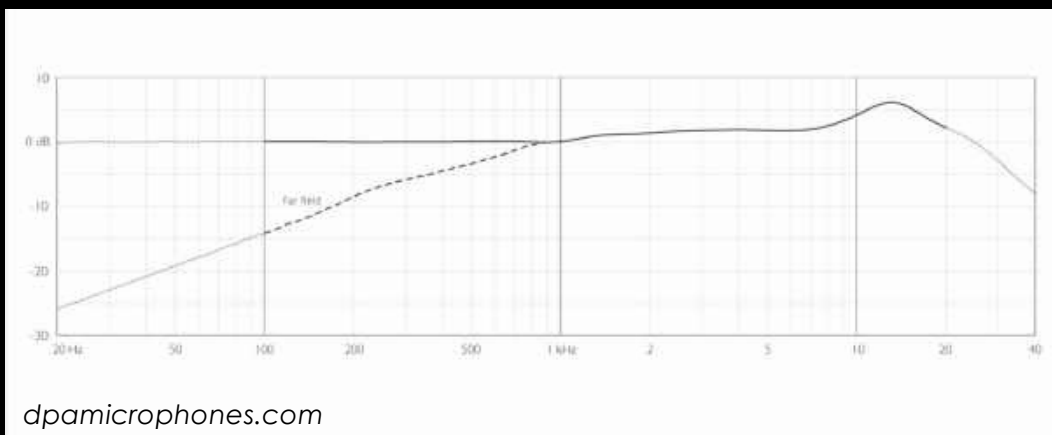


THE PROCESS

- Production meetings
- Rehearsals: getting levels and timing right with the rest of the team and other departments
- Show day: live mixing during the two live performances!

CHALLENGES / SOLUTIONS

- CHALLENGE: Pops in Nelson's microphone the day of the performance that weren't heard in rehearsals
- SOLUTION: mic placement, reduce gain on mic pack and board, EQ





CHALLENGES / SOLUTIONS

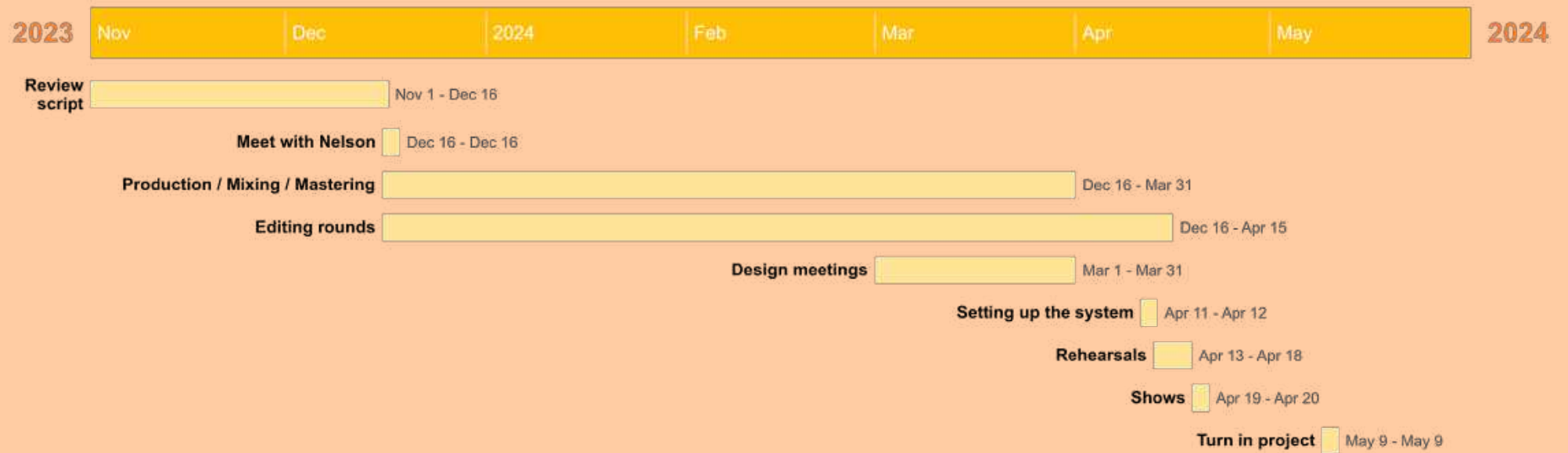
- CHALLENGE: God microphone could be heard over the speakers during the invited dress rehearsal
- SOLUTION:
 - No permanent solution found even after troubleshooting,
 - Muted the mic and had the stage manager ask to unmute it if needed

