

# AV DESIGN PROJECT PROFILE



## The National World War II Museum's "Beyond All Boundaries"

### Electrosonic Helps Deliver Unique 4D Theatrical Experience to Visitors

The 250 seat Victory Theater is a new addition to the National WWII Museum located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theater's debut attraction "Beyond All Boundaries" provides the audience with a truly immersive 4-D cinematic experience. The audience is able to witness the historic battles and stories of World War II with the dynamic effects of archival footage, animation, scenery, sound and sensory effects. Electrosonic Design Consulting worked with the project team led by The Hettema Group to develop the complex video and audio presentation.

Electrosonic Design Consulting developed complex projection effects using a number of projectors, as well as the necessary video playback and processing for the



edge-blended and warped video images. The main screen is a large curved scrim, 115 feet wide by 28 feet tall, which is used for part of the show as an opaque projection surface by dropping a blackout curtain behind it. At other times in the show, the blackout is removed to allow the projected image to bleed through and appear on screens and scenery upstage of the scrim. Another giant projection screen is set back about 20 feet from the scrim.

This configuration creates truly dimensional, complex images with visuals projected onto the scrim bleeding through to the set pieces and second screen. Sequences depicting the fire bombing of Dresden, Asian jungles and the bombing of Japan are especially powerful with the



double-screen arrangement which can be augmented with lighting and smoke effects.

In front of the scrim is a pit from which artifacts – a giant radio set, a concentration camp watch tower, the gun turret of a warship – emerge at appropriate moments in the show. Behind the scrim various objects, such as tank traps, can be illuminated. As part of the 4D experience, the theater's seats shake from rumbling tanks, it snows during The Battle of the Bulge, and the nose of a B-52 bomber set piece flies in front of the screen during a bombing raid as its wings are projected around it.

Speakers were located in several areas throughout the theater to accommodate pre-recorded audio tracks being distributed through digital signal processors. A show

control system was also designed to dictate startup and shut down of the show, as well as control over the video and audio content, playback, and routing.

Tom Hanks narrated (and executive produced) the 35-minute "Beyond All Boundaries" which features Brad Pitt, Kevin Bacon, Patricia Clarkson, Gary Sinise and other A-list actors voicing Americans on the front lines and homefront.

The Victory Theater is a presentation and celebration of the brave men and women who took part in the historic war. Driven by the dynamic audiovisual elements specified by Electrosonic Design Consulting, "Beyond All Boundaries" provides its audience with a uniquely engrossing and emotional experience.

#### The bombing of Japan



#### Aircraft carrier



**ELECTROSONIC**

[www.electrosonic.com](http://www.electrosonic.com)