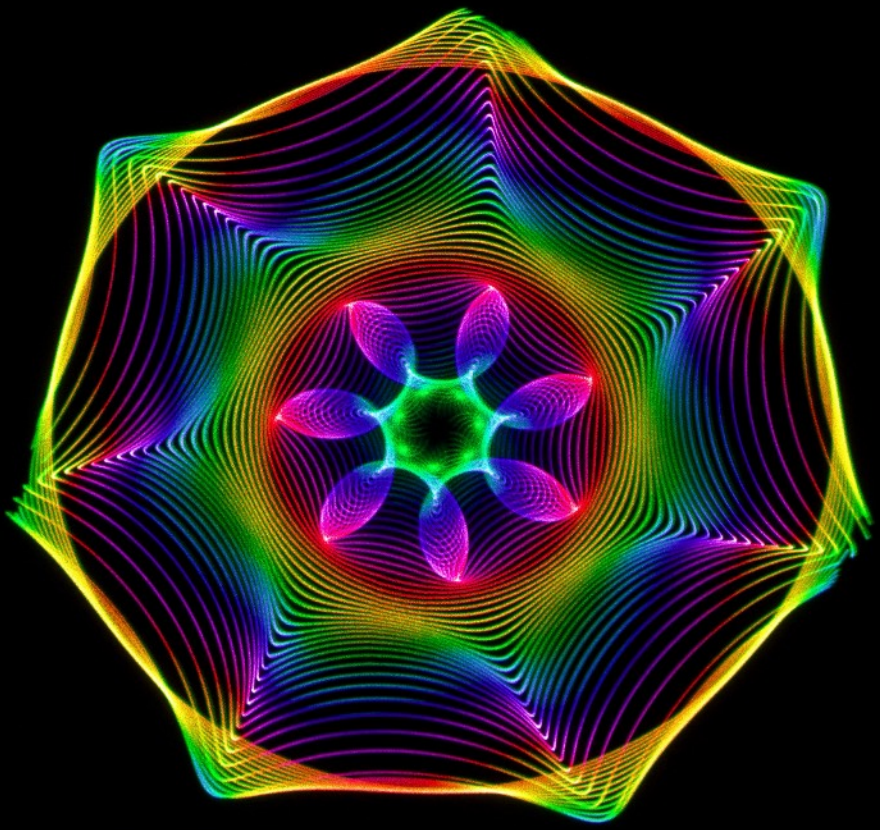
THE WORLD'S BEST LASER SHOWS, AS JUDGED BY THEIR PEERS

2026 ILDA AWARDS



Presented at the 2026 ILDA Conference in Salzburg, Austria



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Cover photo
"Aurora Petal Engine" by Christopher Short
First Place, Laser Photography, 2026

Headers custom typeface
"ILDA Fiber Optic" by Richard Gonsalves

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ILDA Awards Committee Chair
Richard Gonsalves

ILDA Awards Presentation
Dirk Apitz, Matthias Frank, Derek Garbos, Horacio Pugliese, Nicolas Squire. Master of Ceremonies: Alex Hennig

ILDA Technical Committee Chair and Technical Seminar Coordinator
Dirk Apitz

ILDA Conference Chair
Christine Jenkin

2026 Conference Host
VisuTek e.U., Helmut Gruber and Markus Voggenberger

Welcome Reception and Laser Projector Sponsor
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Skyzan safety software sponsorship, 2026
Roberta McHatton, Laser Safety Services LLP

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Laser Safety Information

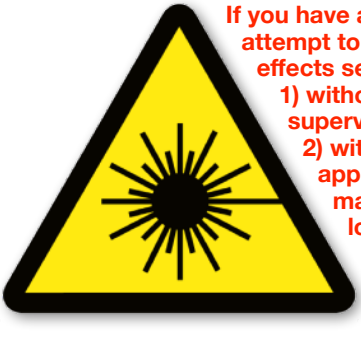
ILDA requires its Members to perform safe and legal laser shows. **All Members submitting ILDA Award entry videos have explicitly certified that the laser effects depicted meet safety standards, as well as all applicable laser safety laws and regulations** (including laws for audience scanning) in the location where the show was performed.

- Entries filmed in a studio, with no audience, can use any power and can scan anywhere, even if the original show was intended for an audience.
- However, if the video depicts an audience watching the laser show, or has lasers near performers, then the show must be safe for the audience and performers, and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

ILDA Awards safety review

In addition to entrant statements, ILDA reviews every entry for any potential safety issues. **ILDA has the right to remove or disqualify an entry if, in our opinion, the show violates or appears to violate safety standards, laws and/or regulations.**

Note that despite ILDA's review process, ILDA cannot absolutely certify that an Awards entry is safe and legal. This is ultimately the responsibility of the entrant.



If you have a laser or a laser projector, do NOT attempt to perform the type of audience-scanning effects seen in ILDA Award-winning videos:
1) without qualified expert safety planning and supervision and
2) without prior written permission from the appropriate authorities. These authorities may include federal, state/provincial and local laser safety regulators, venue operators, and insurance companies.

Entrants, Judging and Voting

Artistic Awards

Judging was done in May and June 2026 via online viewing and voting. Judges were Brad Billet, Mike Cassidy, Mike Dunn, Chris Favreau, Derek Garbos, Christine Jenkin, Nathan Jin, David Kumpula, Ben Lawrence, Seb Lee-Delisle, Shane Martz, Roberta McHatton, Steve McHatton, Horacio Pugliese, Malachi Sapia, Nick Squire, Markus Steblei, Cory Tylka, Markus Voggenberger, Jeff Vyduna, Steve Wade, Tim Walsh, and Ryan Wichterich. Judging coordinator was Awards Committee chair Richard Gonsalves.

Together they judged 111 video entries from 31 ILDA Members. There were 51 winning video entries (not counting Laser Photography winners) from 25 different ILDA Members.

For each of the artistic award entry categories, there were three judges. However, these were not always the same three people. A person is not allowed to judge any category in which they had an entry, which is one reason why multiple persons serve as judges. (Other reasons are to reduce the workload on any one person, and to help ensure a variety of judging viewpoints.)

Laser Photography and Career Achievement Award

Fourteen Laser Photography entries, and six CAA nominees, were judged by ILDA Members voting online, 3-13 June 2026.

Laser Jockey

Judged by attendees watching the Laser Jockey performances live during the ILDA Conference Lase-Off dinner & event on 3 November 2026. *(Laser Jockey winners' names are not listed in the printed Award Booklet since they are not known at the time of printing. They are listed in the online PDF version of the booklet.)*

Fenning Technical Awards: General and IDN

Technical general entries were judged via online viewing and voting by judges Matthias Frank, Tim Hallmark, and Horacio Pugliese. For IDN entries, judges were Hallmark, Pugliese, and Tim Walsh. They evaluated seven general and four IDN entries from six ILDA Members and one non-member. (Non-members can submit for the IDN award.) The Technical winners were voted on 18 June 2026.


2026
ILDA
AWARDS
Third, Second and
First Place Winners

Third Place - Laser Mapping

3

Wonderland Atlantis Laser Mapping

Visual Sensation Laser shows & technologies

Credits: *Laser Designers: Jakub Marcinek, Anna Nadolna*
Music: *Cinematic_Alex, "Epic Dark Dubstep"*

A large-scale linear laser mapping on an architectural facade, created using beam brush techniques. Precise line work enhances structural details while dynamic compositions introduce motion and depth. The show was presented as part of a large urban light festival.



Second Place - Laser Mapping

2

Heritage in Light

Visual Sensation Laser shows & technologies

Credits: *Laser Designers: Jakub Marcinek, Anna Nadolna*
Music: *Orchestral Dubstep, "CoffeeMusic"*

A large-scale linear laser mapping on a historic facade, created using advanced beam brush techniques. Precise line work enhances architectural details while fluid transitions introduce motion and depth, transforming the structure into a dynamic visual experience.



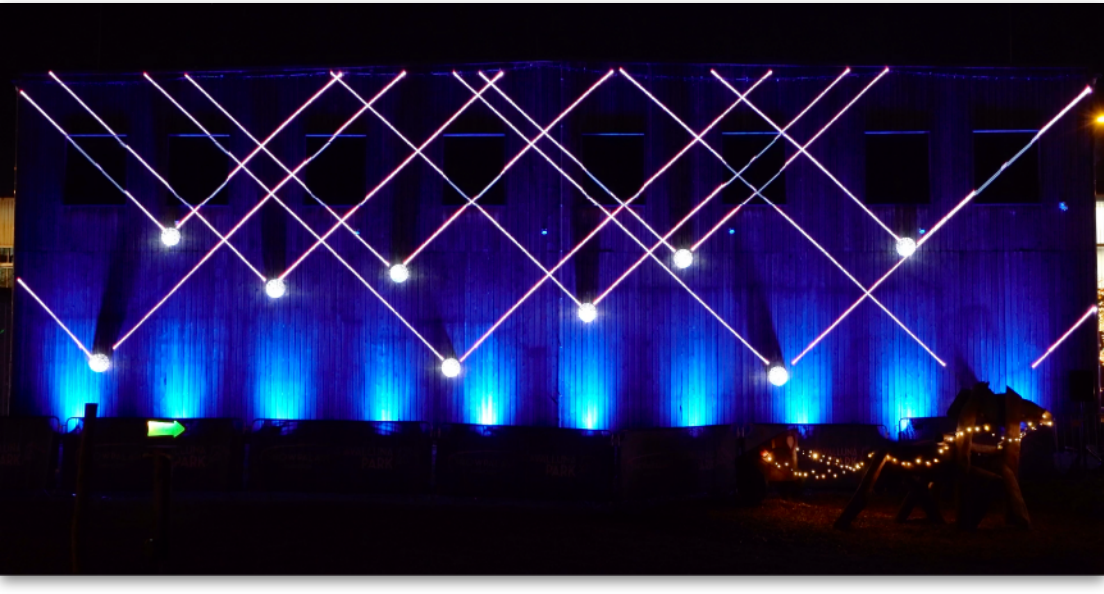
First Place - Laser Mapping

Luminous Traces

LIVE Lasersystems

Credit: *Martin Nowosad*
Music: *Lindsey Stirling, "Elements"; Rex Banner, "Ride of the Valkyries"*

"Luminous Traces" is a multimedia/laser mapping show produced with very limited technical resources. Only one single laser projector, a few LED PARs, and some LED hemispheres where available for the show design. Nevertheless, every effort was made to get the most out of the available equipment. The particle effects were entirely animated in 3D software to achieve the most natural effect possible, based on real physics. The lighting was programmed to be perfectly synchronized with the mapping show.



Third Place - Corporate Show

3

Audi

laserwitchery

Credits: *Lasershow Designer & Programmer: Leon.Ren; Lasershow Programmer: ZX*
Music: *SuperBonFire,"Original Soundtrack"*

We delivered customized laser design and professional technical support for this large-scale live commercial show. With brilliant laser beams illuminating the screens, lasers are transformed into vivid light sprites, crafting diverse stunning visual effects across the stage and display screens.



Second Place - Corporate Show

2

Taikoo Palace

laserwitchery

Credits: *Lasershow Designer & Programmer: Leon.Ren; Lasershow Director: Alex Pally; Lasershow Scripter: Gwen; Lasershow Project Manager: Sylvia*
Music: *WB,"Orignal soundtrack for BeiJing Taikoo Palace"*

We deployed 48 laser projectors to achieve full visual coverage across three skyscrapers. The custom laser design echoes and blends harmoniously with the visual elements on the on-site LED screens. It artistically interprets oriental water culture, traditional heritage and cultural inheritance. Integrated with Swire Properties' long-term vision, the performance endows Beijing Taikoo Palace with brand-new vitality and promising prospects for the future.



First Place - Corporate Show

New Years Eve Eskilstuna 2026

Merlin Schaadt, Laserimage AB

Credits: *Laserdesign, Lightprogramming & Laseroperating: Merlin Schaadt on behalf of Laserimage AB; 3D Design: Merlin Schaadt, Tilmann Finner, Bas Verstraelen; Gear, System & Technical Installation: Laserimage AB (Anders Edström, Kristoffer Abrante, Adrian Gabrielsson)*
Music: *Otto Nilsson, "Zero Hour"; Joakim Berg/ Kent, various songs*

For this year's New Years Show in Esklistuna, Sweden, all was about the band Kent as it is their hometown. After the show opening with some introduction to the city, the guests were tranformed into a Kent concert-like 20 minute show with all their hits. The show itself is a mixture of beam, graphics and mapping elements, always playing with each other and not just staying as a single effect, and some additional light elements.



Third Place - Live TV Show

3

Belgium National Day 2025

Laser System Europe

Credits: *Creative Designer: Nathan Awouters; Laser Programmer: Lara Giovanni; Light Programmers: Theo Frick, Tanguy Kopzewski, Florian De Clercq*
Music: *Lost Frequencies, "Black Thunderclouds, Love Is The Only Thing, ELTS LON, Here With You, Are You With Me, The Feeling, Freestyler, Where Are You Now, Jours Meilleur, Sweet Disposition"; Netsky "Nopus, Give & Take Short v2, Rio Outro, Come Alive, Satisfaction, Higher - Would You TML, Black Friday"*

Live show: Light, laser, fireworks, flame, smoke, and drones. This show was broadcast live on all Belgian national TV channels and worldwide via TV5Monde. It took place in the presence of the King and Queen, the Royal Family, and an audience of 100,000 people.



Second Place - Live TV Show

AleXa - Tongue Tied

Laserimage AB

Credits: *Programming & Operator: Anders Edström; Programming & Operator: Pieterjan Ruysch; Laser Tech & Laser Safety Officer: Johan Lindell; Laser Tech: Henrik Hoffman*
Music: *AleXa, "Tongue Tied"*

This show was performed at a national music competition and live TV broadcast. The goal was to enhance the artist's performance with a dynamic laser display that matched the energy and aesthetic of her act. The challenge was seamlessly integrating the lasers within the strict technical requirements of a live television production. The creative approach focused on using laser effects to frame the artist and amplify key moments, adding depth and visual excitement for both the arena audience and TV viewers



First Place - Live TV Show

Felicia - My System

Laserimage AB

Credits: *Programming & Operator: Anders Edström; Laser Tech & Laser Safety Officer: Johan Lindell; Laser Tech: Henrik Hoffman*
Music: *Felicia, "My System"*

This entry was performed at a national music competition broadcast on live television. The aim was to create a laser design that elevated the performance and connected with the electronic, high-energy nature of the track. Working within the constraints of a live broadcast environment, the focus was on crafting striking visual effects that highlighted the artist while complementing the overall stage production and maintaining a captivating experience for both the arena and TV audiences.



