

# John Michaels

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## Profile

*A self-motivated and hard-working Technical Manager with broad experience across the entertainment industry, supported by a strong background in electrical/electronic engineering and event management. Capable of using initiative and working collaboratively within a team. Proven leadership abilities in managing, developing, and motivating teams to meet objectives. An effective communicator at all levels of an organisation, with strong problem-solving and analytical skills.*

## Experience

### 2017 - Date - Freelance AV & Events Specialist

Work with AV and production companies on the design, costing, and delivery of events. Specialise in sound design and operation, with additional support in video and lighting as needed. Also work as a freelance events manager, stage manager, and live music/theatre technician. Theatre work includes touring tribute shows, musical theatre productions, and technical support for theatre companies. Regularly act as musical director and perform as a keyboard player in live productions.

Provide filming services for bands and theatre shows, managing multi-camera shoots, coordinating crew, editing, and distributing content to audiences. Also responsible for health & safety planning and risk assessments, both pre-event and on-site.

### 2023 - 2024 - Planning and Logistics (operations) Manager, YSLV

Senior Manager at an AV company delivering sound, lighting, and video solutions, with a focus on the supply and installation of LED screens. Responsible for day-to-day coordination of client projects, managing operational logistics and the vehicle fleet. Collaborated with the sales team to liaise with clients from job confirmation through to completion, sourcing and assigning crew, freelancers, and third-party logistics as needed. Worked alongside the warehouse manager to assess equipment availability, forecast shortages, and maintain hire equipment quality. Produced CAD/SketchUp drawings for projects, and prepared risk assessments and method statements for installations and operations.

### 2020 - 2021 - COVID19

With all live work cancelled, I operated a freelance courier service, delivering freight across the UK. I also launched a YouTube channel, *The Lockdown Jams*, bringing together musicians unable to work, enabling online collaboration to create music and provide entertainment for those stuck at home. The project also helped maintain our professional network and gave us a creative outlet during lockdown. More details available at [www.jmav.co.uk](http://www.jmav.co.uk).

### 2015 - 2020 Project Manager/Business Development Manager - Rockit Event Production

Managed all aspects of major projects and events, from initial concept and planning through to production and on-site delivery. Used CAD tools including Vivien, WYSIWYG, and Google SketchUp to produce visual proposals demonstrating how client visions would be realised. Attended initial briefings and site visits to advise clients on practical technical solutions. Oversaw organisation and budgeting of all cross-hired equipment, coordinating with clients, suppliers, and venues to manage logistics and ensure successful event execution.

### 2014 – 2015 Production Manager - P&O Cruises

Managed and oversaw the entire Entertainment Department aboard a multi-venue cruise ship. Supervised daily operations and work schedules for all technical and entertainment staff, maintaining the design and artistic integrity of onboard productions. Handled guest feedback efficiently and professionally.

Responsible for training technical staff in safe theatre and venue operations, ordering and issuing technical supplies, and overseeing all health & safety procedures. Conducted regular safety checks and maintenance of technical equipment, managed departmental risk assessments, and ensured compliance with audits and safety inspections.

Planned and delivered a wide range of special events throughout the cruise calendar, utilising onboard crew and equipment in state-of-the-art venues entertaining up to 4,000 guests. Regularly used LED lighting, pyro, projection mapping, and special effects to create impactful guest experiences.

Successfully managed the refit and dry dock project for P&O Azura, planning and delivering entertainment upgrades on time and within budget.

### 2013 – 2014 – Area Manager Eclipse Presentations

Oversaw AV and production operations across 18 key London venues and hotels, including Royal Horseguards/One Whitehall Place, Central Hall, Intercontinental, Lords, and Marriott Grosvenor Square. Managed and supported on-site venue managers to ensure consistent adherence to company procedures and service standards.

Acted as the key liaison between venues and Eclipse, ensuring clear communication and understanding of pricing policies and commercial considerations. Provided commercial analysis and reporting to senior management, helping guide strategic decisions.

Controlled expenditure by minimising discounting and managing marketing and support costs.

Focused on staff development by understanding the strengths and needs of each manager, supporting their growth, and recruiting new talent where needed.

### 2012 – 2013 – Sales Manager PSAV (now Encore)

Based at The Savoy Hotel, responsible for managing the technical events team across The Savoy, Claridge's, and ME London. Oversaw day-to-day operations at these high-profile venues, including budgeting, handling initial enquiries, conducting show rounds, preparing weekly financial reports, and managing billing.

Provided end-to-end support for clients—from initial enquiry and event design through to project management and on-site delivery.

Managed a wide range of high-profile events, including the Evening Standard Theatre Awards, BAFTA pre- and post-parties, Elle Style Awards, BRITs nominations, NATO conferences, Coca-Cola events, and more. Awards, BAFTA Pre and post parties, Elle Style awards, Brits nominations, NATO, Coca-Cola and many other high profile clients.



