

ASC and DCI Creating Digital Cinema Test Film

The American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) and Digital Cinema Initiatives (DCI) have taken an important step towards producing standardized test material for evaluating the performance of digital projectors and other elements of digital cinema systems. The test is being produced under the auspices of the ASC Technology Committee in partnership with DCI, which represents seven Hollywood film studios.

"Our purpose is to help assure that standards recommended for digital cinema enhance the movie-going experience and maintain the integrity of the art form," said Curtis Clark, ASC, who chairs the organization's Technology Committee. "The test material we are producing will provide a standard way to evaluate the capabilities of digital projectors and compare them to film."

Clark said that members of DCI and the ASC Technology Committee had an in-depth dialogue before reaching a consensus regarding the original footage needed to adequately "stress test" digital projectors for technical performance and also to compare the emotional impact of digital and 35mm film. The film sequences they produced will be used as a standard test for evaluating current and future digital projectors. Members of the ASC Technology Committee agreed on parameters for the test, including nuances in colors, contrast, textures, and camera movement.

Kodak to Acquire Laser Pacific Media Corp.

Eastman Kodak Co. has announced that it has entered into an agreement to purchase Laser-Pacific Media Corp., a leading Hollywood-based post-production company. Laser-Pacific will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Kodak, reporting to the company's Entertainment Imaging products and services operation. Emory Cohen, co-founder and president of Laser-Pacific, will lead the subsidiary.

Laser-Pacific provides a full spectrum of post-production services for television, home video, and motion pictures. These services include high-quality film processing, state-of-the-art film transfer, editing, mastering, digital preview services, and DVD compression and authoring.

The acquisition will allow Kodak to establish a major presence in television post-production and further extends the company's current digital services capabilities in the feature film market.

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Tandberg Launches System for TV over DSL

Tandberg Television will launch a complete system designed to open up new low bit-rate video business opportunities for Telcos. Key components include very low bandwidth realtime encoding of turnaround and local channels, IP multicast of live TV, content capture and distribution, video on demand (VoD), EPG portal, set-top-boxes, live encryption, and DRM.

The core of the new system is the Tandberg EN5920 realtime hardware-encoding platform for Windows Media 9, a result of Tandberg Television and Microsoft Corp's engineering collaboration. The EN5920 can be provided with the capability to transmit MPEG-2 video alongside the Windows Media 9 Series streams, making it ideal for operators to test and transition to the new encoding platform.

NAB Post-Production World Conference

The National Association of Broadcasters has announced the creation of the NAB Post-Production World Conference, to be held during NAB2004, April 17-21 in Las Vegas.

The NAB Post-Production World Conference, co-produced with digital media educator, Future Media Concepts, will feature more than 160 sessions on a wide variety of topics, including digital video and film editing, news editing, compositing and special effects, web design, DVD authoring, video encoding for DVD and streaming, sound design, digital imaging, tech support for digital facilities, and DV production tips.

The conference will run all day Saturday and Sunday and afternoons Monday through Wednesday, focusing on intermediate to advanced techniques to enhance effectiveness and creativity.

Fourteen Scientific and Technical Achievements in Competition for 76th Academy Awards

Fourteen scientific and technical achievements have been selected for review by the Academy of Motion

Picture Arts and Sciences' Scientific and Technical Awards Committee for the 76th Academy Awards consideration. The methods or devices selected include: Ultimate Director's Finder, Kish Optics; Kinoton FP 30/38 EC High-Speed Projector, Kinoton America; Kodak Process-Surviving Film Antistatic Technology, Eastman Kodak Co.; Influential Work in High Dynamic Range Imaging and Image-Based-Lighting, ICT Graphics Lab; Digidesign Pro Tools Digital Audio Workstation, Digidesign; "Massive" Animation System, Massive Ltd.; Subsurface Scattering Rendering System (SCAT), Industrial Light and Magic; ESC Entertainment Lighting Reconstruction Toolkit, ESC Entertainment; Truematch Compact Fluorescent Lamp Series: KF29, KF32, and KF55, Kino Flo Inc.,

Cablecam's Multi-Axis System, Cablecam International; Series of Four Separate but Integrated Macro/Micro 8/70 and 15/70 3-D Camera Heads, Image Quest 3-D Ltd.; Hot Gears Remote Systems, Salamati Productions, Inc.; Digital Hybrid Wireless Microphones, Lectrosonics, Inc.; Silicone Appliances (Special Makeup), Greg Cannom.

