

# NOEA recognises Andy's contribution to the industry

EXPERIENCED event organiser Andy Cotton has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to the industry at the National Outdoor Events Association Awards – his fourth award in as many years.

The 2006 NOEA Tribute Awards Dinner, held at Chateau Impney, Worcestershire, in March, recognises those who have achieved the very best in practices, standards and status in the World of Outdoor Events.

Andy Cotton of TAO Productions was honoured with the award of "Tribute of Excellence" presented to him by Terry Waller, general council of NOEA and managing director of CoverEx International. The award gives recognition to those individuals who have achieved the highest level of excellence in relation to a service and has made a major contribution to the professionalism of the Industry.

The award coincides with the major expansion of TAO, details to be announced next month.

Mr Cotton, who also lectures for the Home Office, is respected for his tenacious attitude and frank approach, and has been responsible for organising major music, sporting and corporate events world-wide.

His award winning year has included working with ex-Deep Purple, Whitesnake and Rainbow manager John Coletta on events for Sir Elton John, Jamiroquai, Lenny Kravitz and Rod

Stewart, and shows with Girls Aloud, Lemar, Tony Hadley of Spandau Ballet, The Osmonds and McFly.

Other accolades include in 2003 and 2004 The Event Industry Awards – "Event Organiser of the Year" and in 2005 The Total Production International Award – "Production Manager of the Year".

When hearing of the announcement, John Coletta said: "This is very much deserved, the work of Andy and his team this year for me was exemplary."

Dick Massey, of Irish movie band The Commitments, added: "He just gets better every year."

Tributes have poured in since the award was announced including one from jungle celebrity and pop icon Jimmy Osmond, ex-Steps member Claire Richards and Blue band members Antony Costa and Lee Ryan.

Mr Cotton said: "I'm delighted to receive this award and would like to thank the crews and artists that I've worked with over the past year."

2006 sees another busy year for TAO, which kicked off January with the HBOS Christmas Party at The Cardiff International Arena, and looks set to continue with shows for David Coverdale & Whitesnake, Deep Purple in Spain, Jools Holland, The Drifters, and a 40th Anniversary Football Match England v Germany called 'Legends of the Ball'.



Andy Cotton, of TAO Productions, with his award of 'Tribute of Excellence'.

## Back from the future at the annual convention