

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 2011

Grass Valley wireless cameras deliver up close and personal shots to millions of viewers in over 45 countries.



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EVENT

Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) 2011

EQUIPMENT

4X Grass Valley LDK 8000 Elite Cameras, each equipped with integrated HD Wireless Transmission Systems

EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
DÜSSELDORF 2011

BACKGROUND

The Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) is the world's biggest non-sporting live TV event and a strong household name among hundreds of millions of people in Europe. Every year, 100 to 125 million people in over 45 countries watch the televised competition.

The ESC is produced each May under the auspices of the European Broadcasting Union, and is a state-of-the-art, world-class television production of a competition between songs representing the respective countries of the participating EBU members. Only active members of the EBU are eligible to take part in the Eurovision Song Contest and are authorized to apply.

Each year, 25 countries are represented in a spectacular final. The winner is chosen by televoters and professional juries in the 43 participating countries. Traditionally, the winning country is invited to host the next running of the event.

FEEL YOUR HEART BEAT

In 2011, the visual identity of the Eurovision Song Contest was themed "Feel your heart beat!" The theme refers to the great emotions which music can evoke—and which belong to the distinctive character of Europe's favorite TV show: Enthusiasm, heart beating, excitement, love, and passion.

"There are no limits to these emotions, there are no language barriers. The theme also refers to the fact that every song has its individual rhythm," Thomas Schreiber, Executive Producer of NDR explained. To follow this guideline was an exciting challenge for the whole ESC team to design, produce, and broadcast one of the most spectacular events in 2011.

The venue of ESC 2011 in Düsseldorf offered a perfect setup for the biggest music show in the world: 35,000 fans from all over the globe found their place around the center stage in a gigantic football arena which was transferred

into a 15,000m² (161,458 ft.²) TV studio. A LED backdrop of more than 1,250 m² (13,454 ft.²) offered every option to create individual designs for each of the 43 entries within seconds using video content or classical lighting, in addition to almost 2,500 moving lights, beams, and profiles, as well as the kinetic elements of the stage.

The ESC 2011 was produced and broadcast in high-definition 1080i with 5.1 surround sound and two-channel stereo. The signal was available all over Europe as well as in Australia and New Zealand. For host broadcaster ARD, there were two large HD OB vans on location: one from Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR) and one from Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR). Both OB vans have pullout extensions to accommodate the personnel necessary to handle a 29-camera production.

A key role in the production of the ESC 2011 were four Grass Valley™ LDK 8000 Elite cameras with wireless adapters. Two of them were shoulder cameras



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and covered the singers on the way to the stage and after their performance in the green room, while the two others were mounted on a Steadicam and a Sachtler Artemis and were on stage with the artists during their performance and delivered some of the most attractive shots of each singer.

Other attractive images were shot by a wide range of special cameras: the Spidercam, a 360° wireless Railcam on a SAM dolly with Mambo remote head from Eurogrip; a Truckrunner from r-t-s with a Nettmann Mini C remote head on a ST6 tower; and the 2D RopeClimber from r-t-s running a distance of 112m (367 ft.) under the roof of the arena. Also in operation were three jibs and a Supertechno crane from MAT. However the advantage of being close to the artists on stage and cover the emotions of the singers during their performances only could be delivered by the Grass Valley wireless cameras.



Story courtesy of LIVE-PRODUCTION.TV.

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