Third Place - Edited Film/TV/Video

3

Fox Footy PWD 2025

Genius Laser Technology

Credits: *Director: Arthur Ipsaros; Technical Director; Jarod Lugowski*
Music: *N/A*

TV commercial created for the start of the 2025 Australian Football League season.



Second Place - Edited Film/TV/Video

2

Mountains of the Moon

Ob Chao

Credits: *Laser Designer and LSO: Jeff Vyduna; Laser Technician: Bradford Kellogg*
Music: *Grateful Dead, "Morning Dew (Live at Barton Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 05/08/77)", "New, New Minglewood Blues (Live at Gizah Sound and Light Theater, Cairo, Egypt, September 16, 1978)". Additional behind-the-scenes music cleared through MusicBed.com.*

This film is a 45 minute psychedelic journey that draws parallels between the Grateful Dead and the flow states of extreme athletes at night. It's shown to audiences with an additional 45 minute behind-the-scenes/ making-of documentary. The film originally had no intention to use lasers. I was brought on to help with custom LEDs, but I brought a laser to a scouting trip and we all fell in love with the look of lasers in snow and climbing chalk. The challenge would be getting them to these remote locations. The cues used had to be kept simple to scan at >240 FPS for slow motion capture.



First Place - Edited Film/TV/Video

Kream

Diode AS & Laserimage AB

Credits: *Laser Design: Jan Martin Svensson Vågen; Laser Design: Kristoffer Abrante; Lighting Designer: Kenneth Tangen*
Music: *Kream, "Liquid : Lab Vol. 12 at Vemork"*

The Norwegian DJ and producer duo Kream have over the last years released a number of livestreams with millions of views. Their visual signature has always been minimalistic and clean, yet majestic, with locations all over the world. This time the old power plant Vemork, which played a key role in the Second World War, was chosen as a venue. In this huge industrial building with water turbines over 100 years old, fourteen RGB arrays gave us a laser installation that aligned very well with the venue, projecting loads of parallel beams across the hall, aligning with the artistic visions.



Third Place - Laser Show with
Added Effects/Multimedia

3

MTC

Orion-Art Multimedia

Credits: *Laser Graphics & Video Design: Kirill Nikitochkin,; Technical Director & Project Manager: Taras Viter; Laser Operator: Mikhail Smirnov*
Music: *Nathan Lanier, "Time"*

The history of advertising is the history of humanity. From ancient Egypt, with hieroglyphs carved into stone reliefs, through ancient Greece where amphorae depicted events and achievements, to the Victorian era and the Industrial Revolution that transformed mass communication. Then came the first computers, launching the digital age—and a step into the near future, where artificial intelligence is reshaping the rules. We realized this show for the conference of the new MTC ADS (Advertising) division of a large mobile communication company.



Laser Show with Added Effects/Multimedia

Second Place - Laser Show with Added Effects/Multimedia

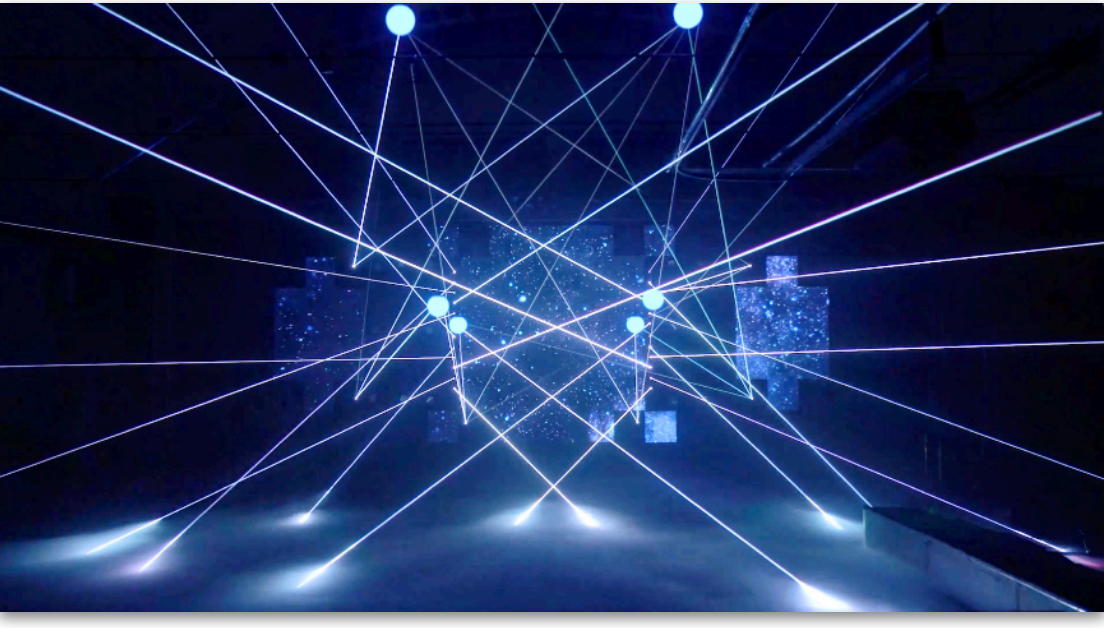
2

Dystopia

Laser entertainment s.r.l.

Credits: *Producer: Alberto Kellner; Laser Programmer: Lorenzo Pompei; Videomakers: Mattia Diomedi and Lorenzo Pompei*
Music: *Klergy & Beginners, "Will You Fight"; Enrico Condelli, "Pink Soldiers Orchestral Version"*

'Dystopia' is an immersive sensory experience in which the human element gives way to the absolute dominance of visuals generated by artificial intelligence and synthetic laser-designed structures. It is a work that does not explain, but evokes sensations in the viewer, who moves from a sense of cold solitude through a feeling of constraint to a desire to escape from a dystopian present. In this scenario, technology becomes the only language capable of shaping a future in which the boundary between the real and the artificial is becoming ever more blurred



Laser Show with Added Effects/Multimedia

First Place - Laser Show with Added Effects/Multimedia

Under the Midnight Rainbow

Laser System Europe

Credits: *Laser Programmer: Tara Winona; Multimedia Design & Coordination: James Thomson; Original Idea: Naoki Tanaka; Design & Production: ECA2*
Music: *Yoko Kanno, "Under the Midnight Rainbow"*

This was the official night show of the Universal Expo at Osaka 2025. Multimedia show where laser took an important status for graphics and effects. The show ran every night over a period of six months. For this, we created a special effect using RGBY lasers with a movable lens to produce a rainbow effect over the arch. The rainbow effect was done using a movable lens fitted on the central laser. The perfect sync between video and laser was so precise that the audience could not distinguish whether it was the laser or the video playing.



Third Place - Planetarium Show

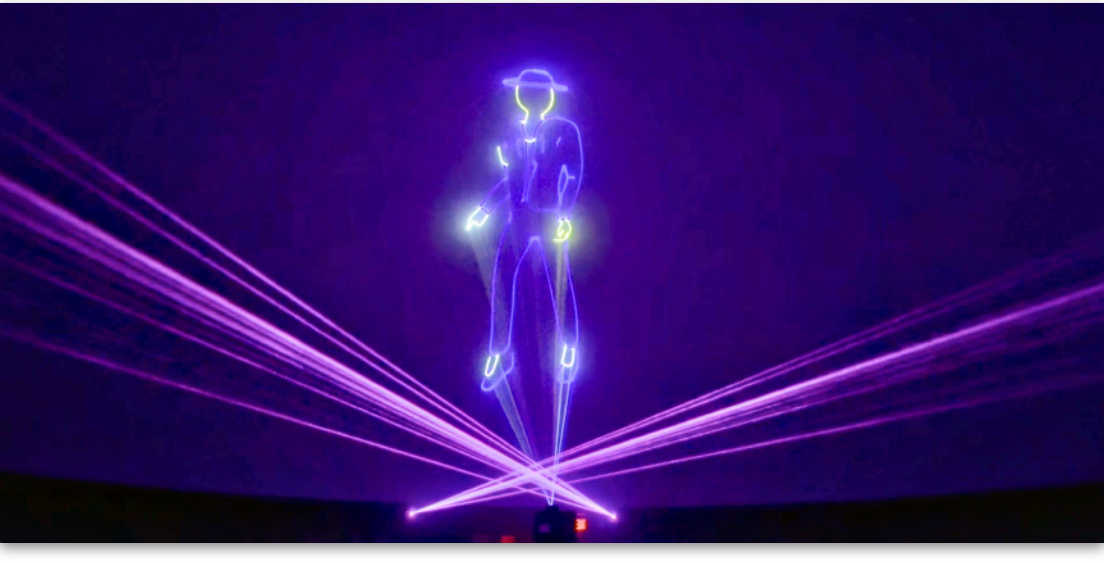
3

Billie Jean

Audio Visual Imagineering

Credits: *Imagery: Brian Adams, Ron Proctor, Derek Mackey; Beams: Brian Adams*
Music: *Michael Jackson, "Billie Jean"*

The main set-piece for "Billie Jean" is a 3-D animated Michael Jackson model, which was created using techniques new to us. The dance sequences were directly inspired by Jackson's live performances, with special emphasis on his iconic "moonwalk". Stitching those sequences together are portraits of Michael and a mysterious woman, mirroring the emotional struggle depicted in the official music video.



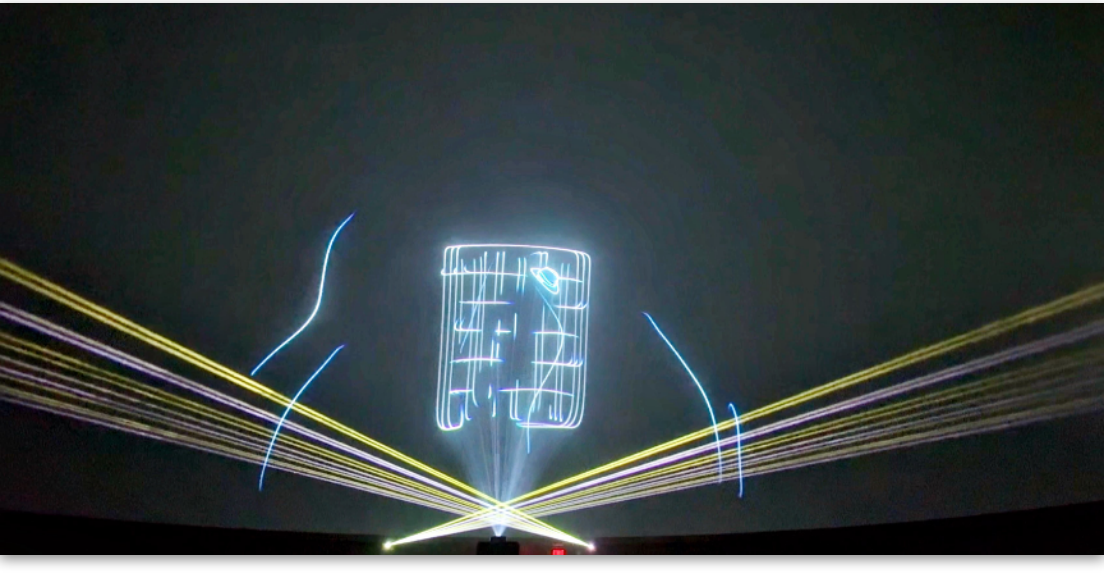
Second Place - Planetarium Show

Smooth Criminal

Audio Visual Imagineering

Credits: *Imagery: Bjorn Hjohlman; Beams: Brian Adams*
Music: *Michael Jackson, "Smooth Criminal"*

This show was heavily inspired by the “Smooth Criminal” music video’s crime noir esthetic and atmosphere including searchlights, shoot outs, smoke, police lights, silhouettes, and mafia fedoras. The pacing follows the song’s tension, going from mysterious searches to shoot outs synced to the music. A central design choice was using negative space and silhouettes both to fit the mysterious tone of the track and video as well as create a unique look and style that I previously have never tried. I also feel like the negative space in some ways revealed even more detail than simple line art.



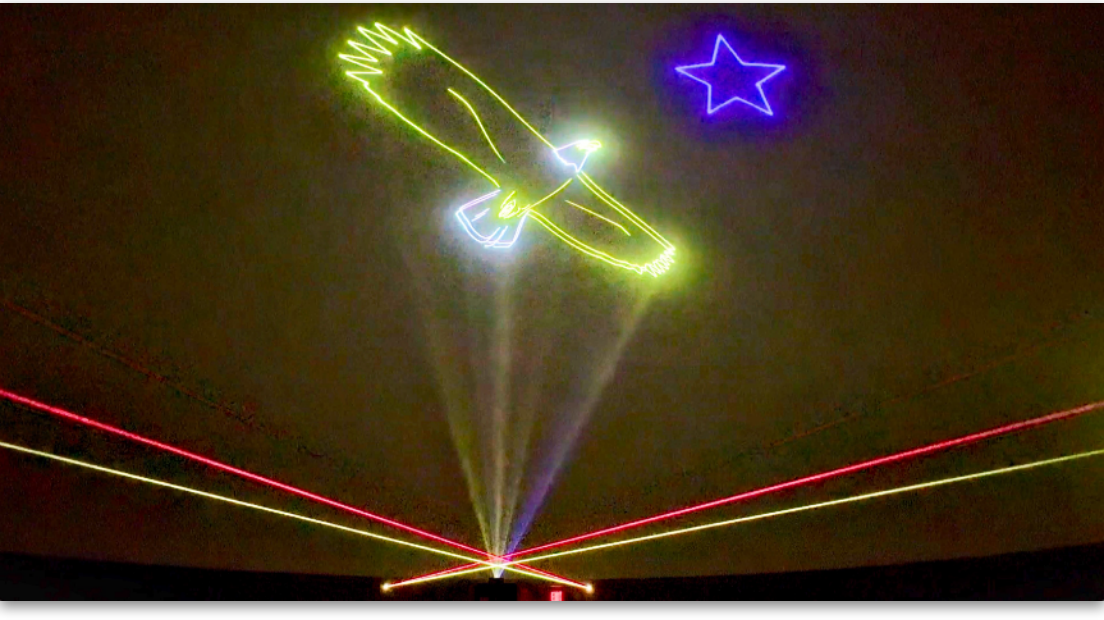
First Place - Planetarium Show

Living In America

Audio Visual Imagineering

Credit: *Imagery and Beams: Brian Adams*
Music: *James Brown, "Living In America"*

"Living In America" is first and foremost a celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary. Secondly, it's an homage to the popular Rocky films—specifically, Rocky IV—in which Apollo Creed battles a formidable Russian championship boxer. Images throughout reflect the power, fortitude, and perseverance of the American spirit. We wanted to leave the audience with a sense of pride, energized and, as James Brown says in the song, “feeling good.”