## **2009 - 2012 - Production Manager/Sound Designer - Crystal Cruises and P&O Cruises**

Served as Head of Sound onboard various cruise ships, overseeing all audio operations and show delivery. Designed and installed new production shows for the Headliners Theatre Company on P&O Azura and Adonia, including programming hundreds of automated scenes on Yamaha digital mixing consoles. Ensured high-quality sound for a range of performances in demanding live environments.

## **2004 – 2009 Freelance sound engineer/Events Manager**

Worked independently with various companies, providing and managing teams of sound engineers, technicians, and drivers for conferences, touring bands, and theatre productions. Oversaw all aspects of live event delivery, including travel logistics, equipment hire and setup, and client and artist liaison to ensure smooth and professional event execution.

## **2000 – 2004 Managing director - MusicTek Studios Ltd.**

Founded and managed a company dedicated to live music, incorporating a recording studio, nine fully equipped rehearsal rooms, PA hire services, and a licensed live music venue. Produced and performed on numerous CDs and DVDs, including the Total Accuracy guitar tuition series and various school and performing arts college projects. Designed and implemented a computerised booking system using Microsoft Access and Excel to manage over 100 bands weekly across nine rehearsal rooms. Maintained all hire equipment (PAs, microphones, guitar amps, drum kits), ensuring safety and reliability. Managed a touring team providing PA systems for events across Europe, ranging from intimate weddings to large-scale outdoor festivals. Responsible for logistics, crew travel, setup, operation, fault-finding, and breakdown of equipment. Ran a two-stage live venue hosting up to 13 bands in one night, overseeing stage management, technical crew, and changeovers between acts. Supervised and trained work experience and job placement recruits, interviewed candidates for new roles, and enforced health and safety procedures throughout the business.

## **1998 – 2000 IT Consultant, Logica UK Ltd**

Worked on short-term contracts for clients across the UK and Europe. At Ford Motor Company, installed a new computerised stock monitoring system across multiple European manufacturing plants. At Visteon UK Ltd, managed a team responsible for identifying, testing, and replacing all non-Y2K-compliant electrical and electronic equipment at the Basildon plant. At Bearings ING, worked as part of a team addressing Y2K compliance issues by testing and correcting errors in office documents and systems.

## **1994 – 1998 Electrical and Electronic Control Specialist - Ford New Holland UK Ltd.**

Worked as part of the maintenance team of electricians and engineers, ensuring the safe and reliable operation of production lines. Used a range of diagnostic tools for fault finding and repair across both mechanical and electrical systems. Responsible for PAT testing and logging of all portable equipment, power tools, and extension leads.

Planned and performed scheduled maintenance on high-profile production machinery during downtime, adhering to strict schedules and ensuring safe recommissioning. Maintained a wide variety of equipment including hoists, 3-phase motors, industrial robots, CNC machines, logic control systems, and other electronic equipment.

## **1990 – 1998 Electrical and electronic control Apprentice - Ford Motor Company**

Completed a four-year apprenticeship combining practical experience with academic study via college day release, leading to a diploma in Electrical Engineering. The first two years were spent at Ford Technical Training Centre, covering a broad range of mechanical and electrical/electronic engineering disciplines, including welding, machining, and sheet metalwork. The final two years were based at the Basildon tractor plant, working as part of the Maintenance team and specialising in electrical and electronic engineering within a live production environment.

## **Technical Equipment**

Sound	All Yamaha digital desks including DM3, DM7, PM5d, LS9, O1v and variants, CL Series. Q-Lab/Q-Cart, Logic Pro, Pro Tools, Behringer X32/Midas M32 (Dante, AES50)
Light	Avolite, MAC, ROBE,
LED screen	Novastar LED Processor and control software (Nova LCT)
Video/switching/editing	Final Cut Pro, vMix, Watchout, AMX, ArKaos, Analogue way, Extron and many vision mixers
Software	MAC and Windows OS, MS Office, iWork (including Keynote), Vivian, WYSIWYG, Google Sketchup

Numerous warehouse and ordering systems including HireTrack, Rental Desk and AMOS.

## **Training**

**3ic** - Unmanned Aerial Pilot training. Ground school and practical flying

**FTF Worldwide** - Practical Pyrotechnics safety awareness

**P&O/Carnival Cruise line:** Crisis Management, Crowd control, first aid, manual handling, lifeboat drills, Muster Station training, risk assessment, Safety inductions for stage

**Various courses including:** City & guilds Electronic Modules I, II, III & IV, Team Leadership I & II, Time Management, Fork Lift Truck Driving.

## **Qualifications**

Higher National Certificate – Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Ford Electrical apprenticeship scheme

1 A Level and 9 GSCE's

## **Personal Details**

Date of Birth	-	8 <sup>th</sup> January 1973
Marital Status	-	Married
Driving License	-	Full-Clean Car, 7.5T Lorry and Motor Cycle
Passport	-	UK
Covid19	-	Fully Vaccinated and boosted