

Obituaries

Bob Ringer

Bob Ringer, a Life Fellow of the Society, passed away on March 27, 1999 at age 73. Upon graduation from high school in 1941, Ringer was drafted into the Army and served in England, France, and Germany. In 1947 he entered Valparaiso Technical Institute in Indiana where he majored in electronics. After graduating in 1949, he worked for WMAQ-TV Chicago as a cameraman. It was there that he used the first studio zoom lens on "Kukla, Fran, and Ollie," and worked on "The Dave Garroway Show" and "Zoo Parade" with Marlin Perkins.

In 1960 Ringer joined Glenn-Armisted, Inc., where as chief engineer/technical supervisor, he developed the "Electronovision" process, which resulted in the first complete motion picture film shot live with video cameras: "Hamlet" with Richard Burton at the Lunt Fontaine Theatre, New York. In 1967 Glenn-Armisted, Inc. was acquired by Technicolor and renamed Vidtronics. Ringer remained vice-president of the tape-to-film department until 1971 when he joined Image Transform, Inc., as production manager. During his stay at Image Transform, he developed and supervised techniques for processing pictures from the moon that utilized Image Transform's system of enhancement and noise reduction. He was also responsible for processing NASA's pictures from Apollo 14 through Skylab and Apollo-Soyuz.

In 1980, Ringer realized a long-standing ambition and left Image Transform to start his own company, Ringer Video Services, Inc. It was here that he developed his own system for transferring videotape to film. In addition to his color process, he revived the old black-and-white kinescope system where he produced 16mm and 35mm black-and-white workprints for scoring, editing, and dialogue replacement purposes. In 1983, he left Ringer Video in the hands of his daughter Gail and returned to Image Transform, Inc. as president. In 1984, Ringer was asked to assume the duties of president of the Vidtronics division performing the task of taking it out of business. Then in 1985 he joined RTS Systems, the manufacturing arm of Compact Video, as president.

Ringer was very active at both the local and national levels of SMPTE. At the local level he served as Program/Facilities Chairman; Manager; a member of many committees; and Chairman of the Education Committee where he was responsible for two seminars in conjunction with the University of Southern



Bob Ringer

California: "Electronic Post Production for Film and Video Tape" and "Sound Mixing and Recording in the Production Environment." He worked in several capacities on the Local Arrangement Committees for many fall conferences including the organizer of a one-day tutorial, "Issues in Advanced Motion Imaging." Ringer arranged the Student Fair for the 1991 conference and also served as assistant facilities coordinator at other SMPTE fall conferences.

At the national level, he served the Society as Governor for three terms. He was a member of several awards and nominating committees and also Chairman of the Fuji Gold Medal Committee. Ringer received the 1989 Citation for Dedicated Service to the Society, and in 1993 the Eastman Kodak Gold Medal Award for outstanding contributions in engineering development leading directly to new educational methods using motion pictures or television.

Ringer served on the board of directors for the Association of Cinema and Video Laboratories (ACVL). He was also an associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers, ACVL, and BKSTS.

Stanley Kubrick

Stanley Kubrick, a member of the society since 1970, passed away on March 7, 1999 at age 70. Kubrick made major contributions to the motion picture industry since starting his filmmaking career, which spanned almost 50 years.

In 1951, at age 23, he financed his first film, *Day of the Fight*, a 16-minute documentary about boxer Walter Cartier. He served as director, cinematographer, editor,

and sound man. He went on to make two other short documentary films, *Flying Padre* and *The Seafarers*.

In 1953, with the financial help of relatives, Kubrick made his first feature-length film, *Fear and Desire*. Kubrick teamed up with producer James B. Harris, in 1956, and made *The Killing*, his first Hollywood studio picture. In 1957, he made *Paths of Glory*, which was successful despite early scepticism by industry heads and in 1960 was hired by Kirk Douglas to direct *Spartacus*, which won a Golden Globe Award for best film. Kubrick switched gears in 1962 and made *Lolita*, based on Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel.

In 1964, he co-authored, directed, and produced *Dr. Strangelove*, which was deemed one of his most successful films yet. The success of *Dr. Strangelove* inspired him to create *2001: A Space Odyssey* in 1968; he won an Oscar for designing and directing the film's special effects. In addition to being one of the greatest films of all time, it is considered a landmark in cinema history. Kubrick went on to make other successful films such as *A Clockwork Orange*, *Barry Lyndon*, *The Shining*, and *Full Metal Jacket*.

In 1997, he was awarded the D.W. Griffith Award, which is the highest honor given by the Director's Guild of America. He was also received the Golden Lion Award at the 54th Venice International Film Festival.

Ralph W. Curtis

Ralph W. Curtis, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on November 18, 1998 at age 74. Curtis joined the society in 1957 and became a Fellow in 1975. He retired from the National Film Board of Canada in 1981 and became a Life Fellow in 1988.

Max J. Hunke

Max J. Hunke, a long-time member of SMPTE, passed away on February 28, 1999 at age 85. Hunke became a Life Member in 1985.

John L. Judge

John L. Judge passed away on March 10, 1998 at age 51. Judge was employed with Tektronics Inc. He became a member of the Society in 1980.

Frank Takacs

Frank Takacs, a Life Member of SMPTE, died on March 10, 1999 at age 69. Takacs became a Life Member in 1997.