

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY SHOWGROUND TRANSFORMS INTO GLADIATOR DOME

Sydney Showground's signature venue, The Dome, was drilled, rigged and transformed from a 7,200 square metre, pillar-less space, into an impressive 'Gladiator Dome' for Channel 7's series of *Gladiator*, premiering this Sunday, 30 March 2008.

A six month long project from initial business development plans to final bump-out, *Gladiators* – a dual live production and television program – was an all encompassing assignment for the Sydney Showground team. The project required finite planning and preparation to ensure an aesthetically-appealing production, whilst maintaining the safety of all personnel and meeting structural guidelines.

"The sheer size of the *Gladiator* project was quite amazing, but the results – as you will see – were well worth it. Everything from logistical preparation to catering requirements had to be carefully planned, implemented and reviewed to ensure we were using the best possible procedures for each filming session," said Kim Seccombe, Event Planning and Delivery Manager, Sydney Showground.

One of the most prominent challenges was the construction of the *Gladiator Arena* which was built inside the Dome and was required to support a massive amount of weight whilst having the functional capabilities to quickly swap from one *Gladiator* game to another. Engineers were consulted on this vital part of the project to ensure safety regulations were always met.

"Ropes were rigged into the roof to stabilise the structure and holes were created in the ground to ensure there was adequate support for the weight. The requirements to create the *Gladiator arena* were a major challenge which required expert consultation to bring it all together successfully," said Seccombe.

The different structures for each game were then built within the *Gladiator Arena*, and additional power resources were needed to guarantee adequate power supplies were available at all times.

Sydney Showground's Food and Beverage team were kept busy preparing individual meals suited to each *Gladiator's* specific dietary and nutritional requirements. They also managed all food and beverage needs for production crews and ran food outlets for audience members.

The *Gladiator* production utilised several of Sydney Showground's venues, including:

- The Dome
- Hall 2
- The Dome Theaterette

- Somerville Room
- Pearson Room
- North Pod
- South Pod
- Several mobile rooms were purpose built and housed in Hall 2

Equipment and production storage areas, green rooms and VIP spaces were spread amongst the above spaces. A custom-built gym was also constructed onsite to ensure gladiators and challengers could train in preparation for the grueling physical challenges that are synonymous with the game.

Around-the-clock security was supplied by ACES security.

"The entire *Gladiator* production was an exciting but challenging project for the team at Sydney Showground. It was fantastic to see the potential of the Dome – the largest structure of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere – as it was transformed into a 21st century *Gladiator Arena*," said Kim Seccombe.

About Sydney Showground

Located in the geographic heart of Sydney, award-winning Sydney Showground comprises 20 unique venues which can be customised to suit any style of business event, from 50 to 4000 people. Continuous investment in infrastructure; state-of-the-art management systems; flexible indoor/outdoor spaces; highly awarded catering; and staff dedicated to providing client solutions means dependable, reliable quality every time.

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