

Introduction & Summary

Aspire Katara Hospitality was in talks with Rhett and his production team to produce a live show that would run twice a night, one in English and the other in Arabic, for the length of the 10 day 2012 Dhow Festival located on the beach of the cultural village of Katara in Doha, Qatar. The live stunt show was going to reenact the historical event when the Al Rayyan (a 120 ft Dhow) sank in 1972 with 80 people on board during a horrible storm while crossing the Persian Gulf during a hunting trip to Iran with falcons. The production was going to include a cast of 20 actors, sound, lighting, pyro, EFX, and the construction of a custom set over the water of a temporary marina. Construction on the set started as soon as the concept talks began. The frame and hull of a 60 ft prop Dhow was constructed to act as center stage and sink at the end of the show.

The show was going to include the following elements:

- Script and soundtrack for both one English version and one Arabic version each night
- Show control board
- Simulation of a storm with lighting, water hoses, and wave machines
- A sinking boat connected to a barge with a hydraulic arm anchored to a block of concrete set into a dredged out hole on the sea floor
- Pyrotechnics to simulate an exploding and sinking boat
- Projection system with three operational Dhow masts and sails that would raise and lower during the show
- Live falcons from a falcon handling sanctuary in Dubai
- A drum circle
- Props
- A choir of children singers
- Up-lighting of all 100 Dhow in the marina

After a meeting in Doha at the Katara offices, the production appeared to be running full steam ahead; however, due to time constraints, air freight shipping costs, and budgetary issues the production was canceled approximately 6 weeks before what was going to be opening night.