



2011 Parnelli Awards Celebrate Innovation and Excellence

By the time Ed Wannebo took the stage at the end of the evening to accept the Parnelli Lifetime Achievement Award, it was already an entertaining evening filled with surprises.

Then Kenny Chesney walked out on stage. A true man crush ensued.

Chesney has had Wannebo working as production manager on his tours for a decade, and a tradition of his shows includes Wannebo running out halfway through to hand him a special hand-crafted margarita. On a Saturday night at the end of October, Chesney returned the favor. A surprised Ed got a big hug, the drink, and then Chesney addressed the Parnelli audience.

"I was backstage watching the movie they made, and I learned things about Ed I didn't know!" he proclaimed. He went on to say what an important member of his team Wannebo is and congratulated him on receiving the highest honor one can receive in the live event industry. Chesney may have flown into Orlando a few hours earlier for Wannebo, but it meant something to every one of the nearly 600 live event professionals in that room that he came to honor one of our own in person.

The show, by almost all accounts the best ever, would honor those working on some of the biggest tours of the year including U2, Kid Rock, Lady Gaga, Roger Waters, Michael Bubl , Rush, Taylor Swift and Foo Fighters.

Flo & Eddie

FOH

The show began with a big surprise, too: While it was no secret that Turtle members Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan would be hosting show, no one expected them to come out to Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" in meat capes and wigs. They quickly shed the costumes and started telling stories of their time on the road (they still perform regularly). But it wasn't all jokes as Kaylan at one point said, "You guys are the true heroes of this business."

In what would be the first of several references to recreational pharmaceuticals, they assured the crowd that they "hadn't sold out" and "were still druggies" ... it's just that now "the drugs are Lipitor ... Viagra ..."

Before handing out transportation awards, they told of when they were breaking into the big time, they got to get on a bus with Tom Jones and other stars of the mid-1960s. Their excitement was seriously diminished when as the bus pulled out they realized that they would be sleeping on the floor

The duo then handed out awards for Coach Company (Hemphill Bros.), Truck-



Parnelli Audio Innovator Kenton Forsythe at the podium, and with family members (right)

ing (Upstaging), and Freight Forwarding (Rocket Cargo).

Deserving Shout Outs

FOH

"Welcome to the 11th annual Parnelli Awards," said Executive Producer, publisher of *PLSN/FOH/SD* magazines Terry Lowe. "I understand that [Parnelli Visionary] Jim Fackert's first ambition was to be a literal rocket scientist. Jim, you didn't make that, but you ended up in career where you were with people who were very, very high."

Lowe also gave shout outs to Audio Innovator Kenton Forsythe and Lifetime Achievement honoree Wannebo, before thanking all the sponsors (nearly 50) who made the evening possible. "Each and every one of these Parnelli Award sponsors understands the importance of our in-

dustry spending one night a year so that outstanding individuals and companies can get on this stage for their well-earned honors," he said.

Audio Honors

FOH

Flo & Eddie returned to the stage again to hand out some sound awards, including Audio System Tech, to which they said, "That job must be pretty cool because we don't even know what it is!" The Award went to Jo Ravitch for his work with U2.

The spotlight then turned to the Hometown Hero Lighting Company of the Year. "Talk about heroes among heroes," said Volman. "These guys who work at these regional and local festivals work really hard. And they don't even get the chicks!"

That award went to Gemini Light,

Sound, Video of Dallas, TX. The Hometown Hero Regional Sound Award went to Production Support Group of Tallahassee, FL.

Audio Engineer Buford Jones and TMB's Marshall Bissett came up next. Jones asked Bissett, a lighting guy, why he was up there. "Well, the video people have taken all the lighting guy's jobs, so I'm reduced to this ... handing out audio awards," he said. "Sounds like a promotion to me!" Jones quipped. They handed out this year's winners in the Sound Company (Solotech), Monitor Engineer (Kevin "Tater" McCarthy), and FOH Mixer (Brad Madix) categories.

Topping off the audio section portion was the fitting tribute to Kenton Forsythe, founder of EAW and the mind behind many of the most advanced speaker designs since the mid 1970s. His longtime friend and frequent collaborator, David Robb, now senior associate of Acoustic Dimensions, spoke of their meeting and long professional and personal relationship. "Kenton, we go back a long way," he said, introducing the documentary on Forsythe. "I've always been proud to know you as a fellow audiophile, and more importantly, as a friend."

In Memoriam

FOH

"Tonight we celebrate the industry and visit with friends new and old," declared Parnelli Board Member and video director, Mark Haney. He then introduced the poignant *In Memoriam* video tribute to all those of the live event production industry who passed away, including audio giants Sidney Harman and Bruce Jackson.

Haney then took a lighter turn by handing out the Production Manager of the Year (Arthur Kemish/Taylor Swift) and Tour Manager of the Year (Andrew Zweck/Roger Waters). As neither could attend, Haney cracked, "I will see that they get them unless I'm successful in selling them at the after show party."

Flo & Eddie returned to talk video, and played a compilation clip of bits from "videos" they made in the 1960s. These were shot fast and cheap on black and white film, and brought a lot of laughs. Clearly they never pretended to be cool rock stars, and as these short films of their songs proved, did not hesitate in letting their geek flag fly.

