



# TECH DIGEST

May 2003

## Interactive Object Theatre, Grand Pré National Historic Site



The immersive theatre simulates the hold of a ship which may have been used to transport Acadiens to their New England destinations. As the audience enters, subdued lighting from ten custom lamp fixtures resembling ships lanterns reveal the aged timbers of the hold and representative ship's artifacts.

Global Exhibit Technology developed the initial concept for this 78-person theatre. The production of the hi-definition program which re-enacts the deportation of the Acadiens in 1755, has been the responsibility of our joint venture partner, General Assembly Production Centre.

As seen in the renderings prepared by designer Peter Oulton of the exhibit design firm Oulton & Devine, the presentation system focuses on three screens. The main screen (18 feet wide) presents the primary story through historical re-enactment. The two adjacent screens present life size docents who interact with each other and with the events on the main screen.

Behind the each side screen is an effects pocket housing three interpretative dioramas which are lit at appropriate moments in the story line. GET has designed custom tracks and a guidance system to silently move the 7 by 8 foot dioramas in and out of the effects pocket within five seconds.

This theatre will, to our knowledge, be the first high-definition interactive immersive facility in the Canada. GET has designed the presentation system around the Mantis high definition video server by Visual Circuits Corporation. The projector is a native high definition machine by Sanyo

The system uses two high definition projection systems presenting on a 18 foot main screen with two adjacent 7 foot screens. Technically we split the image from one projector to enable both side screens to be sourced from one system. The custom design is an example of technical ingenuity applied to make the system more affordable.



A third interactive feature is the use of 6 multi-image cyclorama side screens on which we project still imagery of the environment in which the story unfolds. These images are projected from proprietary GET still projectors.

The theater, which is to open in July of this year, will be located in the new visitor centre at the Grand Pré National historic site near Wolfville, Nova Scotia.