



Institute of Amateur Cinematographers



Southern Counties

January - February 2010

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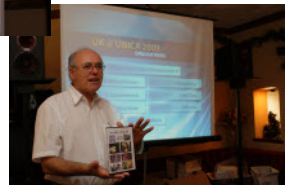
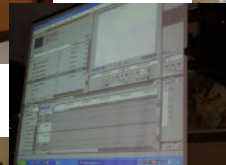
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Another Great SoCo Weekender

Another packed hotel full of conventioners enjoyed a weekend of lectures, demonstrations, competitions and top movies at the SoCo Bournemouth Weekender.

Watch this space for confirmation of next years event.



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Pauline Dennis Reports....

New & Rejoined:

Mr Robert Cochran

Mr Dennis Fallows

Mr A G Howells

Mr Roger Lane

Mrs R Nichols

Mr Ron Rook

Mrs Susie Walker

Winchester Photographic Society

Mr T Williams

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Mr Nick Goodman

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Chairman's Chat



This event really has become the Highlight of the SoCo year! It is so nice to see friends from the Region and indeed other Regions as well.

Thank you all for coming.

I am told every year the event gets better and better, and what a kick off to the weekend we had this time. Friday evening Julian Baldwin gave a brilliant demonstration on the use of microphones and sound.

The hints and tips were so useful and I particularly found the different microphones for different uses very helpful.



Thank you so much Julian for such an entertaining evening, and we are so pleased to welcome you to the SoCo Committee.

In 2012 we are hosting BIAFF so we welcome all the help from members in the Region who would be willing to become involved, however much or little time spared, all appreciated.

The usual Competitions were held throughout the weekend and the Lucky Dip on the Saturday always creates a very popular light hearted evening. The SoCo Roadshow was shown in the

afternoon to those who were not so keen to go to the shops and spend their 'coffers' but have no fear, the wives did that!

On the Sunday morning Pip gave another of his excellent demonstrations on some of the latest Editing Products. For all you editors out there this was a wealth of information. O.k. perhaps some of you are not using the latest editing techniques, but I have found I have been able to apply some of the tips to my own system, would you believe, some of which I never even realized I had!!



Thank you Pip, an excellent morning.

If you have never been to a SoCo Weekender, then you are missing out. Watch out for the event next year and why not give it a try!

All the Best for 2010

Anne.

Editorial

Hi, first an apology for not being in a position to get this mag' out as a "hard copy" edition and only as an electronic copy.

With many things conspiring against me, which I won't go into here, it was not possible to meet the deadline needed to get it to Garth and then out again to you in the post. All being well, I'll be back on target for the next edition.

Well, we had another great weekend at Bournemouth with all our usual delegates and a few new ones. The weather was kinder to us than last year so it was all the more pleasant when we went out and about the town.

I am grateful to those who sat through another live demonstration from me! This year I looked at the products available from Digital Juice, who provide tools to make your NLE efforts easier, and some might say more professional. [Digital Juice](#)

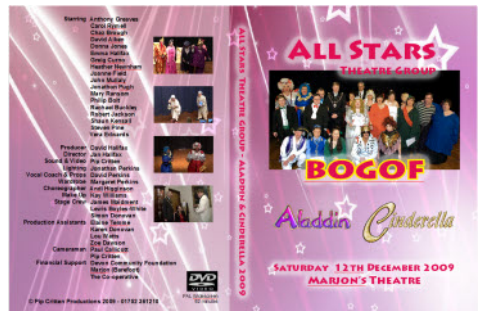
I use their Digital Fonts which make the creation of logos and titles so easy, flexible and much more professional than I could achieve using just my own skills. The examples below took just a couple of minutes to create

Aladdin
Cinderella



Editor
Pip Critten writes...

Not only can they be used in your NLE projects can be exported to the DVD menus, sleeves and programmes which helps to maintain a corporate and consistent look to your products.



I also use a lot of these moving graphics in creating titles and overlays. Again still shots are used in creation of DVD sleeves as shown above.

The other products I dem'd come from [Smart Sound](#). They supply music in an extremely clever format. Most library music comes in 30 sec, 60 sec and full length tracks. This company is different. You select a music track, then tell the programme how long you want it to last and it creates various options for you to try out. When you have made your selection it creates the track for you.