Indispensable Technology Honors

FOH

FOH editor Mark Frink and *PLSN* editor Justin Lang came out to present the "Indispensable Technology" awards for Audio, Lighting, Video and Staging. The audio product garnering the most votes was

The 11th Annual Parnelli Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award: Ed Wannebo
Audio Innovator Award: Kenton Forsythe
Parnelli Visionary Award: Jim Fackert

FOH Mixer: Brad Madix
Monitor Mixer: Kevin "Tater" McCarthy
Audio System Tech: Jo Ravitch
Lighting Designer: Richard "Nook" Schoenfeld
Set/Scenic Designer: Baz Halpin, Chris Nyfield
Video Director: David Davidian
Production Manager: Arthur Kemish
Tour Manager: Andrew Zweck

Sound Company: Solotech
Lighting Company: PRG
Hometown Hero Sound Company: Production Support Group
Hometown Hero Lighting Company: Gemini Stage Lighting
Staging Company: SGPS/ShowRig
Rigging Company: Atlanta Rigging Systems
Set Construction Company: Tait Towers
Video Company: Chaos Visual Productions
Pyro Company: Strictly FX

Coach Company: Hemphill Brothers
Trucking Company: Upstaging Inc.
Freight Forwarding Company: Rock-It Cargo

Indispensable Technology "IT" Awards:
Audio: Martin Audio (MLA)
Lighting: Clay Paky (Sharp)
Video: Coolux (Pandoras Box Widget Designer v3)
Staging: Stageline (SL50 Mobile Stage)



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Martin Audio's MLA, and the award was accepted by Anthony Taylor.

Then came Hank McHugh, production manager for Dave Matthews Band and a longtime golf buddy of Ed Wannebo's. Speaking of his natural reluctance to be "on this side of the microphone," a noticeably uneasy McHugh nevertheless noted that, "when they asked me to come here and give my best friend a Lifetime Achievement award, how could I say no? So here I am."

McHugh spoke of the early days of their friendship, after they first met while working tours for Hall & Oates in 1982. "We immediately started hanging out and playing a lot of golf together, and sometimes even drinking a little, if you can believe that."

"Most people will tell you that when you do a tour with Ed, he is always very together and a lot of fun. He always keeps a very positive attitude even when it's shitty (oops) ... that's part of what makes Ed so good at what he does. I am damn proud and lucky to call him my friend all these years. Okay, enough out of me. Now let's watch the movie."

Wannebo, like Forsythe and Fackert, came to the stage amid a standing ovation at the end of his documentary. After receiving Chesney's celebratory (and well-earned) margarita, Wannebo gave a funny, touching speech.

Lowé came out again with Flo & Eddie to say goodnight, and when the former Turtles duo launched into a live version



Ed Wannebo got a surprise visit, and celebratory margarita, from Kenny Chesney



of "Happy Together," he was as surprised as anyone when they invited him to sing along.

Audio production for the Parnelli Awards was once again provided by Larry Epstein's Paradise Show & Design, and

EAW's Jeff Rocha and Bernie Broderick provided 8-box NTL 720 arrays and front-fills for the sound system, mixed by Paradise Audio head Jerry Jendrzejak on a Yamaha M7CL-48 console.

Next year's Parnelli Awards ceremony,

the 12th annual gala, will take place in Las Vegas. Videos from the 2011 celebration will soon be posted on the Parnelli Awards website, at parnelliawards.com. **F** **O** **H**

Standing Ovation

F O H

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Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan, a.k.a. Flo & Eddie, with meat capes.



Dean Roney of Solotech, the 2011 Parnelli Sound Company of the Year

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Dave Shadoan accepts the Parnelli for Kevin "Tater" McCarthy from presenter Buford Jones



Editors Mark Frink (FOH) and Justin Lang (PLSN)



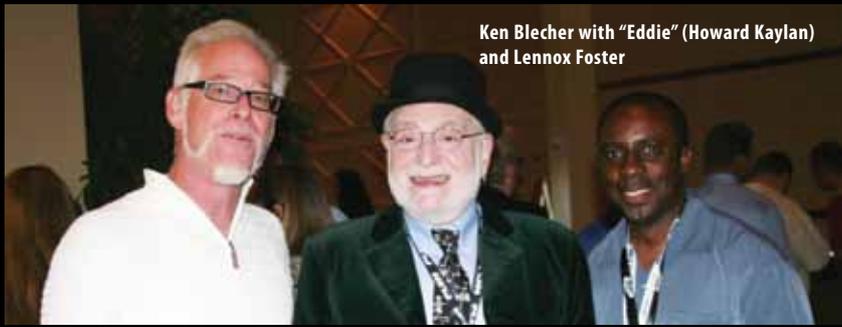
Mark Volman (a.k.a. "Flo"), Parnelli executive producer Terry Lowe and Kevin M. Mitchell



Martin Audio's Anthony Taylor with IT Award

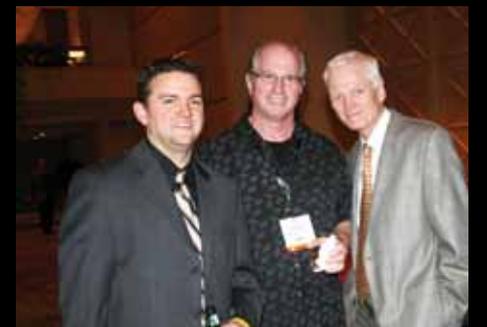


Rob Hofkamp with Dave Shadoan



Ken Blecher with "Eddie" (Howard Kaylan) and Lennox Foster

**"You guys are the true heroes of this business."
—Howard Kaylan, a.k.a. "Eddie" of Flo & Eddie**



Jeff Rocha, John Wiggins and Frank Loyko

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David Robb introduced Kenton Forsythe



Terry Cain proves that sound guys can do lighting, too.

We Would Like to Come Out From Behind the Curtain



to Thank Everyone for Voting for Us.

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