Third Place - Nightclub/Disco/Music Festival Show

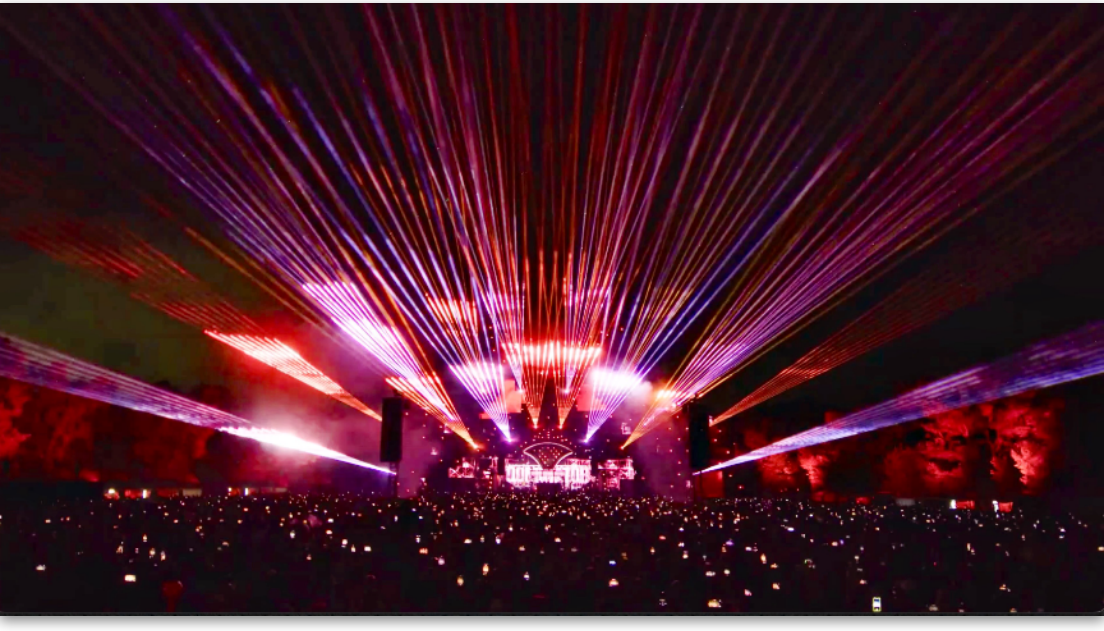
3

Dominator

Merlin Schaadt

Credits: *Laser Programming: Merlin Schaadt on behalf of Laserfabrik GmbH; Show-Creative & Calling: TWOFIFTYK™; Gear, System & Technical Installation: Laserfabrik GmbH*
Music: *The Supreme Team, "Carnival Of Doom"; Evil Activities & The Viper, "Raw To The Floor"; Tha Playah, "Why So Serious"; Angerfist, "Incoming"; DJ Neophyte & Evil Activities, "Alles Naar De Klote (Remix - Euromasters)"; Angerfist, "No Time To Lose Mcs & Djs (Remix)"; Angerfist & Outblast & Tha Watcher, "Cast Of Catastrophe (Edit)"; Angerfist & Tha Playah, "Temple Of Disease (Remix)"; The Supreme Team, "Lead By Example"*

In a desolate world where the sun scorches the earth, a city of metal and rust rose from the dust. With a total of 22 lasers we supported the final show of a weekend full of energy and hardstyle.



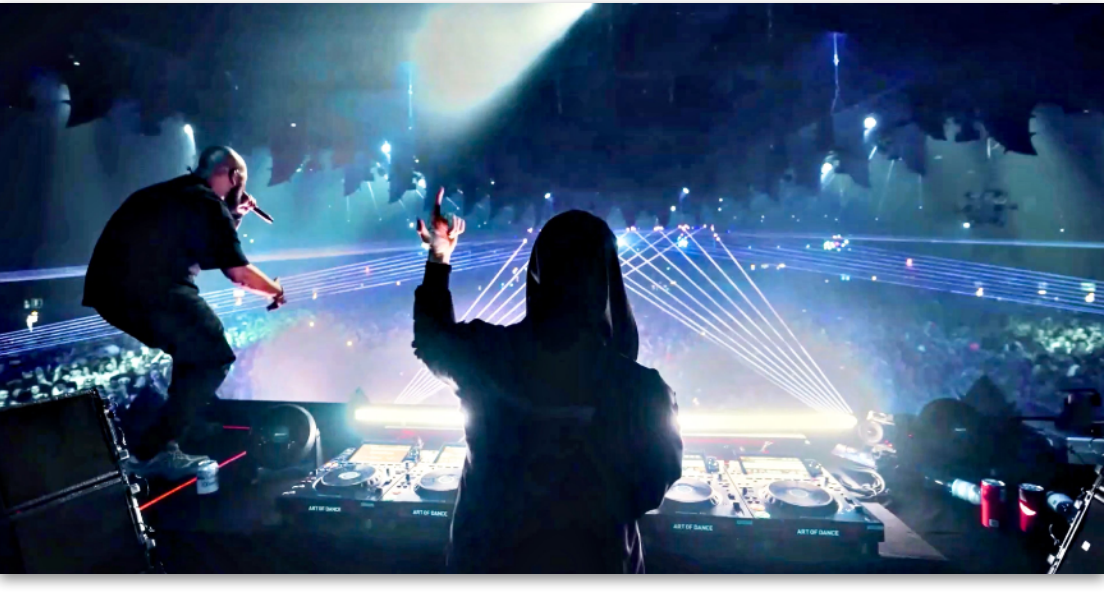
Second Place - Nightclub/Disco/Music Festival Show

MOH

Merlin Schaadt

Credits: *Laser Programming: Merlin Schaadt on behalf of Laserfabrik GmbH; Show-Creative & Calling: TWOFIFTYK™; Gear, System & Technical Installation: Laserfabrik GmbH*
Music: *Bass-D, "Trip To Paradise (In Memory of Bass-D)"; Master of Hardcore & D-Fence, "Anthem"*

With this tribute, we honored our fallen father. He was a true icon, a pioneer, and his name will never be forgotten. Today, on his birthday, we remember him even more. Show your final respect for the great DJ Bass-D. Besides the tribute show we provided a laser performance for the anthem show as well.



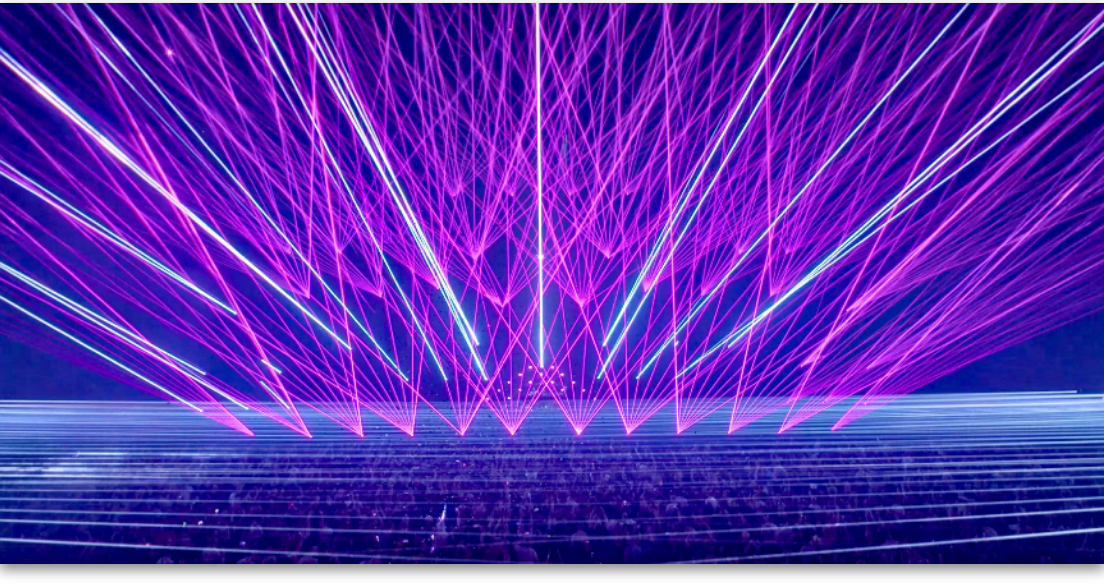
First Place - Nightclub/Disco/Music Festival Show

Tranceformation 2026

Visual Sensation Laser shows & technologies

Credits: *Laser Designers: Jarosław Nadolny, Maciej Łukaszewski, Jakub Marcinek, Michał Gaborski*
Music: *Various artists*

A large-scale laser show created for one of the biggest trance music festivals, featuring a setup of 102 laser projectors. The performance delivers an intense, immersive visual experience, synchronized with music to build energy, rhythm and a powerful atmosphere across the entire venue.



Third Place - Live Stage Show

3

Rebelution Concert Tour

Dynamic FX

Credits: *Shane Martz, Thaddeus Tompkins*
Music: *Rebelution "So High", "Safe and Sound"*

A stop on our outdoors-only tour in California with Rebelution.



Second Place - Live Stage Show

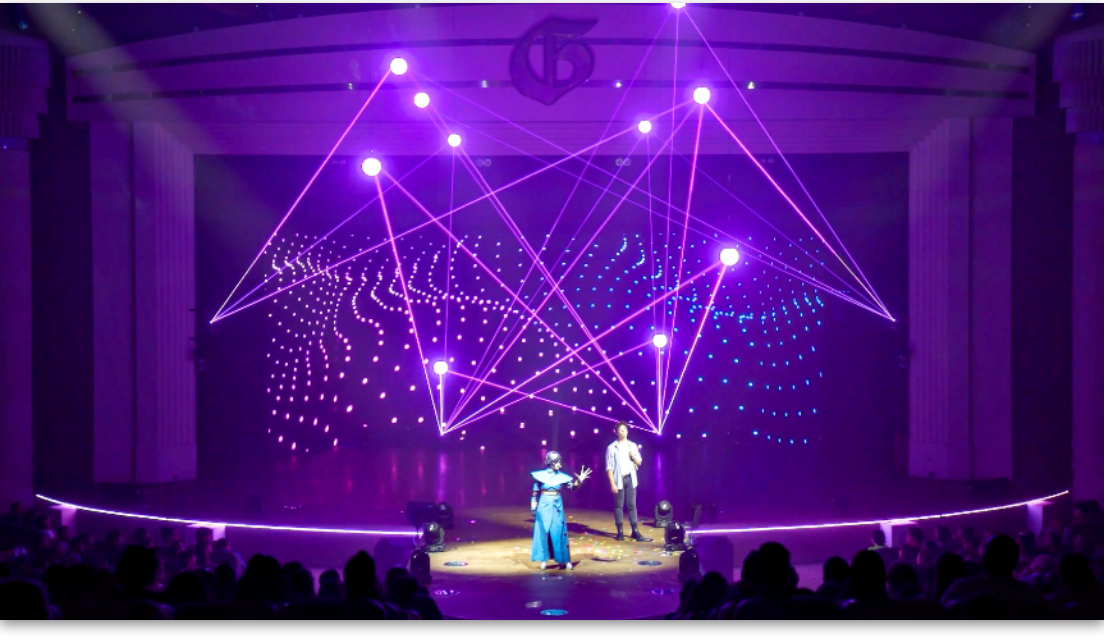
2

A.I. The Future is Here

Laser entertainment s.r.l.

Credits: *Art Director: Paolo Carta; Lighting: Jerry Romani; Laser Programmer and Kinetic Ball Setup: Pompei Lorenzo and Donato Tranquillino; Videomaker: Mattia Diomedi*
Music: *Various artists*

The show “A.I. The Future is Here” is one of the major technological innovations to have been staged at the Gardaland Theatre during the 2025 season. The show combines acrobatic choreography, live singing and extensive use of special effects, including lasers and state-of-the-art projections. The journey explores the birth of extraordinary universes and the relationship between humans and artificial intelligence. The show was directed by Paolo Carta, a renowned illusionist and art director, who has given the production a dynamic and futuristic feel.



First Place - Live Stage Show

KIZ

Merlin Schaadt

Credits: *Laser Programming: Merlin Schaadt on behalf of Laserfabrik GmbH; Production/ Show: Landstreicher; System, Gear, Tour Handling, Operating: Laserfabrik GmbH*
Music: *K.I.Z, various songs*

This year's K.I.Z (a German Hip-Hop formation) tour was all about lasers. We created a lot of unique effects on a tour using laser mapping, atmospherics, laser sculptures, downshot projections and many other effects; everything in symbiosis with light and visuals.



