



**CASE STUDY**

# The Minack Theatre

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AUDIO SYSTEM UPGRADE

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Replacing a speaker system is a standard job for Stage Electrics. But what if the venue was outdoors, perched on a cliffside, at the mercy of relentless wind, rain and even the sea's spray?

The Minack is one of the UK's most iconic and picturesque theatres. When an outdated speaker system risked compromising performance quality, Technical Manager Simon Hutchings continued the Minack's long-established relationship with Stage Electrics—tasking us with specifying and supplying technically appropriate, high quality and robust speakers to work with their existing technical infrastructure and satisfy their unique needs.



When we made the inevitable decision to replace our performance speaker system at the Minack, we were always going to call Stage Electrics. Having worked with them for over 15 years, we knew they'd give us the best price, without needing to haggle.

We trusted the products Stage Electrics recommended would be right for us. So, with the combination of price and quality of solution, Stage Electrics offered by far the best value.

Their customer service is impeccable, the whole process ran smoothly without any major hiccups. Which considering we started during lockdown is quite something!

**Simon Hutchings**  
Technical Manager  
The Minack Theatre





## THE CHALLENGE

The Minack's existing speakers had been in use for over 25 years and had since been discontinued by their manufacturer.

As the system began to fail on an increasingly regular basis, fixing the speakers became challenging due to a lack of replacement parts.

Whilst temporary solutions were put in place, a long-term fix became essential to ensure that patrons of the Minack continued to experience the outstanding audio quality for which the venue is renowned.

The unique location of the Minack demanded speakers with an Ingress Protection (IP) rating robust enough to withstand the challenging marine conditions, whilst producing theatre-calibre audio quality.





## THE SOLUTION

For over 15 years, Stage Electrics has been a trusted supplier and technical support partner to the Minack.

Our understanding of their needs streamlined the selection of products we presented. We arranged a demonstration at the venue for the shortlisted speaker ranges that we felt met the Minack's requirements.

The RCF P Series emerged as the preferred choice, impressing everyone with its exceptional sound quality, and with the highest IP rating of all tested speakers.

We supplied 20 RCF MQ80Ps, 23 RCF P3108s and 2 RCF P8105 weatherproof subwoofers, in addition to spare units and parts to be kept on site for immediate support.

Honouring another key part of the brief, we used our position as an RCF accredited dealer to secure an extended warranty agreement which fitted into the Minack's budget.

The extended warranty gave the venue peace of mind and ensured any arising issues would be promptly resolved, without extra cost at the time of repair.

Given the significant improvement in sound quality from the new system, a gradual replacement wasn't practical. Therefore, it became a collaborative effort to change the entire rig swiftly.

Within a week, Simon and his team had replaced every speaker in the venue and repaired or replaced any weathered rigging and electrical connections using components supplied by Stage Electrics.

Tom Martin, Technical Support Manager for RCF UK explains how the P series speakers were used, and why they were the perfect choice for the Minack:

“The two-way P3108 speakers were positioned evenly around the venue. Featuring a high-powered 8” woofer and 1” compression driver, the P3108 offers a high sound pressure level (SPL) from a small cabinet.

20 MQ80P speakers were used as fills in some of the harder to cover listening areas. The MQ80P is a versatile speaker, providing wide dispersion in a small unit, and easily meeting the weatherproof needs of the Minack. Two P8015 15” subwoofers provided low frequency support.

All P series speakers use stainless steel brackets, powder coated aluminium grilles and water-repellent grille backing, to help prevent damage from the elements—making them ideal for outdoor venues.”

The P series top-class weatherproofing was a key factor to selecting it for the Minack. But, there were other influences too. Exceptional musical reproduction and speech intelligibility have seen RCF P series speakers installed in other outdoor venues such as the Borussia Dortmund football stadium and Fort Nelson National Artillery Museum in Portsmouth.

As an accredited UK dealer for RCF, Stage Electrics have a comprehensive knowledge of their products and solutions. We’re not just a reseller, but offer complete customer care from pre-purchase advice to post-installation technical support.

