



WESTCLIFF FILM AND VIDEO CLUB

Video On-line February 2004

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The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club: Publicity Officer, Chris Taylor

On-Line news brings Westcliff to the fore!

I hope that you are finding the Video-on-line style of newsletter helpful in keeping up to date on what the club is doing. This will be the last sent as an attachment however, as some of you have some problems with download. What we are doing in future is to upload the newsletters onto the website and my direct E-mail will simply ask you to fetch it from there. I hope that will be OK. In the meantime I've sent one or two of you some other bits and pieces which I felt would be of interest. On February 16th, Graham Gardener with a bit of help(?) from me on-screen will be looking at **Making Better Sound Recordings** while the **Roneil Oscar** competition will be on the 23rd for documentaries. There surely can't be a member who hasn't a documentary lurking somewhere which he could enter, so please spend the next week conjuring up a film to make for a record entry. The form is on the website.

Courses for Movie Makers – Weekends at South East Essex College

Ken Pratt's recent special talks have been absolutely fascinating as always, and for those with an interest in learning about our hobby.....and more... there are some interesting courses at South East Essex College.... For those as old as I am it's the **Southend Tech** in Caernarvon Road and London Road in Southend. They have a lot of IT courses and ones for radio as well as languages, family history and meteorology. Things like that. But for us the courses include Video production and editing, sound recording, 3D animation and various aspects of photography including Photoshop and other Adobe products. You can also pick up a brochure...a tall thin 'mauve' one with **Weekend** on the front, in the rack outside Tesco/Waitrose etc. Some courses have already started but Brian Miller at the College tells me that they will be run again later on. The website is at www.southend.ac.uk (look for Weekend College) or e-mail your interests to weekend@southend.ac.uk

One course that I am signing up for for May 1st is **TV presenting Skills**. When you see my efforts in Graham's sound recording demo tomorrow (Feb16) you will know why! You never heard more **'oh sh..., let's start again'** in your life! It covers presentation 'to-camera' and interviewing and runs over 3 Saturday Mornings and you end up with a 'showreel' of your own to keep. Why not join me? (It's £45 by the way)

More up-dates for www.wfvc.org.uk

Graham has been putting in a lot of work on the new website which now has a lot more interesting links, club history, news and information. If you are reading this but are not a member of Westcliff, please drop in to the site and explore, it'll tell you a lot about our club. Communications-wise the club has its own e-mail address where you can contact us. The address is wfvc@hotmail.com

Get the IAC Habit!

I had a long chat the other evening with Roy Claisse who is the Club representative and our contact in the North Thames region of the Institute to which Westcliff belongs. In our changing hobby, the role of the IAC is not as prominent as it was, perhaps 30 years ago. In those days there was a very strong national movement of movie-makers who used the Institute as a means of getting together to explore a common interest. Today, perhaps, we have focussed that bonding interest onto messrs Adobe, Microsoft, Pinnacle and Sony for example. A big regional or national competition, and who said what about who's film, doesn't seem to have the powerful attraction any more. That's a shame.

The IAC has a lot to offer us all. Its excellent film and video library alone has a wonderful collection of examples of award-winning movie making to explore. The training, run by Eric Granshaw, and tutored in some cases by our very own Ken Pratt, or former member Tom Hardwick is really excellent. The membership is divided into regions with both individual and club memberships with competitions and other events. There's a good magazine and a great and very interesting website. If you are not a member do take a look at the IAC. The website is at www.theiac.org.uk

Back to Basics

A couple of members have been talking recently over tea break about the bewildering range of equipment available and the pre-occupation we, (or alt least some of us) have with pixel-counts, the number of transitions the effects package has and what codec the programme uses. Who the bloody-hell cares one might say! What we should be asking surely, is....**was the film made with all this technology worth watching?** Another member said that he knows that many members spend so much time working out what all the knobs and menu-options do, that they have no time to get to know the basic photographic rules of using a movie camera for the actual shooting process. I am becoming increasingly concerned that we are all spending so much time, effort (and money) keeping up with technology, we are not putting the effort onto making movies! Hence just 3 entries at a recent competition. Please help me to re-assess that. In looking at the post production side of things on March 15th I'd like to explore getting good 'raw material' (pictures and sound) in the first place, and indeed more of it to use effectively at the post-production stage. I'm looking forward to it. CT

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