Third Place - Sporting Show

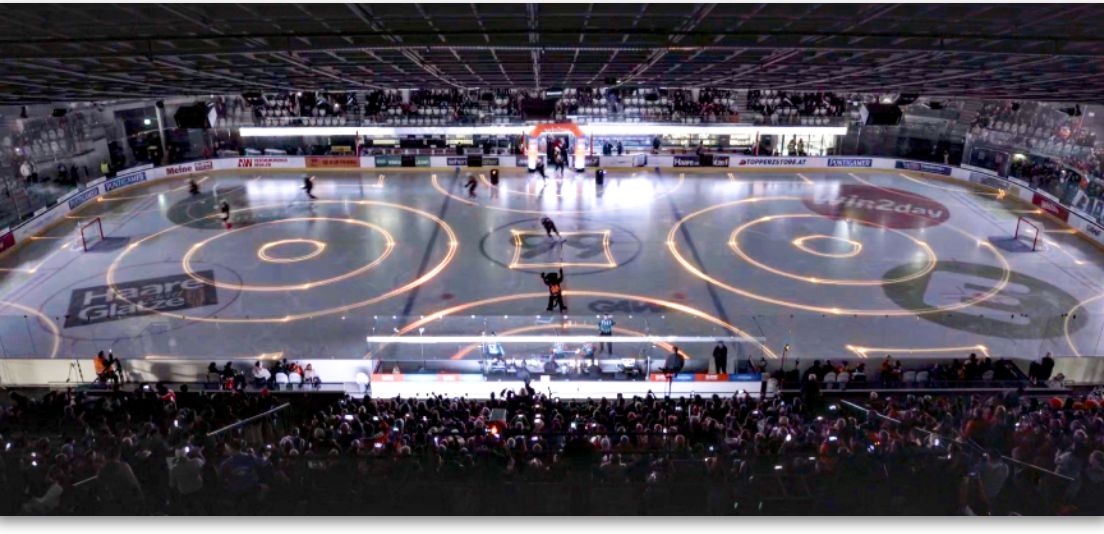
3

Graz 99ers 2026 Playoffs

LIVE Lasersystems

Credits: *Laser Mapping, Logos and Show Arrangement: Martin Nowosad; Custom Animations and 3D Laser Content: Jörg Isermann*
Music: *Darude, "Sandstorm"; Knife Party, "Bonfire"*

The biggest challenge with this show was the arrangement of the laser projectors, which, due to the extremely low roof structure, didn't allow for "normal" projection angles. Eight laser projectors were crossed out and geometrically corrected to achieve seamless projection and mapping. The show was completely custom-animated (no stock footage) and choreographed to the team's entrance music. The show was performed before every home game of the 2026 playoffs. Fun fact: The team went undefeated in the playoffs and won the trophy.



Second Place - Sporting Show

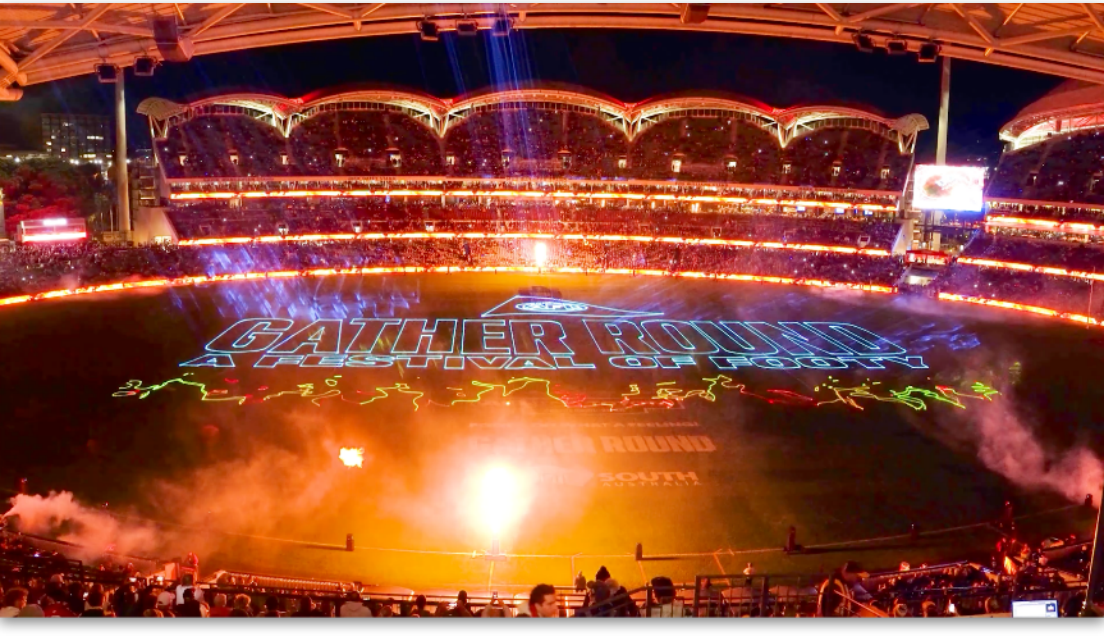
2

AFL Gather Round 2026

Soulstorm Lasers Ltd.

Credits: *Design: Soulstorm Lasers (Ben Lawrence) and Nisha Ramnath (Phase Designs); Laser supplier: Lumina Visual Productions; Flames: Foti Fireworks; Video: KOJO*
Music: *N/A*

This show came after the the success of the 2025 event (which won 2025 First Place ILDA Award, Corporate Show). The client (Australian Football League) wanted to go bigger and better this year and create different laser shows for each of the 4-night sport festival at the Adelaide Oval. We designed a full field laser show with customized animations for the teams playing each night. The show was challenging to recreate the magic of the first year. We increased the detail and complexity, used a new style of kinetic typography, and tried new animation techniques. The show was a big success.



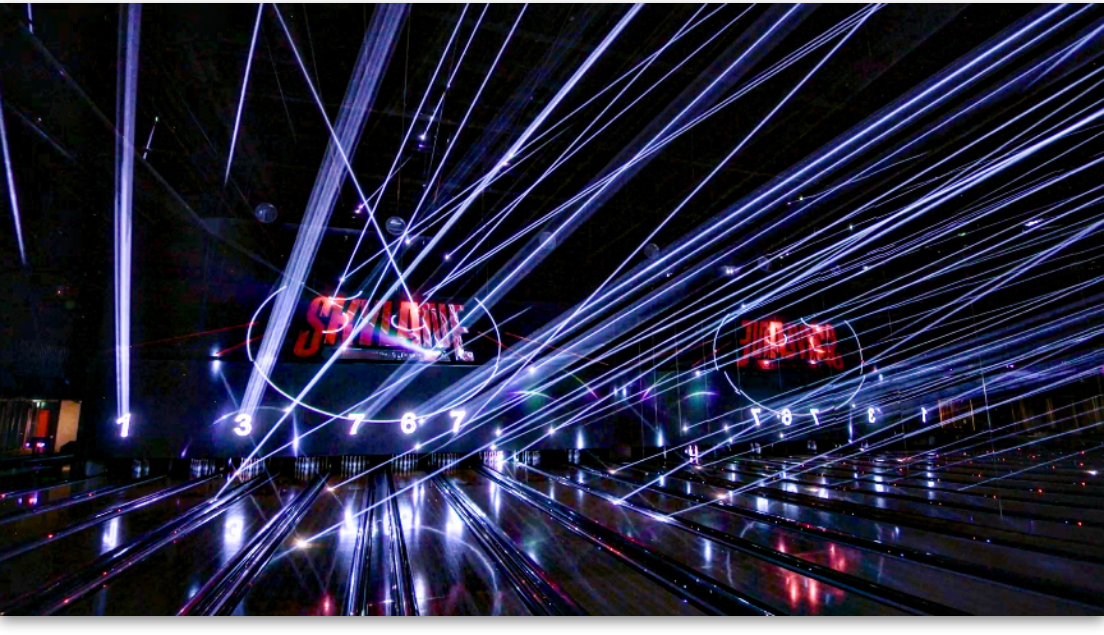
First Place - Sporting Show

Skylane

LightStream Ltd.

Credits: *Laser Programming and Timeline: Kullar Laiapea; Project Manager and 3D Graphic Elements: Caspar Lootsmann*
Music: *Various artists; Trad.Attack!, “Pass-pass"*

The show was created for the opening ceremony of new hyperbowling cantre "Skylane". The intent was to use the bowling lanes and opposite walls for both graphic and atmospheric effects. Luckily we could spend a few days there for preparation as some graphics (lane borders, moving balls on the lanes) took a lot of time. We also created and used some 3D graphic elements for this show like bowling balls and pins. A bit challenging was to make it all safe considering laser positions and very shiny surfaces, but we managed it.



Third Place - Multi-Effect Laser Show

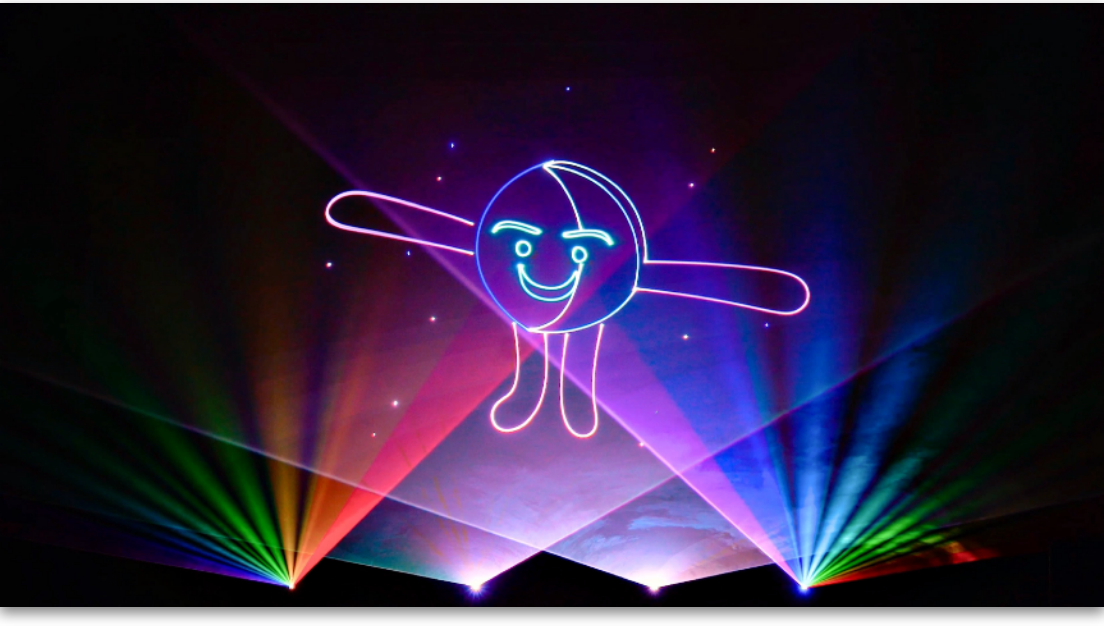
3

Levitating

Nisha Ramnath

Credits: *Laser Programmer: Nisha Ramnath; Show Producer: Pinnacle Lasers; Laser Hardware: MaxTENN*
Music: *Dua Lipa, "Levitating"*

"Levitating" is one of the most popular songs of all time. This show creates a love story between a stylized moon and star. The uplifting song is paired with rainbows and colorful beam hits to match the mood.



Second Place - Multi-Effect Laser Show

Titanium

laserwitchery

Credit: *Lasershow Designer & Programmer: Leon.Ren*
Music: *David Gutta,"Titanium"*

This customized booth performance was created for laser manufacturer LightSpace for the 2026 GETshow exhibition. For many years, traditional laser animations have mostly relied on simple outline graphics with insufficient details. We aim to integrate richer details and more realistic, natural motion into future laser creations. This show serves as a valuable exploration in this innovative direction.



First Place - Multi-Effect Laser Show

Promo Rockshow 2026

VisuTek e.U.

Credits: *Programmer of Lasers and FX: Markus Voggenberger; Setup and Operation of Equipment: Jarosław Nadolny & Team; Camera: Markus Voggenberger; Video Editing: Helmut Gruber*
Music: *Nightwish, "Planet Hell (Instrumental)"*

This experimental show was filmed for our promotion of lasershows especially for rock-themed event companies and artists. Here we used 38 atmospheric laser systems and flames to create a fast and powerful show.



Third Place - Graphics Show

3

Graduation

Orion-Art Multimedia

Credits: *Laser Graphics: Kirill Nikitochkin; Project Manager: Taras Viter; Laser Operators and Technicians: Mikhail Smirnov, Ilja Kolesnikov, Mikhail Noskov*
Music: *BlueWhaleMusic, "Cinematic epic music - Inspiring"*

This shows the graphic part of a multimedia laser show on a water screen for a city holiday, Graduation Day. Children come to school and step-by-step begin the process of learning all the elements of life: history, culture, sciences. For them, the road to adulthood begins on the day they graduate from school.



Second Place - Graphics Show

2

Echoes of a Family

Visual Sensation Laser shows & technologies

Credits: *Laser Designers: Anna Nadolna, Jakub Marcinek*
Music: *AudioCopper, "Movie"*

A story of the Mycielski family and the heirs of Kobylepole, exploring growing up, relationships and everyday moments that turn into lasting memories. As the legend goes, even Napoleon Bonaparte once visited these walls, adding a touch of mystery and history to the narrative. The story unfolds into a warm, at times nostalgic journey, showing how ordinary moments can become something truly meaningful.



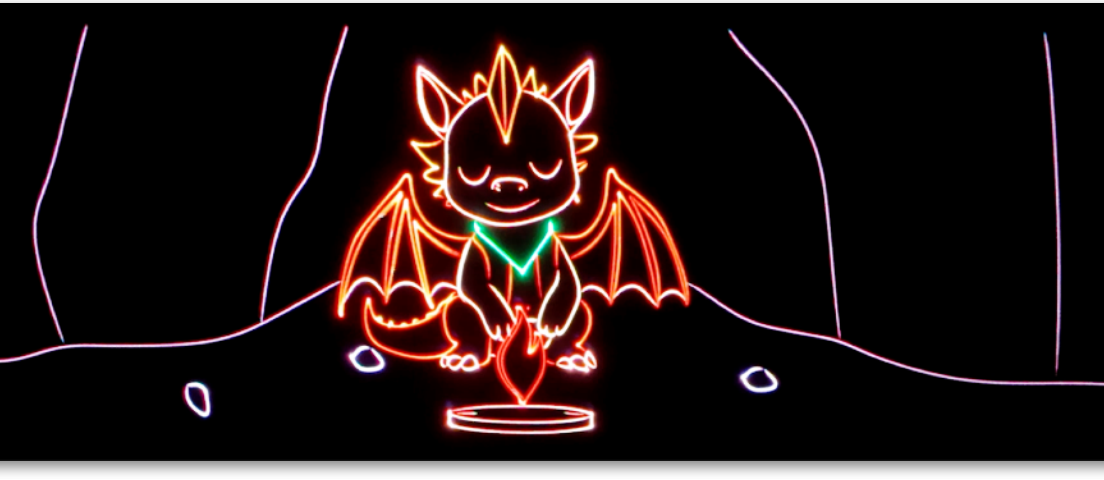
First Place - Graphics Show

Ulina Dragon

Visual Sensation Laser shows & technologies

Credits: *Laser Designers: Anna Nadolna, Bartosz Łukaszewski, Jakub Marcinek*
Music: *Kyle Preston, "Adrift"; Shahead Mostafafar, "Freedom"; Adi Goldstein, "Under the Blanket"; Anthony Vega, "My Memories"*

A whimsical tale about Tosia, Maks and Kaja, who discover Ulinek – a playful dragon hiding in an abandoned mine. What begins as simple curiosity turns into a magical adventure filled with light and surprises, as the children uncover the secrets of their new friend, who takes them into a world of dragon legends.



