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Get Ready for a Year of Conference Programming

As we move forward into 2017 and our next century, the SMPTE team of volunteers and staff are busy planning several events, offering excellent content throughout the year. Here is a rundown of the major events.

It all gets started in April with the Future of Cinema Conference (FoCC), produced in conjunction with the NAB at the NAB Show. This year, FoCC takes place on the weekend of 22 and 23 April in Las Vegas, just ahead of the NAB Show opening. The event, being chaired by Cynthia Slavens from Pixar, comes with a creative bend bringing a whole new perspective on the topic. The 2017 program is already proving to be a must-attend event with sessions on topics such as SMPTE DCP Transition; Cloud Technology in Global Distribution; Projections and Displays in Cinema; IMF Case Study; Updates on Immersive Audio; New Security Concerns; Light-Field Imaging in Content Production; HDR in Live Action; and much more. The details of the program, including keynote speakers, are still being finalized. This event will provide much-needed updates on the cinema technologies that are likely to take hold in the near future.

Next on our list of programs is the fifth Entertainment Technology in the Connected Age conference taking place on 8 and 9 May and this year hosted by Microsoft at its Mountain View, CA, campus. The program committee, led by Pat Griffis, will delve into topics focusing on the continued advancement of entertainment technology being delivered on various platforms.

Last year's conference included the "connected car" as a topic since many consumers are looking for the moving vehicle to fulfill their moving imaging needs. Imagine sitting in a driverless car, enjoying a movie, while you drive to work! This year's event will explore these and similar topics.

On 6 and 7 June, we will present our third European conference, the SMPTE Forum. This time, SMPTE, in collaboration with the European Broadcasting Union and led by Hans Hoffmann, will include topics focusing on the convergence of connectivity, bandwidth, and technology improvements. These elements are rapidly expanding entertainment distribution and becoming ubiquitous. Hosted at the Suedwestrundfunk in Stuttgart, Germany, this event will discuss how these technologies are leapfrogging more traditional forms of distribution, creating great disruption in the global media marketplace.

In September, SMPTE will again have a significant presence at the IBC in Amsterdam. The session topics are still being discussed. Rest assured that SMPTE speakers will be there to talk about the latest in technical developments for both broadcast and the Big Screen experience.

Last, but not least, the SMPTE 2017 Annual Technical Conference will take place from 23 to 26 October at the Loews Hollywood and Highland Hotel and complex in Hollywood, CA. This year's event, led by Paul Chapman, Sara Kudrle, and Thomas Edwards, will again feature a dedicated day-long symposium, with three days of technical conference content, an expanded exhibition floor, and many opportunities to network and do business. Look for our

call for papers in your e-mail inbox and on the SMPTE website in a few weeks.

That's a lot of content to consume, but it's not all that is coming from SMPTE. Along with the many regular monthly Section meetings taking place in active Sections around the world, there are at least two noteworthy Section events to mention. The Washington, D.C., Section's Bits by the Bay is always a sold-out event with an intimate group of delegates learning about the latest in broadcast technology. Hosted by Peter Wharton, this event brings the best to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay on 25 May. Our Australia Section, not to be outdone, is poised to produce its latest event on 18–20 July at the new Sydney convention center at Darling Harbor. With a conference and exhibition attached, this event brings to the southern hemisphere all that is SMPTE.

And finally, I must mention the two HPA events that are now regular items on the conference calendar. The great Tech Retreat in Palm Springs (actually Indian Wells, CA) takes place annually in February, this year on 20–24. Also, the second U.K. event will take place on 11 and 12 July in Oxfordshire, U.K. The Tech Retreats are must-attend events that highlight the creative and business side of our technical industry.

Be sure to check the SMPTE and HPA websites for all details and registration information.

When we ended our centennial year, I thought we could take some time to breathe. Not so! This promises to be a great year for SMPTE and HPA conferences, and I look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

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