

Media Network to the Toronto Section. The network introduces realtime collaborative production tools to the global media industry through desktop applications and a secure international broadband service. By bringing media professionals together and adding value to their desktops, the Jazz Media Network hopes to foster digital collaboration within the global post-production community. Garipey feels that this will be accomplished through the new high-speed network, which currently connects workstations in Montreal, Toronto, and Los Angeles. Addressing the audience at Deluxe Toronto, Garipey went over the details of how the Jazz digital canvas operates along with the production tools and services that are central to it.

The Jazz Network allows clients to collaborate using several tools including the ability to video conference. While a conference is in progress they can use media-

board tools to make annotations on video frames from clips and still images. Live video transfers, along with file transfers at data rates required by the professional community are key tools to the network. Via an address book feature, users of the system can be located. E-mail, called Mediamail, can be dispatched, complete with embedded or attached audio/video content. While financial transactions are possible Garipey indicated that the technology for complete e-commerce is not ready at this time. Jazz will also contain on-line news and industry information that will keep clients up to date on what they need to know.

Jazz will allow for collaboration in new ways. For example, a Toronto talent agency can discuss headshots and audition tapes with producers in Los Angeles. The network will provide access to render frames and direct collaboration with stock shot libraries along with immediate pur-

chase and transfer. Jazz should also help with the approval process. Some commercial spots require as many as 60 approvals in a production cycle. In many cases these approvals are becoming global in nature and the network and tools that the network provides should help to streamline that process.

According to Garipey, eleven facilities in both Montreal and Toronto are tied together at DS-3 data rates. In Toronto, the Jazz Media Network includes connections at SMART Toronto, Cossette and DAVE (Dome Audio, Video and Effects). The network also includes a 45-Mbit pipe between Montreal and Los Angeles. That leg includes a connection with Pacific Ocean Post in Santa Monica. The Jazz Media Network has plans to connect New York, Chicago, and London within the next six months.—Brad Fortner (Promotions Advisor), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University

News

SMPTE Presents the Future of Television at NAB '98

The Society has announced plans to participate in the NAB '98 International Convention and Exposition on April 4 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev., producing a full-day seminar examining the new world of television and its evolution over the next two decades.

A medium that was once based on the synchronized scanning of images and displays is now changing to one based on the exchange of program material as bit streams. Recognizing this change, a Task Force was established by SMPTE and EBU to look far enough into the future to understand what is required to enable and manage the change and make the necessary decisions to facilitate the new direction.

Team leaders investigating various aspects of the transition will present their findings and the Task Force will release its final report at the seminar, setting the direction for television production, post-production, and distribution for a couple of decades. Topics covered during the full-day seminar chaired by Merrill S. Weiss, S. Merrill Weiss Group, will include compression, wrappers, metadata, file transfer methods, protocols, interfaces and networks, and systems management and control.

Leitch Discusses DTV Free of Charge

Leitch Inc., Chesapeake, Va., has developed

a digital television (DTV) seminar which offers advice to broadcast and production professionals making the switch to digital. A hotline made up of experts has also been established to answer DTV questions during regular business hours.

The seminar, titled Destination Digital, is made up of a series of modules with details on the following: Basics of HDTV and DTV; the Role of MPEG Compression in DTV; DTV and HDTV System Elements; Network Origination and Local Station Architectures; DTV Audio Production and Transmission; the DTV Set of the Future; DTV and the Cable Industry; and DTV Worldwide

The seminar is free for professional groups and societies and is offered in one-hour, two-hour, or full-day formats. For more information, contact Cynthia Odom at (800) 231-9673 ext.198. The DTV hotline can be contacted at (800) 231-9673.

Snell & Wilcox Receives Recognition for Mole Technology

SMPTE sustaining member Snell & Wilcox, Hampshire, U.K., was honored at the Royal Television Awards ceremony on November 17, 1997, for its research and development of "The Mole" technology.

The six-member RTS Technology Jury said, "the Mole preserves key encoding parameters for re-use in the next encoding process. The picture quality is preserved through various processes such as editing and caption insertion, which rules out the need for high bit rates early in the chain.

This allows a variety of operations to be performed using off-the-shelf equipment with no loss of performance or quality."

The annual award is presented to an individual or team for research or development leading to a significant advance in television technology.

CFI Appoints New President

Bob Beitcher has been appointed president of Consolidated Film Industries (CFI), a sustaining member of the Society. Beitcher brings 14 years of general management experience in the entertainment/media industries to the company. He has held numerous high-level



positions including vice-president of business affairs at Lucasfilm, Ltd., where he was responsible for exploitation of the company's intellectual property rights in ancillary markets. Beitcher has also worked with Jim Henson Productions and Paramount Pictures.

Post Perfect President to Perform Double Duty

Dean Winkler, president of Post Perfect, has been named chief operating officer of the New York Media Group. He will continue to serve as president of Post Perfect.