Third Place - Abstract Show

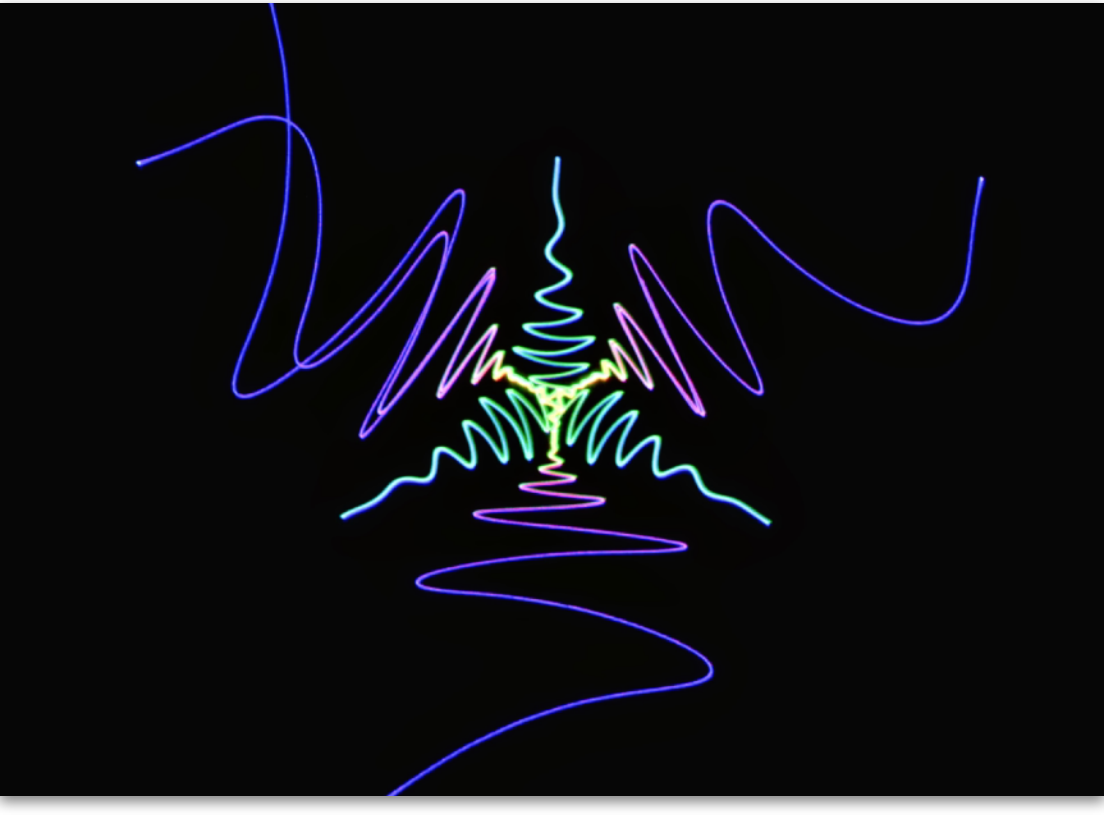
3

Frak the Odds

Christopher Short

Credit: *Christopher Short*
Music: *Neural Derp Music, "Frak the Odds"*

The concept is this: "What if Battlestar Galactica took place in a trailer park ... with drunk rednecks." I stumbled across this delightfully stupid bit of music and it clearly needed a laser show. Lots of geometrics and drunken 3D shapes flying through space warp tunnels. Some symmetrical oscillator driven effects and some traveling mattes. Like the song, there's nothing deep here. Just some fun candy to turn off your brain for a few minutes.



Second Place - Abstract Show

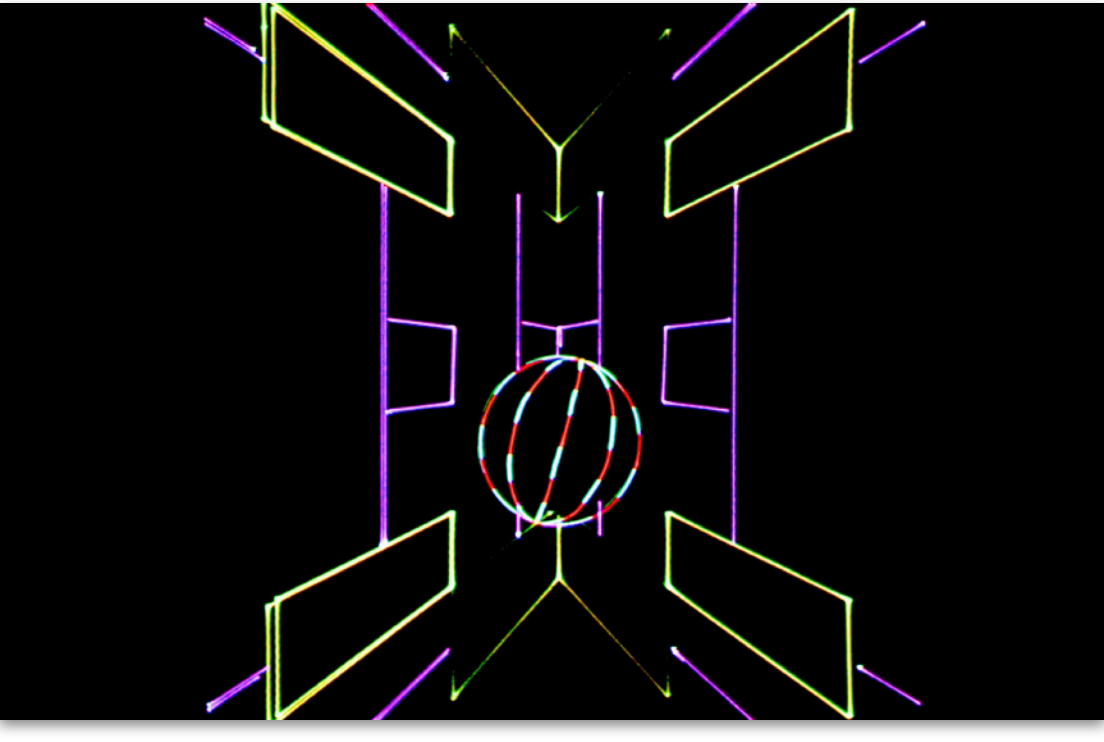
2

Do It

Christopher Short

Credit: *Christopher Short*
Music: *I Don't Know How But They Found Me, "Do It All The Time"*

This was a fun bit of music with lots of little flourishes and 8-bit accents so I incorporated early style CGI/video game elements like animated green squares oscilloscope animations. It was intended to be a super simple and basic show, but it grew in complexity as the music became more fun to work with. It's a song about taking of the world and stealing your girl, so you know it's going to be fun. It switches styles a number of times, but it's still kinetic and mesmerizing. I worked in a quick nod to the Boing ball as a tribute to the Amiga computer that helped establish the laser show industry.



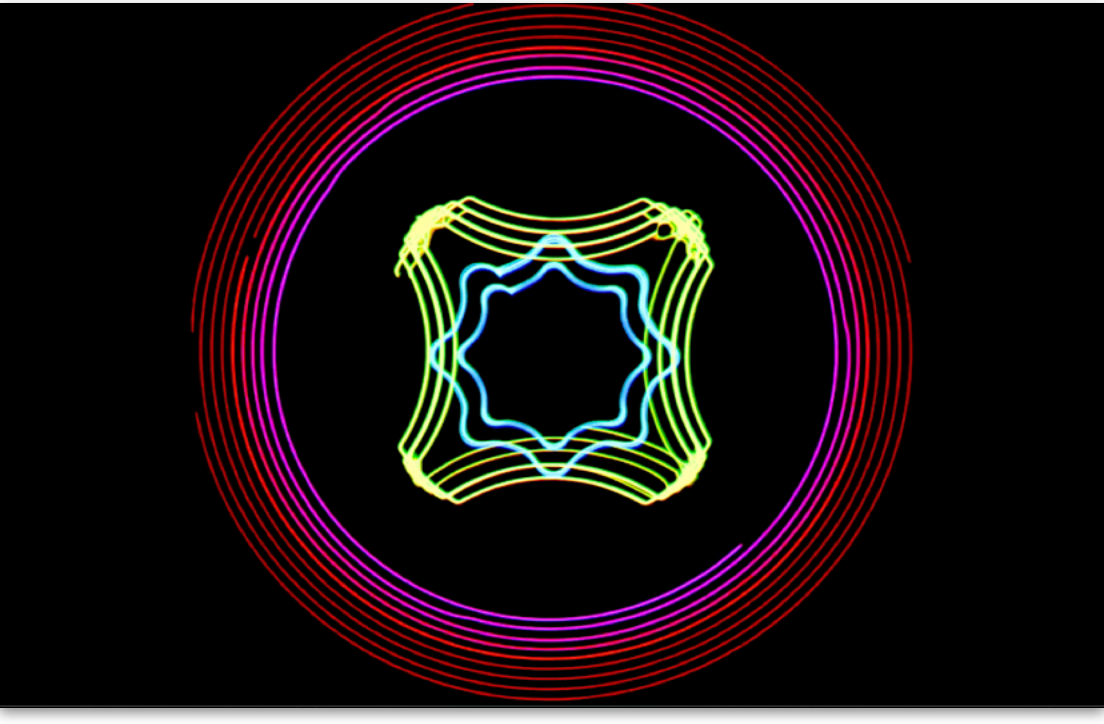
First Place - Abstract Show

Eins Zwei Drei

Christopher Short

Credit: *Christopher Short*
Music: *Look Mum No Computer, "Eins, Zewi, Drei"*

This song is the 2026 UK Eurovision entry. It's about a man trapped in a cubicle who discovers freedom by learning to count in German. The artist made his own synths and props for the song and, in that spirit, I wrote code to render some of the custom laser effects. The call and response nature of the song gave it big energy and doldrums of a day job make it way too relatable. It’s visually frenetic, and loud, and just kind of fun.



Third Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show
for a Single X-Y Scanner Pair

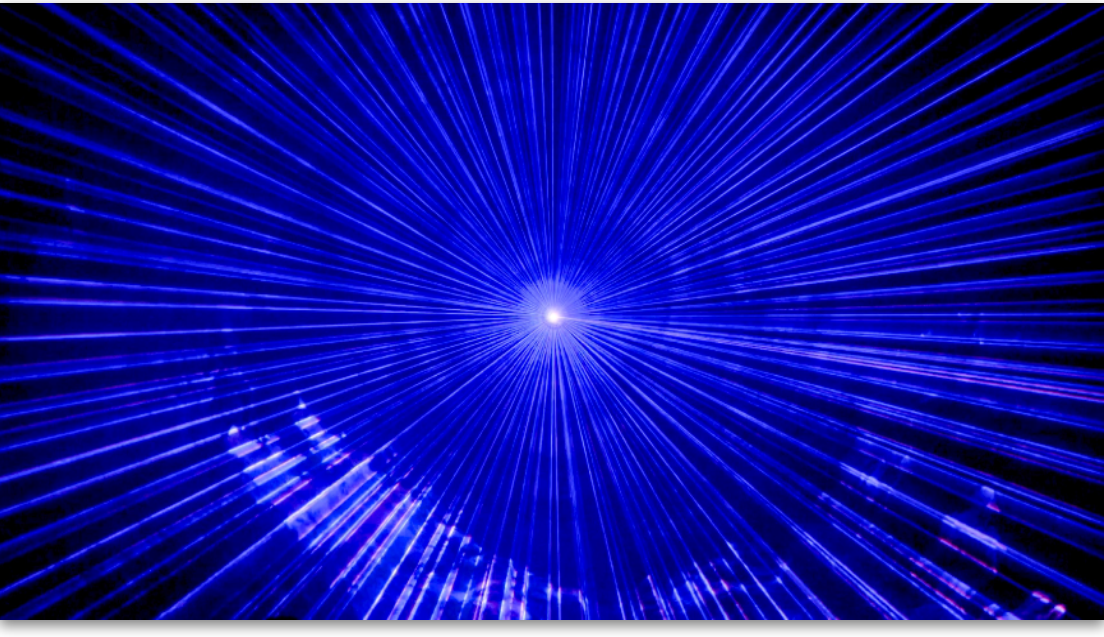
3

Come Follow Me

LOBO electronic GmbH

Credit: *Show Designer: Philipp-Daniel Wendt*
Music: *DJ S3RL, "Virtual Rave"*

This show is a tribute from the show designer to the interpretation of the song and it's genre, happy hardcore. The show designer perfectly captured the colorful and fast-paced nature of the song in the usage of color and effects in the beams.



Second Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show
for a Single X-Y Scanner Pair

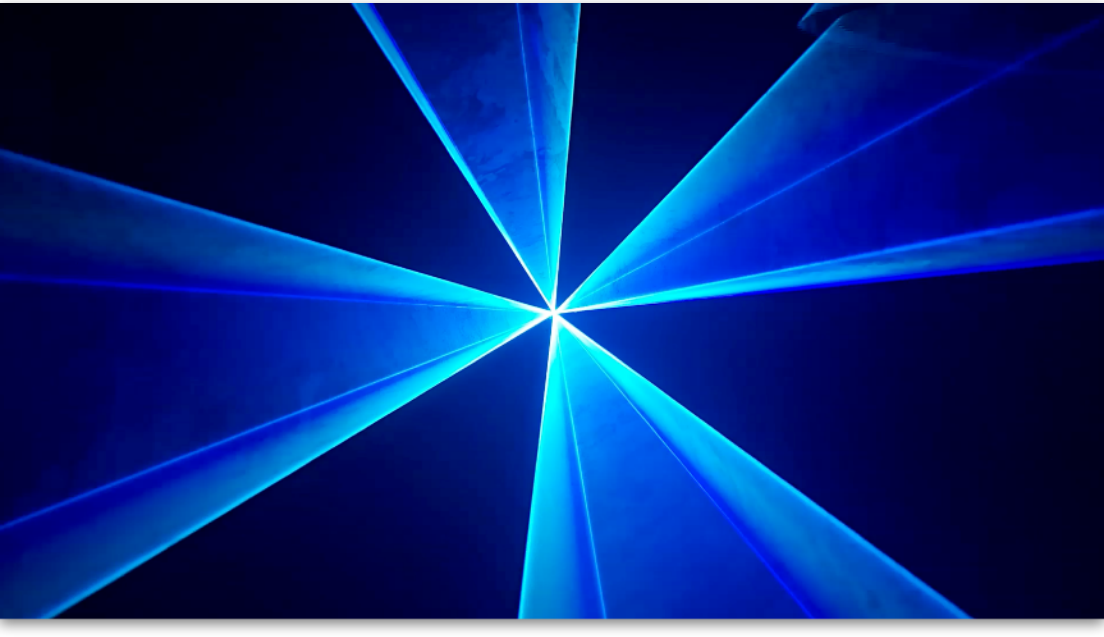
2

Wild Hunt

Igor Vlasenko

Credit: *Igor Vlasenko*
Music: *OST The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt, "The Trail"; OST The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt, "Silver for monsters". Special mix of two tracks.*

Steel for humans, silver for monsters... and the Wild Hunt is at your heels. This show transforms laser beams into ethereal blades, cutting through the void with the precision of a Witcher's strike. Experience the relentless energy of the Hunt, where light and shadow collide in a dance of magic and new technologies.