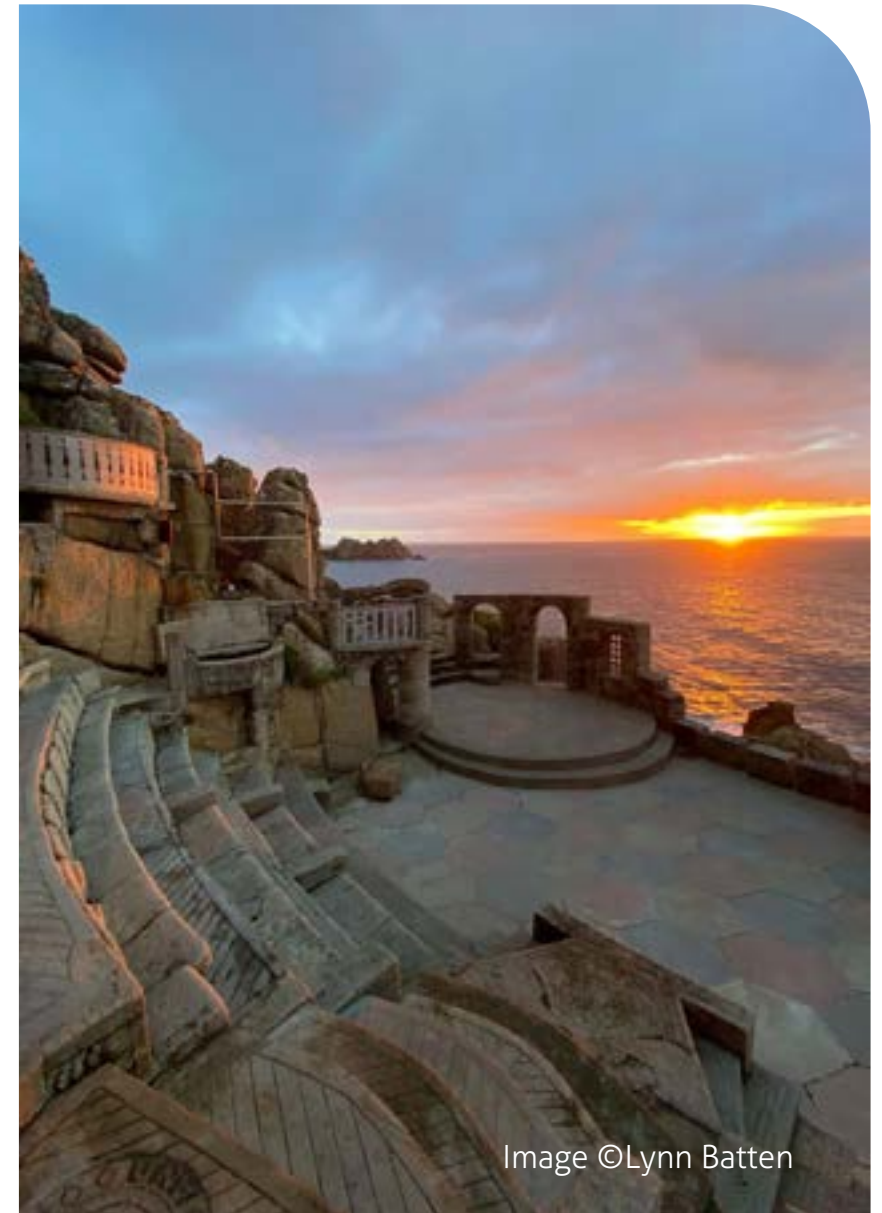
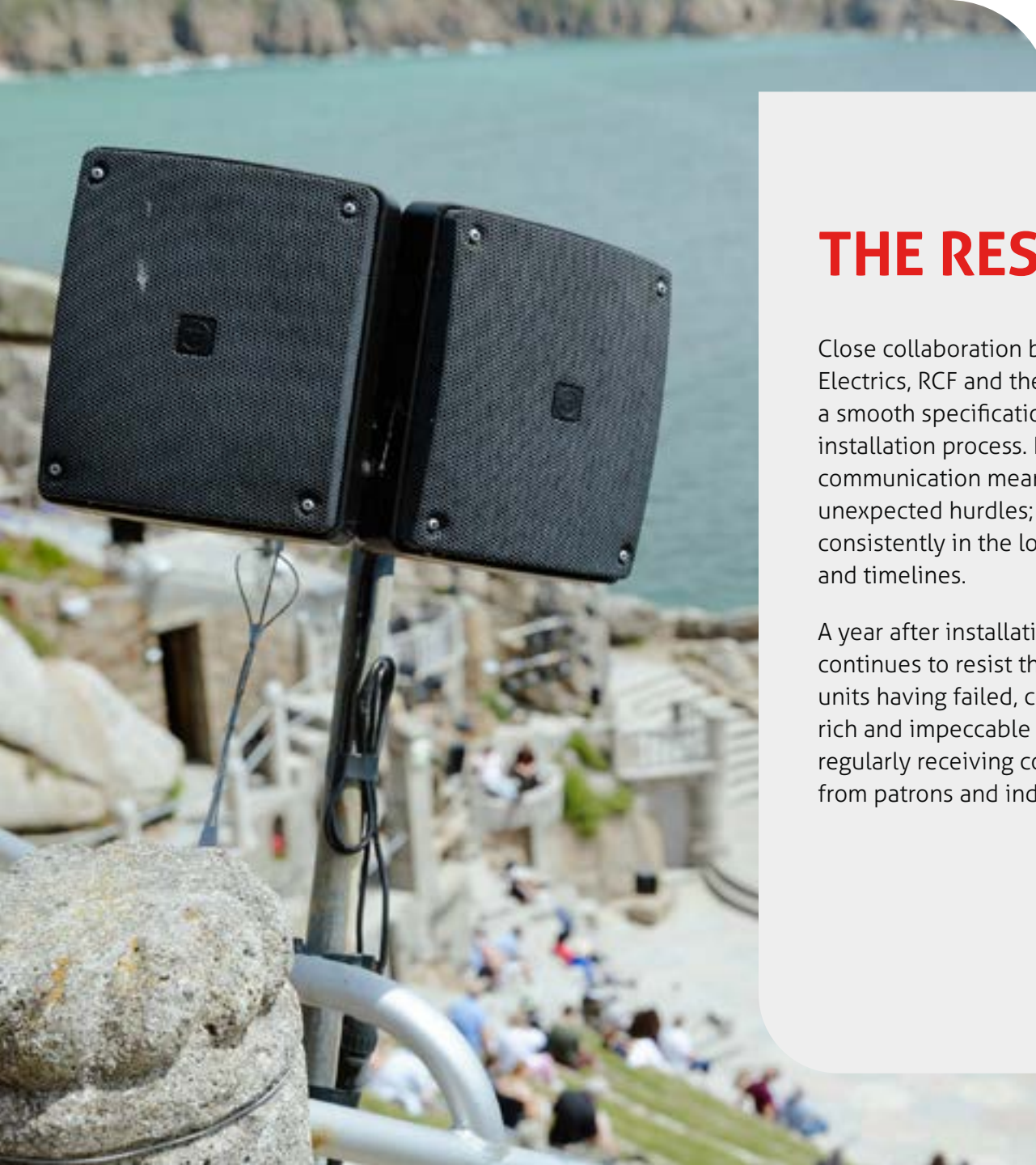