There are tutorials on their site you can look at before deciding to commit yourselves.

Keep Smiling, Pip



'WARNING FROM POLICE'

This applies to both women and men. Beware of paper on the back window of your vehicle, new way to do car jackings (not a joke)

Heads up everyone! Please, keep this circulating.

You cross the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into reverse.

As you look into the rear view mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into park and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, that is when the carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They almost mow you down as they speed off in your car.

And guess what, ladies? I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised!

Please use extreme caution and beware of this new scheme that is now being used.

If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, just leave it there and drive away. Remove the paper later when you get home. And be thankful that you read this.

I hope you will forward this to friends and family, especially to women. A

purse contains all kinds of personal information and identification documents, and you certainly do not want this to fall into the wrong hands.

Alan Creamer

A couple of issues ago I expressed my views on video, video clubs and various matters arising, including the on-line video sites such as [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

I still find my video colleagues looking down their nose at such sites but it must be remembered that millions of video camera owners put their videos (The Good, Bad and the Awful) onto these sites and certainly have no desire to join the old fogies of the average video club.

This issue of the SoCo News somehow reinforces my opinions.

Whilst many members are more than happy to create programmes for our interests and competitions, they are not so keen on travelling miles to public showings of these films. What do other think of that statement?

However, I digress, so back to YouTube. I have recently found a practical use for videos on YouTube.

My main hat is (as your worthy Editor, Pip will know) is magical entertaining and wishing to sell props I now no longer use, advertised 3 in a magicians only web forum For Sale section.

I then made videos of the props in action and posted them to YouTube. Result – 2 out of 3 items sold on the first day and the buyers remarked how

useful the videos were. The advertising costs to me were absolutely nothing.

Today I received the Film & Video Maker along with the paper version of the SoCo News.

I made an interesting discovery (well to me it is) I now receive my SoCo News by email and greatly enjoy the quality and full colour photos etc.

Sadly - What I discover is that having read the e-mail version, I leave it intending to return to it another time. Needless to say this I never get around to doing so.

However with the paper version I read it, put it down on my coffee table and frequently dip into its contents again and again.

This in fact prompted this letter. Can you see what I'm getting at? Somehow the paper version is better in some respects than the full colour e-mail version! Has anyone comments on this?

On another subject. One of my computer monitors went 'on the blink' after over 2 years use so I was prepared to bite the bullet and get a new one. On looking into matters and finding the makers site on the web, I see that my monitor appeared be under a three year warranty.

I phoned the Customer Services dept. The good news is that not only is it still covered but also that it would be gladly replaced with not even carriage to pay.

They were out of stock but could repair mine or replace in a few days when new stock arrives. I was so amazed at this kind of really good customer service. The monitor makers .HANNES-G

Peter Steadman



INSURANCE .

I refer to the item from Philip Fowler on page 5 of the November / December issue regarding insurance for public shows.

I'm somewhat puzzled. Anyone involved with or embarking upon providing public shows be they individuals or clubs should ensure that they are covered by Public Liability Insurance.

You cannot depend on the cover provided by and for a venue. If there was an "event" of some sort those affected could not only sue the venue but also the organisers severally and separately. In fact, it could happen that the venue management could sue you too if you were at fault!

Even club meetings should be covered these days.

Public Liability Insurance should also be arranged to cover you and the club for when you are working, filming outside or in any particular premises.

It has happened that a Bride sprawled full length across some church steps - there was also a lighting cable running close by - no one was amused..... enter the frame, a "clever solicitor".....think about this, shoes £300. Dress £2,500. Tights £25. Loss of Dignity and upset, blood and gore £!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Just from a report on one single event!

Public Liability Insurance is obtainable through the IAC Office. Contact Pam Harrison. It's also obtainable through any insurance broker but it's always adviseable to "shop around" for quotes.

Lee Prescott. FACI.

World DVD Formats

Ever wondered about DVD Regions and what part of the world each one refers to. The list below will give you the details and the link will take you to even more information.

- 1: U.S., Canada, U.S. Territories, Bermuda
- 2: Japan, Europe, South Africa, and Middle East (including Egypt)
- 3: Southeast Asia and East Asia (including Hong Kong)
- 4: Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Central America, Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean
- 5: Eastern Europe (Former Soviet Union), Indian subcontinent, Africa, North Korea, and Mongolia
- 6: China
- 7: Reserved
- 8: Special international venues (airplanes, cruise ships, etc.)

