

wysiwyg BRINGS BIZARRO TO REALITY

wysiwyg design has reached new heights at Six Flags New England on the recently remodeled roller coaster, BIZARRO. This newly-enhanced roller coaster offers high-speed thrills combined with high tech special effects in a unique story-telling adventure.



Bizarro Roller Coaster at Six Flags

Six Flags is the largest family theme park and waterpark in New England, with 235 acres and 46 attractions. The park dates back to 1840, originally under the Riverview Amusement Park name and re-branded Six Flags New England in 2000.

Lighting Designer and System Consultant Tony Hansen of Techni-Lux in Orlando, Florida created an electrifying lighting scheme for the thrill ride using wysiwyg and a CSP video to prove the concept and help illustrate the animation possibilities. Techni-Lux was approached for the project based on recommendations of their expertise in themed attractions. Hansen says, "wysiwyg was the tool we used to help demonstrate the ability of our design concept and ultimately gain the trust of the client that our concepts were feasible in their environment and requirements."



Rendering of the Bizarro Roller Coaster Project

The ride is themed around the DC Comics character Bizarro, best known as a strange Superman-like creature from a parallel Earth known as Htrae where daily life is the exact opposite of Earth. Htrae's superhero, Bizarro, possesses traits and powers the opposite of Superman, such as freeze vision, heat breath, and x-ray hearing. Six Flags ride designers not only wanted to design an exciting coaster, but also wanted to take travelers through Bizarro's world.



Photo of Bizarro Roller Coaster

The coaster is floorless, giving riders the sensation of flying as their feet dangle above the track. The three minute and fifteen second adventure takes riders through a 146-foot (48.5-metres) climb and speeds up to 61 miles-per-hour (100 kilometersper-hour) through Bizarro's freeze vision "cool zone." The rush continues through seven loops - including 114-foot (35-metres) vertical and 96-foot (30-metres) dive loops - blasting past bursts of Bizarro's fire breath and racing by bizarre scenes and illusions.

The mind-boggling 3,985-foot (1.2-kilometer) twisting journey of storytelling and high-tech elements ends by sending riders head first into a spiked-shaped Auger of Doom, set inside interlocking corkscrews. Throughout the entire journey, riders experience the adrenaline rush with special effect lighting and heart-pounding, on-board audio taking them to a whole new level of imagination.

The project required the use of high-powered LEDs to be visible in full sunlight and still be durable enough to withstand the constant vibration caused by the coaster train passing at over 60mph (100kph) every few minutes. Hansen designed an "un-Earthly" tunnel using 105 Pulsar Chromastrip X3TC units to create a colorful passageway. The lighting concept took quite a bit of





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design and testing to convince the client that LED technology was up to the requirements for daylight viewing. Once the project was approved, all of the pre-programming was done on ShowCAD Artist using the *wysiwyg* plug-in to previsualize the animations and coordinate the sequence timings. Hansen concludes: "As they say 'A picture is truly worth a thousand words' and an animation is worth a job."

This is far from the first project where Techni-Lux and Hansen have used *wysiwyg*. Other projects include the Castle at Walt

Disney World Florida, Brainwash & Disco H2O rides at Wet-n-Wild Florida, Jungle Boogie Ride at Chula Vista resort Wisconsin Dells, WI, as well as theme rides all the way to Copenhagen and Belgium. It was also used on the Parnelli Awards 2005-2009. More information can be found at <u>www.techni-lux.com</u>

Bizarro is just another one of the variety of jobs that can be accomplished, and won, using *wysiwyg* as your tool of choice. Great job, Tony!



Photos of Bizarro

A video of the thrill ride can be viewed at <u>http://www.techni-lux.com/default.aspx?tabid=106</u>. Additional videos are available at <u>www.seetheride.com</u>.