CHALLENGES / SOLUTIONS

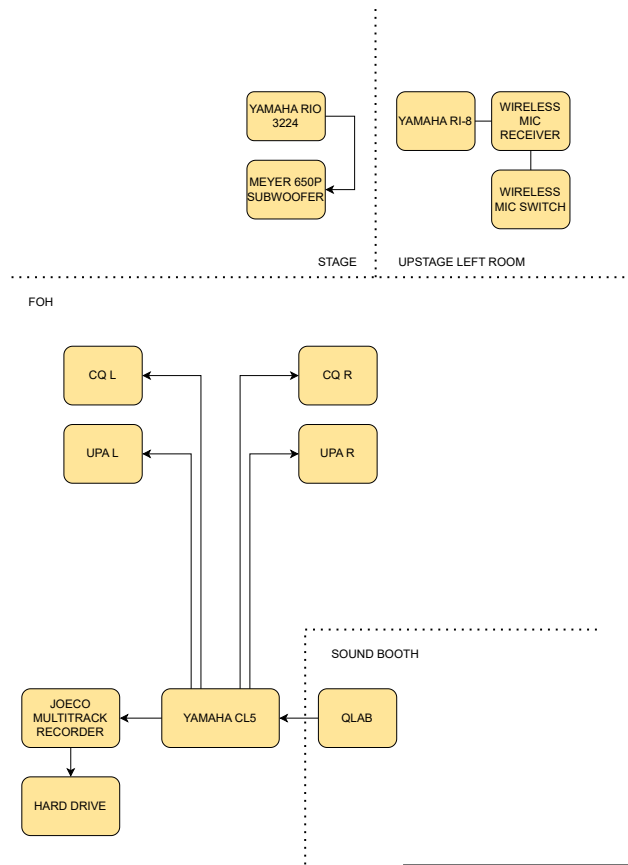
- CHALLENGE: Nelson could not be heard over the music during certain parts of the show but insisted that the music had to be loud
- SOLUTION: Used multiband compression and EQ to lower the frequencies in the music that were interfering with Nelson's voice, allowing his voice to cut through the music and allowing me to keep the volume up



SCHEDULE



SYSTEM DIAGRAM / CUE SHEET



"Gathering the Magic"
Sound system diagram
Coralie Monamy
03/26/24

Gathering the Magic by Nelson Lugo

Sound designer: Coralie Monamy

Assistant sound designer: Jan Roy Arellano

Cue	Page	Line / Action	SFX	Notes
1			[Pre show playlist]	
2		Music quieter, nelson comes in		Nelson mic on
2.5		Nelson leaves, music louder		Nelson mic off
3			fade [Pre show playlist]	
4			Announcement	Plays through
4.5		Nelson walks on stage		Nelson mic on
5	2	"Let's begin"	[Parlez moi d'amour]	Plays through
20	9	"Who here LOVES comic books?"	[Comic book]	
25	14	Nelson walks forward	[Batman song]	Louder when he starts putting objects away
30	15	Nelson grabs mental epic board	fade [Batman song]	
40	19	"HOW DID YOU DO THAT?"	[Seven deck repeat]	
45	21	"... or the way it's happening now"	[Torched and restored]	Crossfade w/ previous song then loop
50	21	Nelson grabs mental epic board again	Fade [Torched and restored]	
55	24	So you know, there's that!	[Silk to egg]	
60	28	"... silk to egg! Thank you!"	Fade [Silk to egg]	
65	30	"...the door opens"	[Soundscape]	
70	31	"... never even made a sound, and then"	Stop [Soundscape]	Abrupt stop, no fade
80	32	"Let's do something different"	[Multiplying bottles]	
85	34	Volunteers return to their seats?	Fade [Multiplying bottles]	-40dB ish as well
100	36		[Bow music]	-20dB ish
105			Fade and stop [Bow music]	Nelson mic off

THINGS I LEARNED

- Time management skills
- Deck audio skills
 - Prepping microphones
 - Mic placement on artist
- Live mixing skills
 - Riding fader while following the script
 - Levels sound different throughout the space
 - Proper gain staging
- Cue sheet
- Rehearsals procedures
 - Paper tech
 - Q2Q
 - Quiet time
 - Dress rehearsals



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Penthouse Recording Studios and owner Jesse Rothman for allowing me to use the equipment and record for free
- Audio engineers Rishi Krishnan and Sidney Robbins for recording me and helping me with live instruments
- Audio engineer Michael Aguilar for recording the pre show announcement
- Nelson Lugo for trusting me and allowing me to create custom pieces of music for his show



WORKS CITED

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