



WORLDWIDE ENTERTAINMENT SOLUTIONS

Featuring: TWISTER: RIDE IT OUT



CLIENT

Universal Studios Florida

PROJECT TYPE

Rides & Shows

PROJECT LOCATION

Orlando, Florida

ITEC'S ROLE

Create show set drawings for the attraction's two major scenes. Design, install, and program computerized show control system to monitor and control all show elements including video, audio, special effects and an actual five-story-tall indoor funnel cloud.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Based on the hit film, Twister, this movie-based show located at Universal Studios Orlando allows guests to experience one of nature's most destructive forces - the tornado. Twister: Ride It Out makes the wrath of nature appear realistic. ITEC designed the themed environment and one-of-a-kind technologies to make it all believable. The bulk of the design and production work was completed using ITEC's in-house talent.



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SCOPE OF WORK

- Design detailed scenic spaces that replicate the effects of a tornado strike.
- Safely trigger dozens of special effects, video cues, music cues, and sound effects in precise synchronization 10 times every hour.
- Create a control system capable of generating and maintaining the world's largest indoor funnel cloud.



THE ITEC SOLUTION

ITEC using client-provided verbal descriptions, concept sketches, and movie stills, created the show set drawings for Twister's two major scenes: a tornado-ravaged home interior and the prairie drive-in where the funnel cloud forms. The latter show set uses two-point forced perspective to compress a drive-in movie complex and the vast Kansas prairie into a 120 ft. x 60 ft. space. Several forced-perspective study models were also constructed in order to arrange the many set elements and assure that the illusion of great depth would be convincing.

Additionally, ITEC designed and fabricated the Twister show control system in its UL-approved shop and then installed and programmed it at the show site. The system interfaces with 15 special effects subsystems, each of which controls as many as a dozen different effects, video and/or audio cues (often simultaneously).

The attraction's namesake funnel cloud is generated by over two-dozen fans that circulate almost 2 million cubic feet of air per minute. State-of-the-art variable frequency was also used by ITEC to provide the show's vortex control system and drive the precise and variable fan speeds to produce the 12-foot wide, 50-foot-tall indoor tornado.



ABOUT ITEC

ITEC Entertainment Corporation is the global industry leader of award-winning, entertainment solutions that ignite the dreams of hundreds of millions of people all over the world. ITEC's culture of performance and innovation pushes the frontiers of themed entertainment design, production and technology to new heights. Founded in 1986, ITEC has delivered over 300 of the most successful and comprehensive guest experiences.