Read more at

http://www.centralhome.com/ballroomcountry/video_formats.htm#ixzz0TNU

Pigeon Impossible

This short animated film is six minutes of fun and laughs. It would fit right in with shorts from every big animation studio.

But it didn't come from any big animation studio. It was a labour of love for animator Lucas Martell.

Martell started the short as an excuse to learn 3D animation. But it turned into a five-year project. By the end, it brought nearly

Pigeon: Impossible



100 artists and musicians. Each one of who volunteered their time and talent. It shows what can be done with passion and dedication.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEjUANPc2VA&feature=player_embedded

Lee Prescott

LIFE GETS TEDIOUS - DOES IT?

If you're over thirty or so years of age you may recall the amazing wonder that the arrival of video for the then Amateur caused.

Especially when the lugging about of a very heavy shoulder strapped tape machine was dispensed with and the VHS tape slipped into the body of the video camera.

I distinctly remember people at the club I was in at the time waxing lyrical with comments such as "wonderful, now we wont have to cart screens about and other bits of paraphernalia.

All we'll need is a VCR and a BIG TV". So, it came to pass that we happily bought or otherwise purloined a VCR and a TV set with a bigger than usual screen in some cases.

It is often stated that things go around in circles, in this case not circles but ellipses!

Why? 'Cos were back too and past square one!

Watching the setting up recently for a public show involving VHS, S-VHS, mini DV tapes plus a DVD player and a Blu Ray (tm) Player provided for four machines. (The VHS VCR quashed S-VHS).

This required a switching box to enable the screenings to run smoothly. Before this was the Colour Adjuster; The video projector; An amplifier capable of providing Quad Sound / Five Channels; Five loud speakers, the necessary screen of course; Various cables and two operators.



Altogether there were then fourteen chunks of equipment including the screen!

In the sprocket era there'd have been the projector, (possibly a simple amplifier depending on the size of the venue), plus the screen!

Outside the venue was a van that seemed to me to be not far from resembling a TV Outside Broadcast Unit!

So, things have definitely gone "elliptical" or as someone else said "pear shaped"! Makes me smile just to think about it! However, hurrah for HD Video et al....to say nothing of SD! We no longer have to await the arrival of the little yellow packets.

We can now see instantaneously the results of all our filming efforts, screw-ups, warts and all.

Don't forget though, as always, THE STORY IS THE THING!

Lee Prescott. FACI

Judging & Judges

A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

Lee Prescott. FACI.



I refer to your Editor, Pip's comments on page 4 of the November / December edition where Pip states that "If you don't want to be judged don't enter competitions".

This is quite an unfair comment because all who enter competitions / festivals et al. expect to have their work judged. If not, why enter at all?

The problem lies NOT in so called "negative" comments or even "positive" ones in the way Pip refers to this.

The problem and problems lie in the very many and frequently written critiques which are totally UNCONSTRUCTIVE. All comments / critiques should be CONSTRUCTIVE.

All entrants no matter of what standard should always be able to learn from them.

I can assure all of you, dear readers, that I am eminently qualified to comment on this subject after nine years of personally and individually organising and running the late Cotswold International Film Festival, which was always noted for and still is noted for the quality of its judging.

Any fool can criticise anything, anything at all but it requires and takes COMPETENCE to judge and be a worthwhile judge of anything especially if it's artistic and more so to CONSTRUCTIVELY do so.

Everything a judge writes indicates their level of competence or lack of it in a given subject be it film, theatre, music, painting, architecture, (and their use of language), or whatever.

Further: "A professional doth not necessarily a good judge make"! Believe it. That's something I very quickly discovered. It can also be seen in everyday life.

To conclude this is a true story: Earlier this year I entered a film of mine in a certain Festival. Two "judges" wrote severally and unconstructive commenting that 'A' was wrong, 'B' should have been done some other way, 'C' you didn't comment on what was on the screen, (*I thought that was obvious*), 'D' it's sort of run of the mill -genre-!

Latterly I sent the same film off, same copy even, to another competition. When I glanced at the names of the judges on the critiques sheets - they were the same pair!