A demonstration of selected achievements will be conducted on Tuesday, October 21, in the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater. The Awards committee will meet on December 3 to vote on recommendations to the Academy's Board of Governors, who will make the final decisions. The Scientific and Technical Awards will be presented at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, CA, on Saturday, February 14, 2004.

Obituaries

Furn D. Anderson, a Life Member, passed away on May 11, 2003, at age 80. Anderson began his career as a projection operator at the Pioneer Theatre Corp. in Atlantic, IA. He held engineering positions at KSIB Radio in Creston, IA; WJW-TV and Radio in Cleveland, OH; WSKB-TV in Boston, MA; and Manhattan Cable Television in New York City.



In 1975, he joined HBO where he worked until his retirement. At HBO, Anderson held positions as chief engineer, senior director of engineering, and later vice-president of engineering, where he was responsible for the design and construction of studio and communications center facilities.

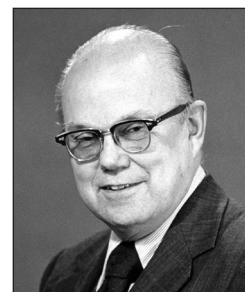
Anderson was an active member of SMPTE during his career. He participated on SMPTE standards committees and served as Governor of the New York Section (1989-1990). He also worked on studio video standards, television recording and reproduction technology, and high-definition electronic production.

Robert L. Moore, a Life Fellow and member for more than 50 years, passed away recently. Moore was 90 years old.

Harold E. Reynolds, a Life Member, passed away on May 10, 2003, at age 87. During his career, Reynolds developed a special viewfinder, giving a complete aerial image for cinerama cameras, and also designed a variable shutter for a special 16mm motion picture camera. He had been a Life Member for over 20 years.

Sidney V. Stadig, a Life Fellow, has passed away. He was 74 years old.

E. Carlton Winckler, a Life Fellow and legendary pioneer in the entertainment industry since the early 1900s, has died at the age of 95. Winckler was born on January 20, 1908 in Bloomfield, NJ. From the age of five when he saw his first play, Winckler was drawn to the world of theater and television with an energy and commitment that paved the way to many innovations, and great recognition and honor. In his professional life, Winckler was involved in every aspect of show business, from vaudeville and the circus to silent films and talkies.



When television was invented, Winckler was CBS's first lighting designer and helped the industry as it transitioned to color. During his 70-year career in the theater and television, Winckler was a puppeteer, actor, writer, set designer, lighting and technical director, film editor, stage and unit manager, director, producer, and educator. Winckler's vast expertise was sought out by giants in the industry such as Flo Ziegfeld, John Murray Anderson, Billy Rose, Walt Disney, CBS, and the television networks of France, Britain, Germany, and Israel. Based on his work innovating lighting special effects for Billy Rose Aquacades, including those at the 1939 Worlds Fair, Winckler was asked by the U.S. Navy during World War II to develop black light nighttime landing devices for aircraft carriers. He directed the first televised symphony orchestra performance, the first ship-to-shore broadcast, and the first televised two-hour dramatic show. He was director of CBS studio operations when the Beatles first appeared on television in the U.S. on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. In his later life, Winckler lectured on lighting and television in over 300 universities in 27 countries. Winckler never lost his zest for life and his life's work, working on a book on lighting and recounting marvelous stories of his life in the theater and television.

Winckler received the SMPTE Progress Medal Award in 1977.