

UNITED KINGDOM

All functioning well on Tunstall tour

KT Tunstall toured the UK in April, eventually alighting in Aberdeen, where Dave Arcari caught up with the crew



Tilde Bruynooghe (monitors)

➤ AN 11-date tour taking in some of the UK biggest and most challenging concert venues has resulted in a big thumbs up for Funktion One from KT Tunstall and her engineers.

For not only has the Funktion One/MC² Audio system from Audio Plus ensured top-quality sound for audiences across the UK, field trials of a new Funktion One monitor have come up trumps in advance of its scheduled launch later this year.

KT's front-of-house engineer Oz Bagnell spec'ed the system for the UK tour and, having heard the new monitors had no hesitation recommending them to monitor engineer Tilde Bruynooghe who was taking a break from her 'regular' job with Franz Ferdinand to do the Tunstall tour.

"I worked with KT for four shows in the US earlier in the year," says Tilde. "And although we were in Australia and Japan before the UK tour, the first UK date at Cambridge Corn Exchange was the first real field test for the new monitors."

"They took a couple of shows to get used to, but they work extremely well and KT is very happy with them, which is the main thing."



Suddenly I see: Ms Tunstall and her rather natty glitter guitar

The monitors were run by Bruynooghe via a Yamaha PM5D desk which brought space-saving benefits both on stage and in the trucks.

Bagnell adds: "I was impressed by the natural sound, which is largely down to the fact that the main body of the sound is on one driver – the high driver doesn't come in 'til the top end so there's a lot of voice 'on paper' and it makes for a fatter, better sound."

Certainly, if the swiftness and ease of the soundchecks at Aberdeen's Exhibition Centre where PSNE caught up with the team on last of the UK dates, was anything to go by, the monitors are doing a grand job of keeping everyone happy. Tunstall uses a variety of acoustic and electric guitars as well as keyboards each night, and plays both solo and with a full band, so monitor and FOH duties are no walk in the park.

Out front, the Aberdeen audience was treated to a remarkably crisp and clear sound thanks to left and right arrays of flown Resolution 5s (10 a side) and downfills (five a side), plus three 2" x 21" bassbins a side.

Bagnell has been working with Funktion One gear since 2004.

"I've got used to the sound of the Funktion One boxes," he says. "They're very exact and extremely detailed, which makes them great for vocals, and we're getting a lot of weight from the system, especially on the bass and kick out of the new subs without any muddiness."

The KT Tunstall dates have seen the system floor stacked, flown and in stacked/flown combination set-ups. Bagnell's preference is for a stacked system but regardless, both he and system technician Mike Hackman find the image is quick and easy to set up. "The Res 5s are a straightforward point-and-shoot box – you don't need computers and lasers to set them. Nice and simple!" he says.

Bagnell's FOH control came courtesy of a Midas XL4 chosen despite increasing trends towards digital desks.



Wide shot of stage and flown array



One of the two flown Funktion One arrays with 10 Resolution 5s and five downfills

"I fully embrace digital gear when I use it," he says. "But the Midas simply sounds better than anything else, and analogue produces that third harmonic distortion that our ears seem to like. Midas is always my first choice."

The rig was driven by MC² amps via XTA DP448 processors and completed with a range of Avalon and DBX 160XT compressors; XTA CQ600 graphics; Eventide, TC MC2000 and 3000 effects all from Audio Plus... and Bagnell's own 30-year-old AMS RMX reverb which he favours for KT's vocal. 🎸