

SMPTE NEWS & NOTES

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SMPTE Gears Up For Year's Third Conference

After a successful Film Conference in Los Angeles, the Society will now focus on the development of the 140th SMPTE Technical Conference and Exhibit to be held on October 28 to 31, 1998 at the Pasadena Convention Center. The conference will carry the theme "DTV Reality Check—The First Year," as digital television is now very much a reality rather than a theoretical possibility. Co-chaired by Alan J. Masson, Eastman Kodak Co., and Alan A. Hart, Modern Videofilm, the conference will consist of an all-day seminar on Wednesday, October 28 followed by ten papers presentations from Thursday to Sunday, October 29 to 31. Exhibits from top industrial companies will be displayed from Thursday, October 29 to Saturday October 31. Details on the all-day seminar, technical presentations, exhibits, and other conference activities are included in this month's SMPTE Reports Section of the *Journal*.

IBC98 to Include Two SMPTE Events

Are you planning to be in the Amsterdam area in September? If so, why not be a part of the 1998 International Broadcast Conference scheduled for September 11 to 15 at the RAI International Exhibition and Congress Center. The event will examine the latest trends in film, video, television, and computers and address technical, management, economic, and craft-skill issues impacting businesses today. Activities over the five-day conference period include papers presentations, panel discussions, workshops, a new briefings segment, and over 500 exhibits from industry heavyweights. The Society will make its mark on IBC98, presenting a papers segment titled "Film and Tape—The Old to the New," and the work from the SMPTE/EBU Task Force concerning broadcasting's change from analog to digital. Full conference details are included in this month's *Journal*.

New Publications Available

The Guide to Postproduction for TV and Film by Barbara Clark and Susan J. Spohr takes you through the process of post-production step-by-step from the first day of shooting to delivery of the finished product. More specifically, the book covers creating a budget, project scheduling, film processing, getting a complete cut and best sound, achieving perfect delivery, and much more. Actual forms and scenarios are used to make completing each step simple and efficient. This publication is a how-to book, desk reference, and complete resource guide for current and aspiring producers.

Two Publications Added to Video/Audio Engineering Series

Two books have been added to McGraw-Hill's Video/Audio Engineering series which also includes Digital Television Fundamentals by Michael Robin and Michel Poulin.

Video Compression, authored by Peter D. Symes, reviews JPEG, MPEG-1, and MPEG-2 which are today's most widely used compression standards, and takes a glimpse at other systems in development. The 12-chapter publication also covers MPEG transport schemes, switching of MPEG, and audio compression schemes.

The third book in the series, DTV—The Revolution in Electronic Imaging, charts the digital television territory by providing technological context for every important innovation in the imaging revolution. Using explicit examples, schematics, and mathematics, author Jerry Whitaker creates a primer of DTV standardization, or the Grand Alliance, into the most potent tool in imaging since color TV. The publication also reports on developments such as video transmission issues and interchange formats.

Orders can be placed by mail to SMPTE Books, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, by fax: (914) 761-3115, or by e-mail: mktg@smppte.org.

Motion Picture and Television Standards Available on CD-ROM

The ANSI-approved SMPTE Standards, Recommended Practices, and Engineering Guidelines for Television and Motion Pictures are now available on CD-ROM. These documents will be published in June and December of each year. Documents are formatted as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files and require the Adobe Acrobat Reader for display. The Microsoft Windows 95 version of Adobe Acrobat is included on the CD-ROM. For more information contact the SMPTE Engineering Department at 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, tel: (914) 761-1100, fax: (914) 761-3115, or e-mail: smppte@smppte.org.

New Test Films Available from SMPTE

SMPTE has announced the availability of the D1-format Digital Video Library Cassettes. These tapes are a group of test pictures and sequences for subjective assessment of digital video systems. The 525/60 version contains still and moving picture sequences for subjective assessment of new television systems. The films contain most of the scenes specified in International Telecommunication Union Recommendation ITU-R BT.802-1, titled "Test pictures and sequences for subjective assessment of digital codecs conveying signals produced according to recommendation ITU-R BT.601." The cassettes are available in 26 min (35 scenes) and 52 min (37 scenes) formats and are priced at \$500 and \$800, respectively. For more information, contact the SMPTE Engineering Department.

New Employee Announcement

Ilisha L. Stier has been appointed Meetings Coordinator by SMPTE. She has been planning meetings and conventions for different associations in the Washington D.C. area for the past five years. Most recently, Stier served as convention manager at the National Food Processors Association (NFFA) and was responsible for NFFA's Annual Convention and Executives Conference.

—Jermaine Hall

This information is available at the SMPTE Web Site: <http://www.smppte.org>.

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