

MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS 2005: EVERLAST PRODUCTIONS ROCK HOTEL MTV WITH EV, DYNACORD & MIDAS



For the four days leading up to the MTV Video Music Awards, Miami's Doubletree Surfcomber hotel became "Hotel MTV", setting the scene for the infamously unpredictable awards with an array of live entertainment and poolside high jinx.

2005 VMA awards emcee Diddy (Sean "Puffy" Combs) cut the ribbon opening the venue on Wednesday, August 24th. Hallandale, Florida-based Everlast Productions were drafted in to provide sound and light for the Hotel MTV shows, which included performances by Ying Yang Twins, The Bravery, David Banner, Pitbull and many more. The main stage at Hotel MTV was perched on the far end of the hotel's pool, and featured a PA built around a Dynacord Cobra modular line-array system, EV monitors and Midas mixing consoles. One of the Cobra's many advantages is its rapid setup/teardown time, something that came in especially handy during the week when Hurricane Katrina loomed large over Southern Florida. Everlast Special Event Manager Brian Gallant explained:

"Obviously the hurricane was on everybody's minds in the week leading up to the awards. We were ready to go on the preceding Wednesday, but were aware that the first night's show might also be our last. Sure enough, after that evening's show we had to strike the whole outside stage due to the predicted heavy rain and wind. This was made considerably less of a headache because we were using our Cobra rigs – no other system is as quick to unpack and stack or teardown and load in than Cobra. We packed the whole PA away on our trucks and waited for the all clear, which we got on Friday lunchtime. We loaded up again, went back, set up the rig, and were ready for Saturday's show like nothing had happened."

Gallant added: "Once again, we combined our Cobra-2 and Cobra-4 rigs to create one large system, extending Cobra's plug and play operability by tweaking the parameters on the dedicated CSR drive racks. This simply gives us the same Cobra user-friendliness on a bigger scale. We duplicated the mainstage system for a playback rig outside the hotel terrace facing the beach, so everyone out there could enjoy the show too. Though the show schedule got off to a shaky start, we were able to quickly adapt and provide great sound, thanks largely to the long hours our FOH engineer Gus Fuentes put in, and to the time saved by using the Cobra."

In addition to the main Cobra rigs, Everlast used Dynacord Madras systems in the indoor club area, EV Xw15 stage monitors (powered by EV P-RL amps), Midas Legend 3000 consoles for both FOH positions, and a Midas Siena for monitors. EV microphones were used on all the drums.

Though rain didn't stop play for the remainder of the festivities, things still got a little wet and wild: "During Pitbull's act the crowd was jumping around like crazy, which tends to happen when the bass is blasting through Cobra PWH subs. One of the Xw15 monitors was accidentally kicked into the pool to be quickly retrieved by the crew -- there's video footage of them pulling the box out by the speaker cable! Amazingly, the woofer was still pumping as it was being dragged back to dry land -- sound was still coming out even though it had been completely submerged! That was admittedly a pretty cool effect, to see the water being blasted out through the grill by the moving air. That particular box is still drying out right now, and we'll assess the damage later -- we may have to replace some insulation and fix the crossovers, but I wouldn't be surprised if it works just fine after that!"

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