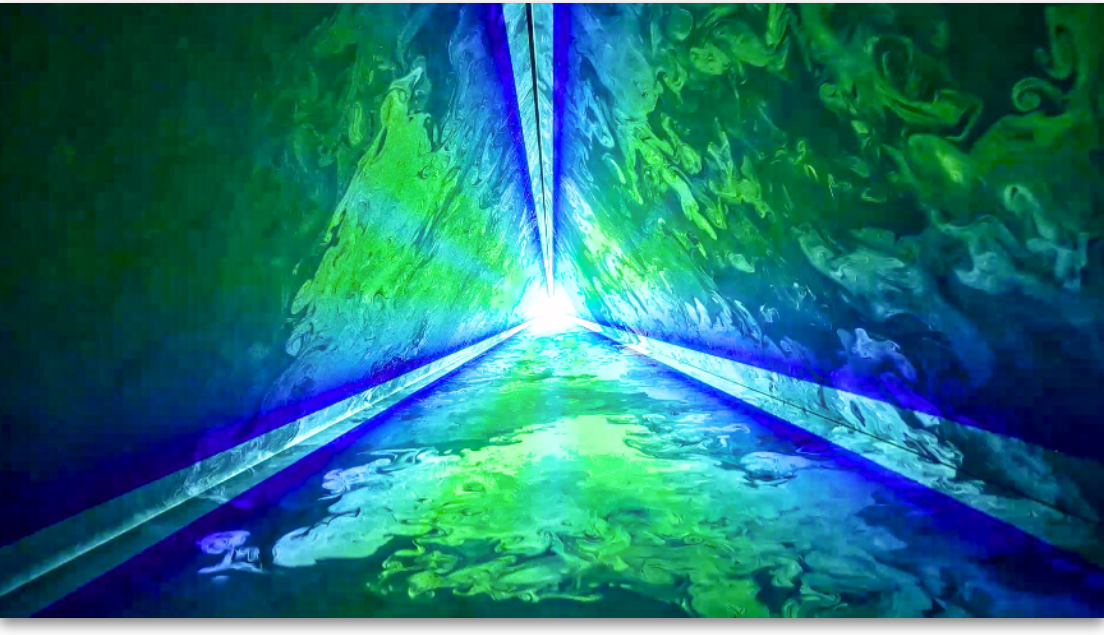
First Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show
for a Single X-Y Scanner Pair

Savage

Igor Vlasenko

Credit: *Igor Vlasenko*
Music: *Paul Flint, "Savage" (Shortened mix)*

Beyond the reach of civilization, only the raw power remains. “Savage” is a visceral exploration of light in its most untamed form—fast, unpredictable and relentless.



First Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show with Add-On Effects

Nightcruiser

LOBO electronic GmbH

Credit: *Show Designer: Philipp-Daniel Wendt*
Music: *Carpenter Brut, "Turbo Killer"*

The show visualizes the music perfectly in its beam effects. From the menacing and roaring, to the ever-moving parts of the song, the designer managed to create the matching effects to capture the right feeling of the music in the show.



Beams/Atmospherics Show for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

Third Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

3

Linea Temporis 1

LightStream Ltd.

Credits: *Ordinary Laser Programming and Timeline: Kullar Laiapea; DMX-Controlled Fat Beam Moving Head Laser Programming: Toomas Liiv; Project Manager: Casspar Lootsmann*
Music: *Robert Jüriendal, "Then the Days a Lighter Than White"*

This show was originally created for a light festival performance. We had an idea to make a performance in church with just lasers. The first song is instrumental and the second song was written for our song festival. It was a challenge and we worked quite a long time several months going every weekend for couple of nights with our gear to church. This particular show was redesigned for a pretty small church and the challenge was to make it all work in smaller space. But people liked it and so did we.



Beams/Atmospherics Show for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

Second Place - Beams/Atmospherics Show for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

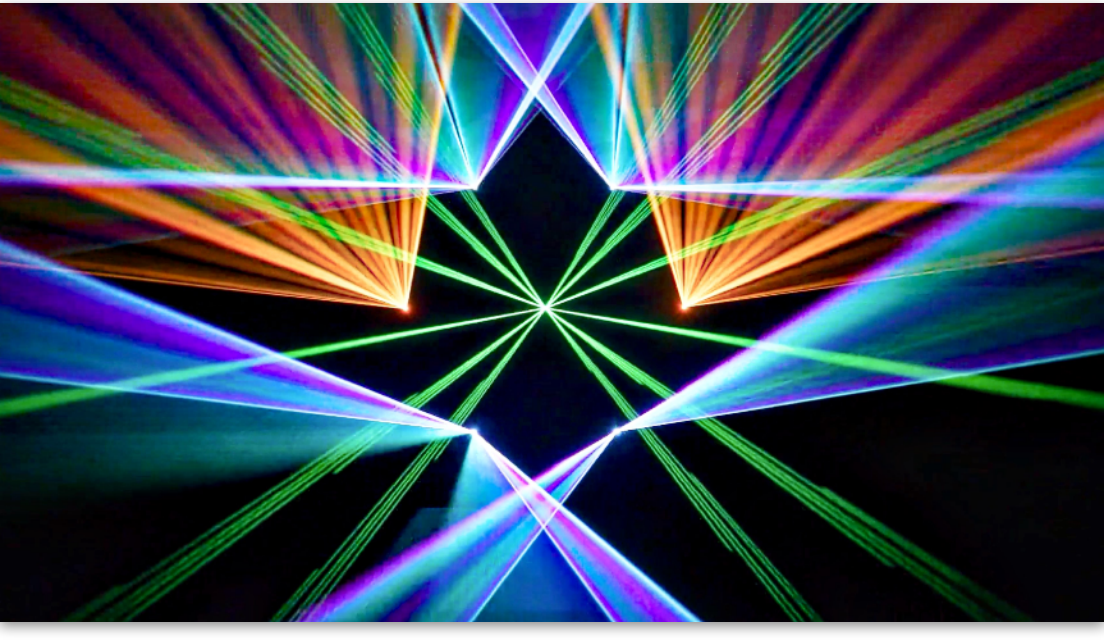
2

Infinity

VisuTek e.U.

Credits: *Programmer of Lasers: Markus Voggenberger; Setup & Operation of Equipment, Camera & Video Editing: Helmut Gruber*
Music: *Guru Josh Project, " Infinity 2008 (Klaas Vocal Edit)"*

Originally performed by Guru Josh in 1989, the song "Infinity" was a techno hit single. We used a special remixed version from DJ Klaas to create a mix of perfectly visualized effects and movements on time, and a great color mixing.



Beams/Atmospherics Show for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

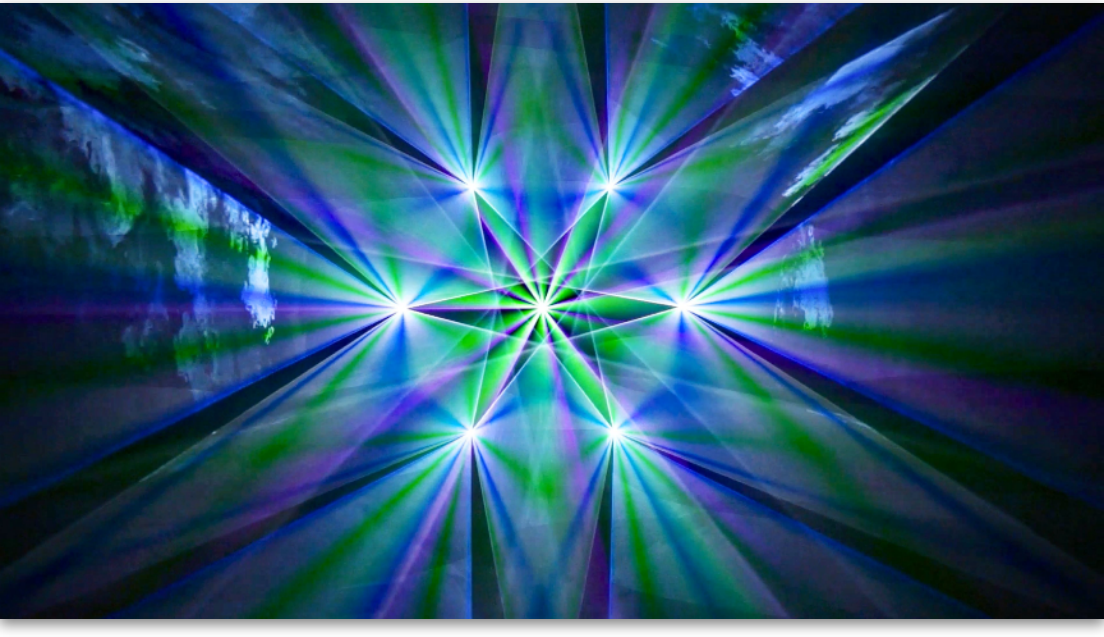
First Place - Beams/Atmospheric Show
for Multiple-Scanner Projectors

Game Of Thrones

VisuTek e.U.

Credits: *Programmer of Lasers: Markus Voggenberger; Setup & Operation of Equipment, Camera & Video Editing: Helmut Gruber*
Music: *KSHMR & The Golden Army Remix, "Game of Thrones (cut)"*

We were fascinated by the "KSHMR & The Golden Army" Remix for the "Game Of Thrones" theme to create a really impressive beamshow with beautiful precisely timed geometric shapes with dynamic color gradients.



Third Place - Permanent Installation

3

SCADstory

Nisha Ramnath

Credits: *Laser Programmer: Nisha Ramnath; Show Producer: BRC; Laser Hardware: X-Laser; Creative Director: Edward Hodge*
Music: *Ears Up Sound Design, original track*

Step into SCADstory — an immersive 4D experience that tells a universal tale of the dreamer in us all. Designed for SCAD, the University for Creative Careers, the lasers bring magic in the form of sparkles. The content is seamlessly integrated into the project to the point where the lasers are barely noticeable. Unique uses include creating the look of pinpoint LEDs on the frames, animating the car blueprint, illuminating the acrylic acorn, creating window and airline building lights on the city background, lightning, and the SCAD Sign neon illuminating at the end of the SCAD magic sequence.



Second Place - Permanent Installation

2

Église Saint-Roch

LaserTech Canada Inc.

Credits: *Programming: Derek Garbos & Nicolas Squire; Installation: Nicolas Squire*
Music: *Custom tracks*

An immersive sound and light experience sharing the heritage of the installation site.



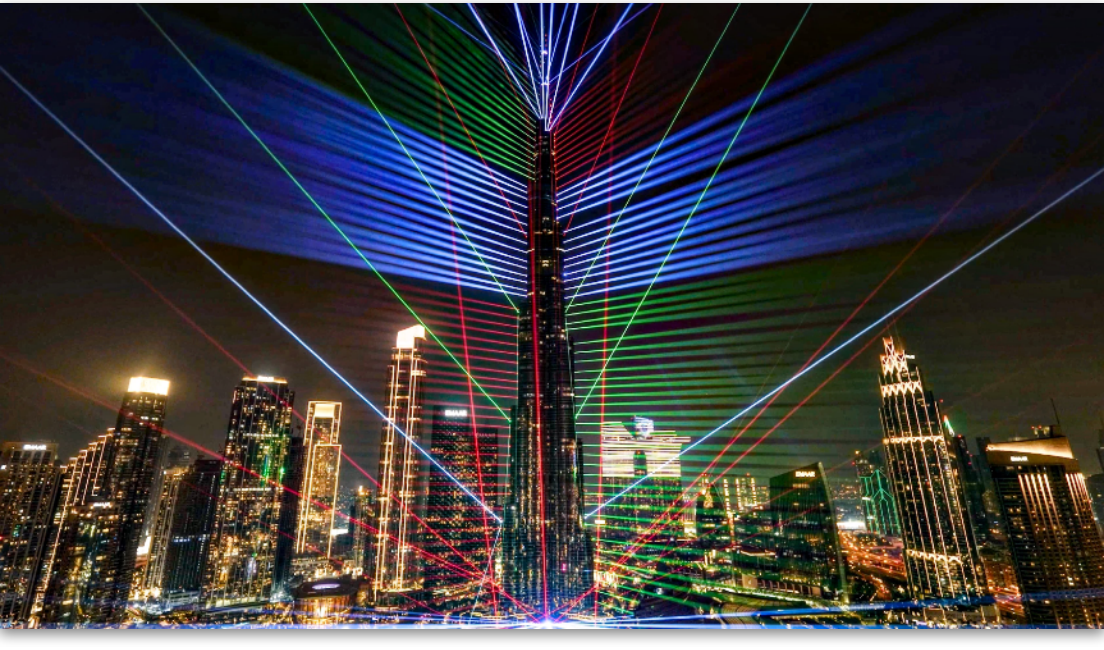
First Place - Permanent Installation

BK 2025

KVANT Ltd.

Credits: *Martin Gabco; Designer, Programmer & Laser Operator: Roman Bacul*
Music: *Unknown artists & unknown songs (custom made music)*

This project redefines the relationship between architecture, light, and urban identity. Unlike temporary projections or decorative façades, we transformed the world's tallest building into a permanent light instrument —establishing a new category of infrastructural art that operates continuously as part of Dubai's urban fabric. We were tasked with designing a programmable, weather-resistant light system operating at 828 meters. We responded by integrating 70 laser systems and 250 laser-sourced beam fixtures directly into the tower's façade, synchronized with nine surrounding towers.