However, this time they had "waxed lyrical" praising my film, what wonderful videography, excellent prod. values etc. etc. my film was even given a trophy.

In fact, many judges simply Flummox Me especially in the IACee!

Lee Prescott FACI

Devizes Video Club



The Devizes Video Club is now settling into the Winter programme. In September we had a busy time with members filming various projects on location in Devizes.

On the 25th Mr Julian Baldwin came down from Bristol where he does a lot of work in conjunction with the Bristol Film Society. Working with the BBC for many years he has a wealth of experience with sound. He gave us an excellent presentation and all his information will be an aid to the club when making films, documentaries or interviewing.

We also had an evening viewing IAC films and will be reviewing some more later in the year.

In October the Crown Centre held an open evening to raise funds, as most of the work there is voluntary. It was a successful evening. Cheese and wine was provided and the Devizes Video Club showed some of our films which were viewed with great appreciation.

We had a brain-storming evening and have come up with ideas for new film projects on which work will be starting right away.

Further details of the club can be obtained from:

Bernice May
01249 813440



Hello

I am a producer on a new series for BBC TWO which charts the history of Britain through people's home movie footage.

We would love to find people's amateur video and cine film from the Cornwall area – from annual events to holidays to protests to bad winters or hot summers. We are hopeful that there are some gems sitting in people's lofts and attics...

I am writing to ask if there is some way we can reach out to the community, using either flyers or noticeboards or community newsletters?

Many thanks

Samia
Samia Murphy

Producer

Diverse

A Zodiak Entertainment Company
1 Ariel Way, London W12 7SL

Telephone: 0203 189 3228 / 07966
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FROME FIVE MINUTE FESTIVAL

Once again, Frome Film and Video Makers are hosting the Frome Five Minute Festival on Saturday, 27th March 2010 at the Catholic Hall, Park Road, Frome, Somerset starting at 6 pm. AKM Music have provided the trophy.

We will be doing our own catering once again so please indicate on the entry form if you are attending. The Catholic Hall has wheelchair access.

The competition is pre-judged but only they, and myself will know who has won. The competition will be divided into categories (see entry forms) .

It is our policy to show all the entries, but we reserve the right not to show every film in the event that the running time of the programme exceeds the time available. We shall rely on the advice of the judges when making any decision in this regard.

We can manage most DVD formats, and we are prepared to accept HD entries on MiniDV tape. Please ensure that there is at least ten seconds of black at the start and finish as the entries are copied to a DVD, or maybe Bluray for the show (this is destroyed afterwards) otherwise we wouldn't be able to show so many films.

The competition fee is £5 per entry plus return postage. The closing date is Monday February 1st 2010. The show is on Saturday March 27th 2010.

Further details and entry forms are available, but photocopies of this entry form are acceptable.

Philip Marshman,
Competition Officer

Frome Five Minute Festival Competition 2010

Entry Form

Title: _____

Running time (must not be more than 5 minutes complete) _____ mins.

Category (one only): Animation | Comedy | Documentary | Drama | Holiday/Travelogue | Open

Wildlife/Natural History | Youth (all entries by entrants 18 years and under) *

Format: FILM | VHS | S-VHS | Mini-DV | DVD | VCD | HD (Mini-DV) *

Film Format _____ 8mm. Film Sound: Main Stripe | Stereo | Twin Track *

Edited on _____ Originating Format _____

Is it your entry: B&W | Colour | Colour & B&W | 16:9 * (Playback) Video Sound: Linear | HiFi *

(Please note that we do not have the facility to play back Linear and HiFi tracks together.)

Have you used a mono microphone to record any of the sound? YES/NO*

* Please circle as appropriate

Please write here any notes for the projectionist

Example - There is no sound until the word presents appears on the screen

Please write a short description of your entry that we may use in the festival programme.

VISION-ON ANNUAL CHALLENGE SHIELD



RE-LAUNCHED FOR MARCH 2010

After a one-year break, during which the host club has changed its name to the Tiverton Camcorder club

This annual competition for clubs and individual film-makers in the south-west will be held in the evening of

Saturday March 20th 2010

Sampford Peverell Village Hall

(M5 Jct 27 within three minutes)

for an entry form and conditions, please contact

01884 829225

email: saddlers@hazeltons.freeserve.co.uk