Image ©Lynn Batten



## THE RESULT

Close collaboration between Stage Electrics, RCF and the Minack ensured a smooth specification, ordering and installation process. Regular and transparent communication meant there were no unexpected hurdles; everyone was consistently in the loop regarding updates and timelines.

A year after installation, the RCF system continues to resist the elements, with no units having failed, consistently delivering rich and impeccable audio quality, and regularly receiving complimentary feedback from patrons and industry experts.



Stage Electrics have a virtually unparalleled knowledge of the capability of RCF products, working in partnership with them on the Minack project enabled the client to get the best possible manufacturer/distributor technical support.

It was a privilege for the P series speakers to be considered for such a prestigious venue as the Minack—but right from the first conversation, I was confident these speakers would satisfy the rigorous demands of the venue.

Witnessing how our speakers have withstood the roughest elements day in, day out for over a year and still provide outstanding audio is proof that together, RCF and Stage Electrics found the best solution for the Minack.

**Tom Martin**

Technical Support Manager  
RCF UK

# How Can We Help You?

Stage Electrics provide technical services and products for venues and production companies.

We take care of our clients through the three specialist divisions of Stage Electrics: Projects, Equipment Sales and Venue Services.

## Projects

Our Projects department facilitate a wide range of projects and installations. Our experts will look after all your design, installation and commissioning needs for new-build and refurbishment projects. We work on installations of all scales, from village halls and schools to multi-million-pound projects like the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott or Soho Place in London. Our Projects team are ready to help with as much or as little as you need us to do.

## Equipment Sales

Stage Electrics support thousands of venues and professionals across the UK with their production technology and consumable needs. We stock products by over 100 manufacturers in our Bristol warehouse, many of which are available for same-day dispatch. Our online store is quick and simple to use. If you require personal assistance, our Equipment Sales team would be delighted to provide you with all the help and guidance needed to make a well-informed decision.

## Inspection & Testing

The Stage Electrics Venue Services team will help you maintain a fully functional and legally compliant venue and performance space. We are a NICEIC certified contractor; providing tailored packages for electrical and mechanical inspections as required by BS7671, ISITEE, PUWER and LOLER. Our specialist onsite crew are highly qualified, and DBS checked to enhanced level—the safety and functionality of your venue couldn't be in better hands.

**WE  
MAKE  
PERFORMANCE  
POSSIBLE**



# Let's Talk

If you'd like to learn more about our Equipment Sales services, we'd love to hear from you.

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**03330 142 300**

**hello@stage-electrics.co.uk**

**www.stage-electrics.co.uk**

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