Second Place - Fine Art Laser Display

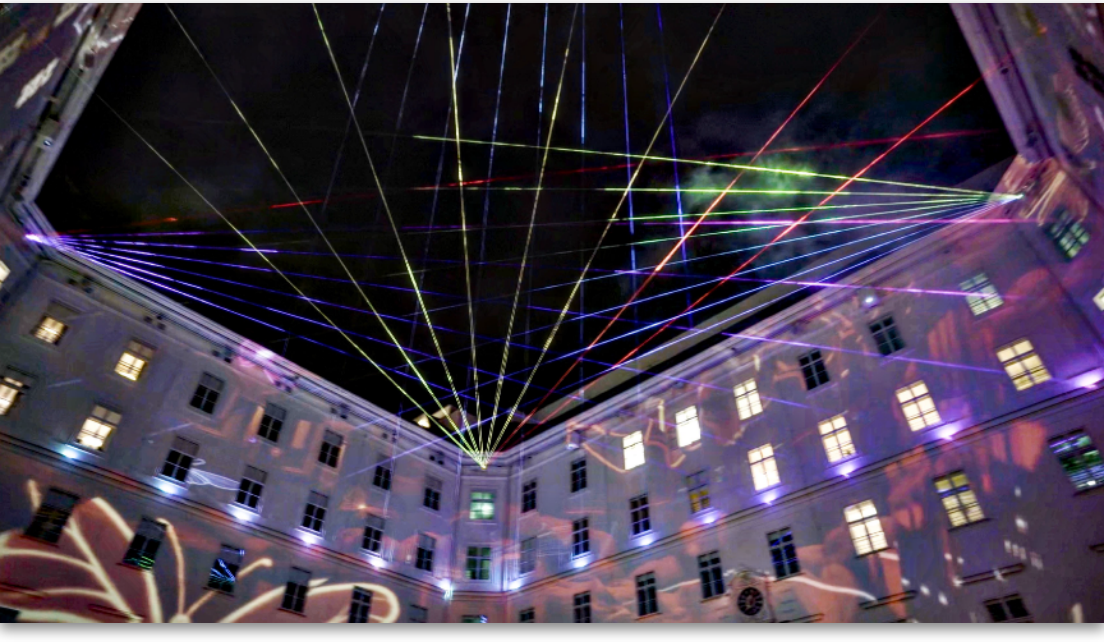
2

Museum of Change

LIVE Lasersystems

Credits: *Laser Design: Martin Nowosad; Idea, Content Development: SHA*
Music: *SHA, "AI Generated Binaural Recorded Music"*

The Museum of Change (MoC) is the world's first AI art museum in public space. The MoC aims to unite opposites: historical architecture with innovative media art. Media artist and perception researcher "SHA" explains: "I use lasers in the MoC to create a special 'Liquid Sky,' a new spatial dimension: a floating canopy of light that stretches over the multimedia courtyard and, depending on the installation, can be experienced as either 'sky' or 'underwater world.' Dramaturgically, I use lasers as immersive highlights every full hour - moments that visibly fascinate people."



First Place - Fine Art Laser Display

Aura 2025

KVANT Ltd.

Credits: *Martin Gabco: Designer, Programmer & Laser Operator*
Music: *Alva Noto, "Uni Mia", "Hybr ID Oval P-dance"*

Site-specific laser installation during the contemporary art festival Biela Noc. A minimalist yet monumental landscape of lasers and light. During White Night, the Old Market Hall was transformed by an innovative laser mapping. Lines and light surfaces surrounded visitors, and in dialogue with the architecture, created a unique immersive experience. Tailored to the venue's interior, the installation offered shifting perspectives and constant visual surprises. The video projector in the center was intended to imitate laser projection, although it projected purely video content.



Third Place - Innovative Application

3

Glastonbury Arcadia Dragonfly

Abby Shum

Credits: *Production: Arcadia Spectacular; Laser & SFX: Aardvark FX; Laser Engineer: Stanwax Laser; Software: Liberation*

Arcadia Dragonfly is a unique 360° DJ stage arena performing above crowds of 50,000 people nightly at Glastonbury Festival. Lasers form the Dragonfly's wings, defining the creature itself and bringing it to life. The ceremony, Waraloo, tells the story of transformation from nymph to fully grown dragonfly through unfolding animated laser wings. Acknowledging it's origins as a Falklands War Navy helicopter, lasers turn into rotating helicopter blades. DJs perform from within the Dragonfly's head while the laser wings are operated live, flying in sync with the tempo and energy of each performance.



Second Place - Innovative Application

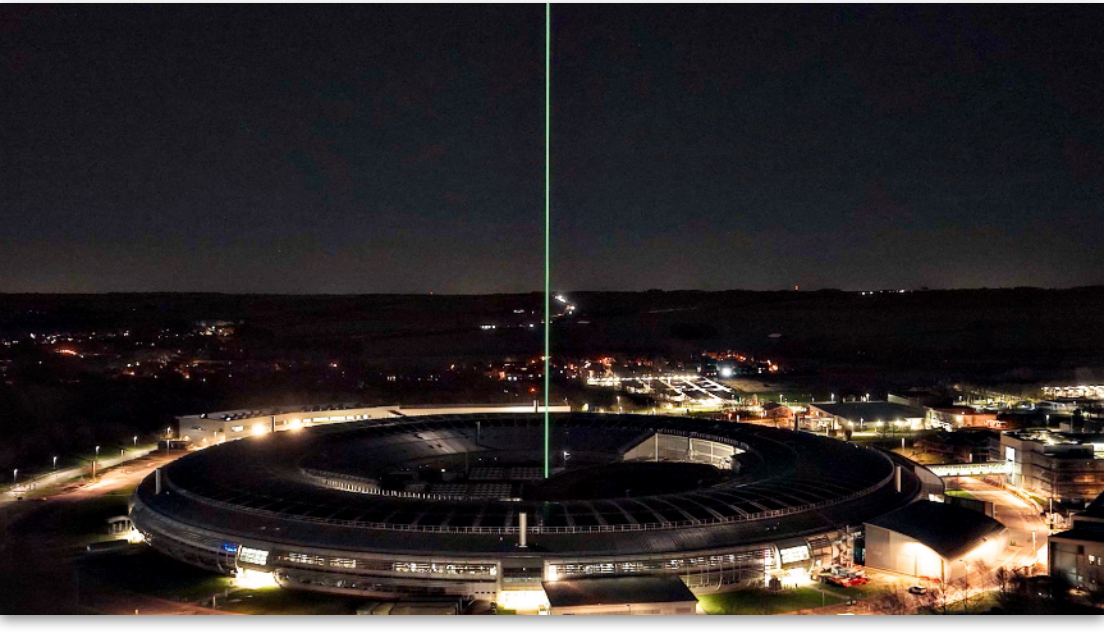
2

The Beam

Horizon Lasers & SFX

Credits: *Laser Operators: Alex Johnson, Joseph Cranham*
Music: *Ryan Taubert, "Starfall"*

After months of testing, we deployed our custom, ultra-high-powered RGB laser from the centre of the UK's largest particle accelerator to celebrate a large government grant they had received to build the worlds' most powerful research laser. We believe our laser to be the most powerful display laser in the UK with "The Beam" being visible over 37 miles away in neighboring regions, gaining national news and press coverage.



First Place - Innovative Application

Filming Lasers in Remote Cold Locations

Ob Chao

Credits: *Laser Designer and LSO: Jeff Vyduna; Laser Technician: Bradford Kellogg*
Music: *Untitled behind-the-scenes music cleared through MusicBed.com*

This behind-the-scenes edit shows how I operated lasers in remote, cold, wet locations for a film production. I built custom lightweight enclosures to operate at -25C. When helicopters or snowmobiles couldn't go further, our team carried 30-90 lb lasers through steep avalanche terrain on our backs. We'd place lasers from 5 pm-12 midnight, film until 5 am, then ski them all down, every night, often camping in the backcountry. Just keeping laptops and fingers working was hard, let alone tracing terrain.



Third Place - Laser Photography

3

Glastonbury Arcadia Dragonfly

Abby Shum

Credits: *Photographer: ShotAway; Production: Arcadia Spectacular; Laser & SFX: Aardvark FX; Laser Engineer: Stanwax Laser; Software: Liberation*

Laser wings designed for a sculpture built from a repurposed military helicopter that served in the Falklands War. The Waraloo ceremony traces the dragonfly life cycle, from nymph to full flight. The laser wings slowly come alive, expanding and growing. A moment of transformation sees the lasers become spinning helicopter blades, honouring the machine's origins. The wings are not just an effect, they are the soul of the sculpture, without them it does not exist. It transitioned to live laser operation during the DJ set over three nights.



Second Place - Laser Photography

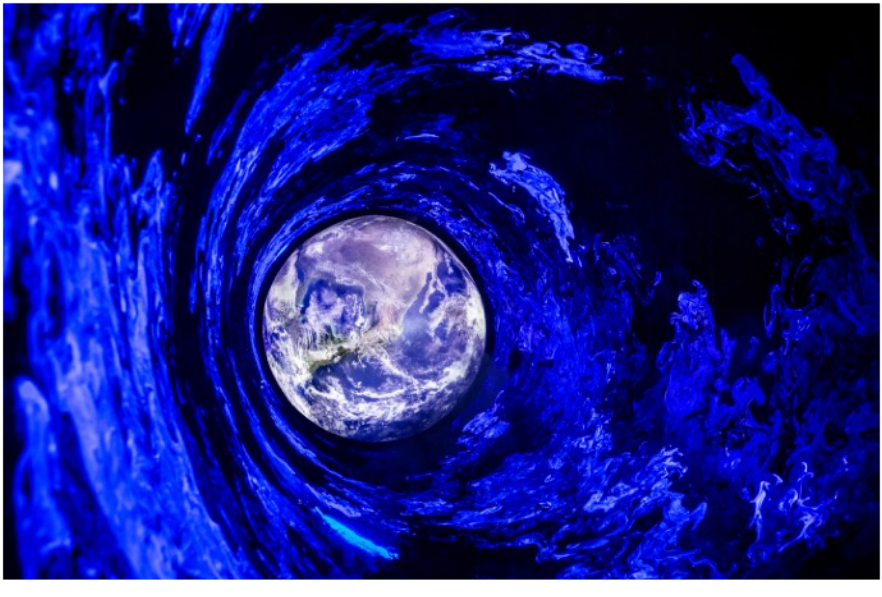
2

Deep Blue

LOBO electronic GmbH

Credits: *Creative Director and Photographer: Matthias Müller-Quernheim; Laser Design: Werner Most*

When viewed from outer space, Earth's blue appearance sets it apart from all other celestial bodies. Presented here through a spectacular laser tunnel, our blue marble truly is a blue marvel that should never be taken for granted.



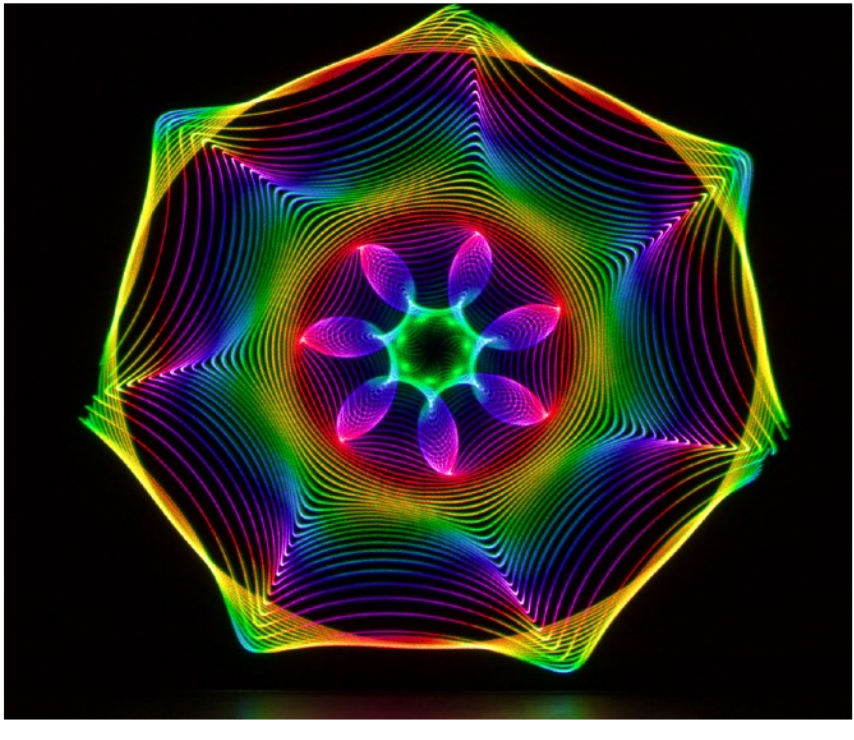
First Place - Laser Photography

Aurora Petal Engine

Christopher Short

Credit: *Christopher Short*

This meditative shape is a harmonic relationship of two circles with the size of each circle being controlled by low frequency oscillators. I was experimenting with color and intensity modulation effects, and as I was creating, this beautiful thing took form. I photographed it over a slightly reflective surface to add context and scale. It's a reminder that simple and elegant can be more powerful than high tech complexity.



Laser Jockey



The Laser Jockey competition was held 3 November 2026 during the ILDA Conference. Attendees viewed the competitors' live performance, then voted for their favorites. The top three vote-getters received First, Second and Third Place in this category.

Third Place

Nicolas Squire
LaserTech Canada Inc.

Second Place

Derek Garbos
LaserTech Canada Inc.

First Place

Abby Shum
Liberation

Third Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: General

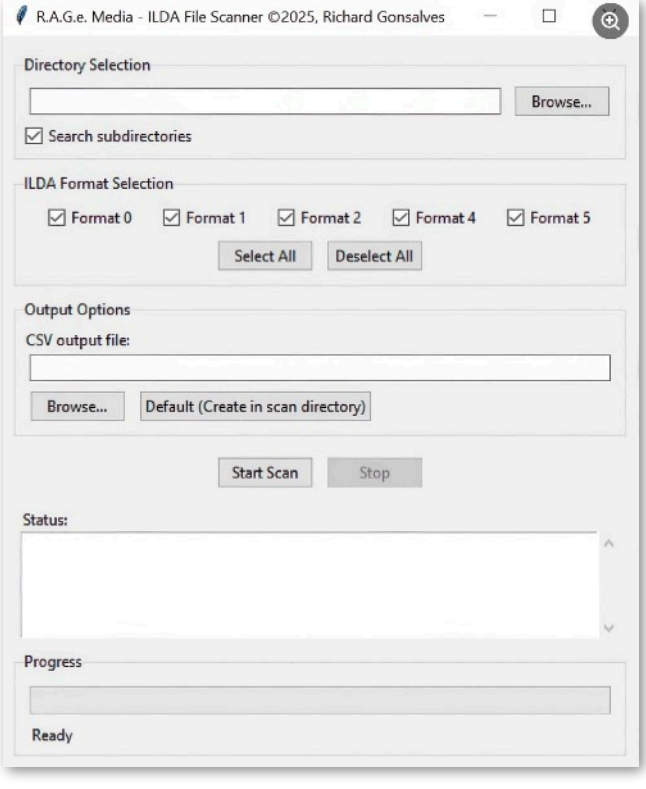
3

ILDA File Scanner

Richard Gonsalves

Credits: *Concept, Programming, UI: Richard Gonsalves*

An ILDA File Format scanner app/utility that searches your (user defined) Windows system/directory for any and all ILDA file formats that you select. This is helpful for finding ILDA files. Results are saved to a CSV file containing filename, format details, and file location. The interface includes progress tracking and status updates during scanning.



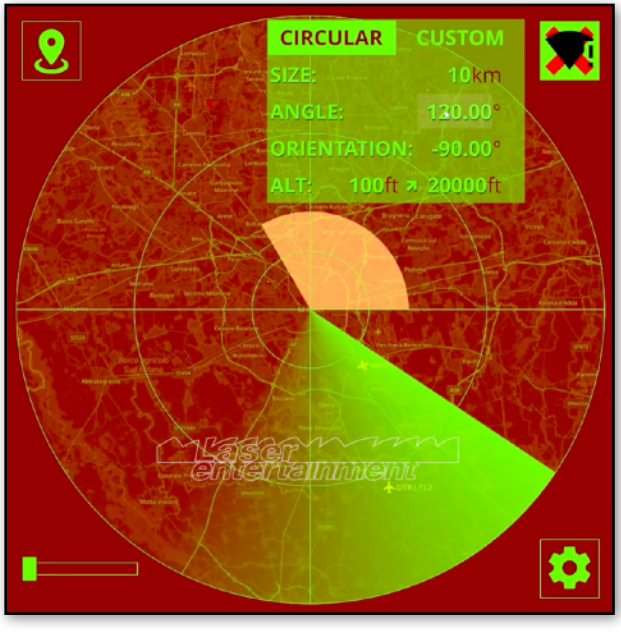
Second Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: General

Laser Sky Guard

Laser entertainment s.r.l.

Credits: *Mattia Diomedi and Alberto Kellner, Laser Entertainment srl*

Laser Sky Guard – Airspace awareness for laser operations: control the sky, design the light! A very helpful safety software/hardware tool for Laserists that allows to spot airplanes in a predetermined area, without the high cost of a professional radar system. This system allows any laserist or show producer to limit a certain area in degrees and altitude where if an airplane enter the area, it alerts the laser operator to turn off the lasershow (or other searchlight laser based sky light beam, or also drone shows). The alert can be visual and sound (the screen flashes in red and emits an alert sound). The system can also be operated automatically in addition to manual alert, for instance sending a file command to turn off the lasers (for example via PangoScript).



Fenning Technical Achievement Award: General

First Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: General

Liberation

Liberation

Credits: *Design, Software Architecture, Programming, User Interface, Product Direction: Seb Lee-Delisle; Abby Shum: Liberation Ambassador (diversity and inclusion programme, community meet-ups): Abby Shum*

Liberation is cross-platform laser show software designed for professional use, featuring a real-time rendering engine, broad open protocol hardware support, and a sub-50 MB footprint. Designed for both live performance and timeline-based show creation, it is emerging as one of the first credible new alternatives in the professional laser software landscape in many years. It has been proven at scale across multiple large live productions and permanent installations.



Third Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: ILDA Digital Network

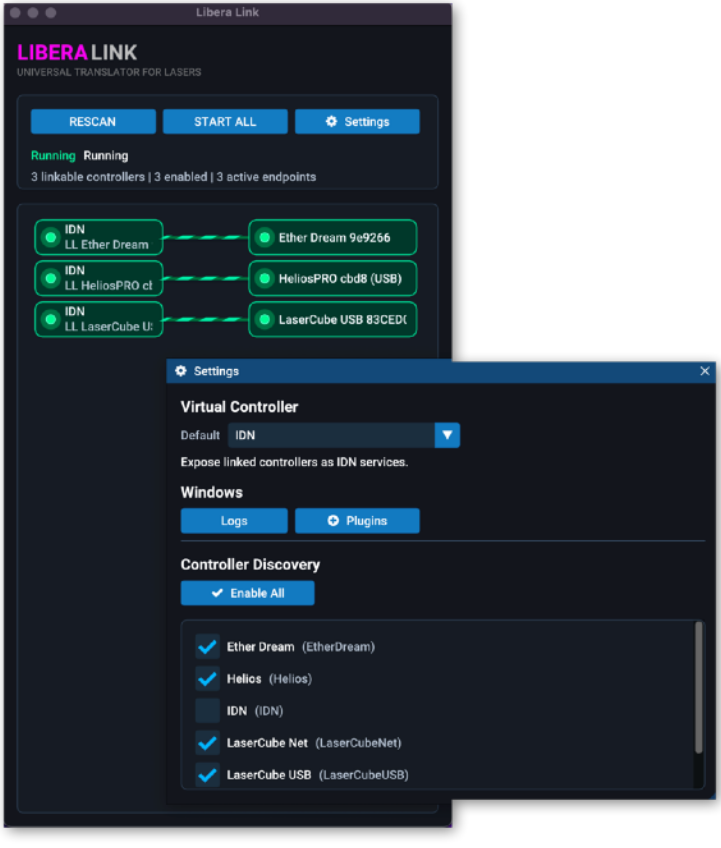
3

Libera Link

Liberation

Credits: *Architecture, Programming, Product Direction: Seb Lee-Delisle*

Libera Link is the universal translator for lasers. It turns any supported digital-to-analog converter (DAC) into an IDN DAC. In other words, existing controllers can appear as IDN devices on the network, providing a bridge towards a unified standard and the goal of “all lasers, all software”.



Second Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: ILDA Digital Network

2

HeliosPRO Laser DAC

Gitle Mikkelsen

Credits: *Gitle Mikkelsen. Based on OpenIDN framework developed by Dr. Matthias Frank and students Leander Schickhaus, Daniel Lingnau, Daniel Bauer; and Dirk Apitz.*

The HeliosPRO Laser DAC is a new controller for ILDA-compatible laser projectors. It supports the IDN protocol, being based on the OpenIDN software project. Unlike the OpenIDN adapter which depend on an external USB Helios DAC, the HeliosPRO is fully integrated. There are versions of the controller both in an external enclosure, and for mounting directly inside laser projectors. The device is very extensible, the development environment makes it easy to modify or extend the onboard software and hardware features like a generic USB port, GPIO, I2C and more allows for many niche use cases.



Fenning Technical Achievement Award: ILDA Digital Network

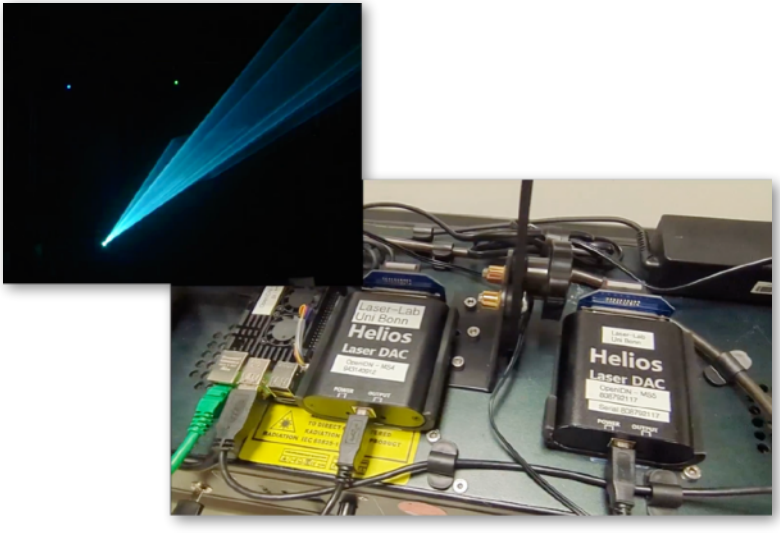
First Place - Fenning Technical Achievement Award: ILDA Digital Network

OpenIDN Laser DAC Framework

University of Bonn - Institute of Computer Science 4 (Laser & Light Lab), Bitlasers, and DexLogic

Credits: *Dr. Matthias Frank and students Leander Schickhaus, Daniel Lingnau, Daniel Bauer; Gitle Mikkelsen; and Dirk Apitz*

The OpenIDN Laser DAC Framework is a set of software modules to handle the IDN-Hello protocol and receive IDN (ILDA Digital Network) laser data streams on a local network interface for output to a laser digital-to-analog converter (DAC) for laser projection output. This allows the user to convert their existing hardware into modern IDN receiving devices in a modular and portable manner.



2026 ILDA Career Achievement Award

Richard Gonsalves



The Man Behind the Curtain
Since 1990, Richard Gonsalves has helped shape the laser display industry from behind the scenes. Richard (known in online forums as “Wizard_of_Awes”) much like his namesake from the book and movie The Wizard of Oz, thrives out of the spotlight, focusing instead on creating the tools, standards, and knowledge that empower others to produce dazzling shows. His career spans business development, marketing, production, technical innovation, and global leadership.

Building the Business
Richard founded R.A.G.e. Media (an acronym for Richard Anthony Gonsalves Entertainment Media) in 1990, a consultancy that propelled him into collaborations with nearly every major laser company in Canada, the USA, and many internationally. His work expanded globally during seven+ years with EXP Momentum and GA Productions, where he served as a marketing Technical Director across 22 offices in 20 countries in Africa. His lighting and effects was seen on shows like ”Idols Africa” (1 billion viewers) and ”Face of Africa” (2.5 billion viewers), while he introduced 3D cinema to the Nigerian market and worked with artists including LL Cool J, Akon, and Kuti.

Upon returning to North America, Richard toured the world for nine years as the Laserist for Grammy-winning artist Zedd, beginning with the artist’s debut album, and has since worked with Beyoncé, Slander,

Evanescence, and top K-pop acts such as BTS, BlackPink, and TXT — reviving classic laser effects like bounce mirrors and laser tracing for new generations.

Technical and Artistic Innovation
Richard studied both electronics and computer programming in college; he is both a CET and a Programmer/Analyst. Richard uses his technical knowledge to help the industry with such works as helping develop Pangolin's LD2K DMX fixture library and contributing original laser art that became industry staples. His artistic achievements span intimate venues to the world's largest stages, earning multiple ILDA awards for touring and programming work.

Richard loves exploring new technologies and helps in the development of MIDI controllers specifically for laserists, and the ILDA Digital Network (IDN) through ILDA committees. In fact, Richard has been or still is a participating member of many ILDA committees, such as the Awards Committee, Technical Committee, EDI Committee, History Committee, Business Committee, and Terminology Standardization Committee.

Industry Leadership and Education
Richard has devoted his career to education and standardization, reaching an estimated 40-70% of the global laser community through his publications, online communities, and direct mentorship. He co-authored the book *Laser F/X: The Light Show Handbook* and compiled *ILDA: The First 35 Years of ILDA Photographic Awards*. He pioneered digital newsletters before the Internet era, coining the phrases "Lase-on" and " Keep on lasing," and helped launch the Pangolin User Group.
Since 2011, Richard has managed the 5,500+ member "Laserist" Facebook group and moderates several other laser forums and groups.

Within ILDA, Richard has served as the Awards Committee Chair since 2017, and has modernized judging processes, clarified rules, and applied them equally to all members. He has also sponsored many Awards activities such as ILDA Awards anniversaries, and the Off-Line Awards during COVID.

His commitment to laser safety runs just as deep. As a certified Laser Safety Officer, Richard has shaped regulations through work with Transport Canada (affecting every outdoor laser show in Canada) and Ontario's laser safety subcommittee. He founded and chairs CLEO, representing Canadian laser professionals to promote reasonable safety standards throughout Canada.

Mentorship and Philosophy
Mentorship is central to Richard's approach. Inspired by mentors like Michael Roberts and Howard Ungerleider, Richard has mentored others. He strives to pass on not just skills but "a genuine love for the light form." Though often behind the curtain, his contributions have earned multiple ILDA Special Achievement Awards and recognitions. He typically avoids submitting his own work for awards due to his leadership roles and a strong desire to avoid conflicts of interest and remaining neutral to the awards process and rules of law — demonstrating his selfless commitment to the field.

Conclusion
Richard Gonsalves exemplifies the ILDA Career Achievement Award's spirit. His decades of impact span business, technology, and global education. Above all, he believes in collective growth: "The more we all know, the more we all grow." With every project and every mentee, he has helped the laser display industry shine brighter. In Richard's words: "Lase-on!"

Richard Gonsalves has either been working for an ILDA Member, or has been an ILDA Member himself (Student or Individual) from 1990 through the current year (2026).

Past ILDA Career Achievement Award recipients

1989
Ivan Dryer

1990
Seiji Inatsugu

1991
Floyd Rollefstad

1992
Jennifer Morris

1993
Robert Mueller

(not awarded 1994-2003)

2004
Patrick Murphy

2005
Michael Roberts

2006
Doug McCullough

2007
William R. Benner, Jr.

(no Awards presented with "2008" due to changing the awards year numbering system)

2009
Greg Makhov

2010
Lothar Bopp

2011
Stephen Heminover

2012
Tom Harman

2013
Pavol Kubošek

2014
Tim Walsh

2015
Dirk Baur

2016
Dr. Alexander Timofeyev

2017
Alex Hennig

2018
Glenn Thomas

2019
Alberto Kellner-Ongaro

2020
Christine Jenkin

2021
Fred Fenning

2022
Casey Stack

2023
Roberta McHatton
Walter Meador

2024
Ward Davis

2025
Derek Garbos

2026
Richard Gonsalves

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