



# VIDEO ON-LINE



The Newsletter of Westcliff Film and Video Club

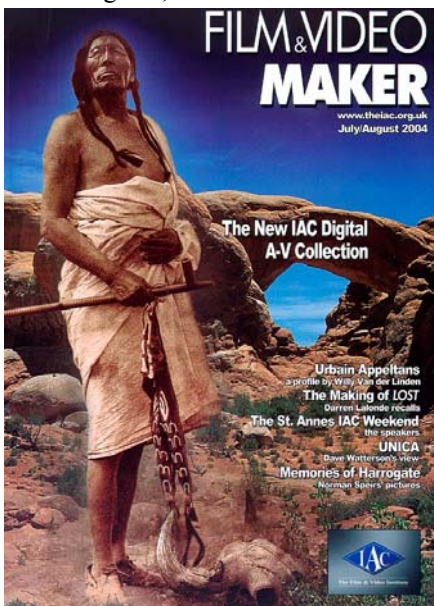
## IAC SPECIAL!

### Chris Taylor FACI shares some thoughts about the IAC

As a member of our hobby's 'superclub', the IAC for over 30 years, and a 'Fakky' (FACI - Fellow of the Institute), I sometimes imagine that all our members are automatically IAC members too, but maybe I'm wrong. So I thought I'd dedicate this issue to the IAC and what it offers us. I'd also like to raise a bit of awareness that without the enthusiasm and support of a host of keen and purely amateur enthusiasts like you and me, who run the IAC, it wouldn't exist at all. In short I'm out to encourage you to join up if you're not a member, and to play a more active role if you are. And for the record I will identify myself with that last sentence and pull my finger out.

From our perspective in sunny Essex - as I write, it's a dreary July day outside - the IAC is split into two. The NATIONAL body of the Institute which is based in Epsom, where the delightful Janet Smith administrates from day to day, and the North Thames Region of which we are part. The IAC has a super website with all sorts of film and video information both artistic and technical and an hour or so at [www.theiac.org.uk](http://www.theiac.org.uk) is very rewarding indeed.

At the local level the IAC is split into regions. We are in North Thames, where our stalwart contact is the indefatigable Secretary, Roy Claisse. There are seven other regions, for the Southern Counties, North East,



Scotland and so on. The national activities are reported in the Institute's own glossy magazine *Film & Video Maker* which contains articles on the many aspects of the hobby. For example in the current issue there are details of using the 'Scenalyzer' capture programme, an article about

film-to-video transfer by our Tom Hardwick and one about the making of the Gold medal winner at *BIAFF* the IAC's top competition. That's the competition in which our Dave Windle won an award with 'Missing Alice'. Film and Video Maker is a great read. More about the IAC on pages 2 and 3!

## BBC ON SHOW



### A Westcliff group prepares for the studios tour.

A coachload of Westcliff members headed west on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to see the BBC's Shepherds Bush TV studios at work, and a great time was had by all. After a bit of rearranging, the day was split into a morning's sightseeing in the historic and lovely Greenwich with the BBC visit in the afternoon.

Before lunch most members explored Greenwich market, the Cutty Sark and the 'Painted Gallery' before finding a quiet spot to enjoy some lunch before moving on. What was interesting was how few camcorders were in evidence during the visit. 'Perhaps it will save us a load of Greenwich documentaries next season' quipped one relieved member of the committee!

The BBC broke Westcliff's party into two groups for the tour, who first saw the news centre, which was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the time. The sheer numbers of personnel involved in gathering and dispensing news worldwide, in the name of the BBC, was mind-boggling. After a visit to the weather department and an explanation of the blue-screen technique used to put Michael Fish 'on the map' so to speak, the parties went on to see the highlight of the day, the rehearsals for the final of *Strictly Come Dancing*



which was to be transmitted live later in the evening. The groups saw the eventual winners Natasha Kaplinsky and Brendan Cole practicing, and Westcliff's talented\* President, Martin Paterson, was able

to offer a word or two of advice, although he failed to attract a 'Bruce Bonus'! (\*so he tells us!)

## IAC North Thames: Closer to home

*Continued from page 1*

Closer to home are the 31 (yes thirty-one!) North Thames Regional clubs which have similar interests to our own. They stretch from far off places like Chipping Norton in the North West of the region to ourselves in the South East. The region has a number of competitions, notably 'The Triangle' in which groups of clubs get together in threes through various rounds to eventually find an award winning film in the region. Sadly Westcliff members have not seen fit to come up with the entries in recent times. So what about it guys?



The region has its own magazine *North Thames Newsletter* which covers what's going on around the Clubs, and the current issue contains the entry form and all details of the region's main competition which is finalised at the NT Annual Movie Festival which this year is at Hatfield on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The competition is open to any movie-maker in

the region, so as a member of an affiliated Club you may enter.

### IAC North Thames Region Annual Movie Festival 2004 Competition Rules

1. The competition is open to all amateur movie makers residing within the North Thames Region of The IAC, or who are members of an affiliated club within North Thames Region.
2. All entries are to be made without professional assistance other than the developing/ printing of film stock or use of recorded music. Films must be on a recognised narrow gauge. Videos must be on any domestic format.
3. You may submit as many entries as you wish but a separate entry form must be used for each entry, Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable. Entrants for the Youth Section must be under 25 and Juniors must be under 18 on 28th November 2004,
4. It is a condition of entry that movies which have won a major national or international award are not eligible to enter this competition. Credits announcing any success in other competitions must be removed.
5. Only one movie to each tape will be accepted. The maximum length of any movie is limited to 20 minutes.
6. Any copyright material, both audio and visual, must be cleared by the movie maker. Regardless of any IAC copyright clearance, all commercially recorded music used should be cleared through the Musicians Union. A Proforma for this purpose can be obtained from the IAC at 24C West Street, Epsom, Surrey KT1 18 7RJ Telephone 01372-739672.
7. The judges' decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into with reference to any decision made.

8. A fee for each movie entered by IAC Members will be - Adults £5. Youths (18 -25 yrs) £3. Juniors (under 18yrs) £1 A fee for each movie entered by Non IAC members will be - Adults £8. Youths £4, Juniors £2, Return postage should BE added unless arrangements are made to collect the entry personally at the festival.

9. The closing date for entries is Friday 24th September 2004 Entry tapes and films together with the entry and postage fees should be sent to; Mr K Seeger FACI, 9 Elm Court, Nether Street, Finchley, London N3 1RH

10. Movies will be returned as soon as practicable. While every care is taken, the Region cannot be held responsible for any movie which is lost or damaged.

11. Prizes of £50, £25 and £15 will be awarded to the top three winners in addition to the usual trophies and certificates.

An entry Form for this competition is reproduced in this Newsletter and photocopies are acceptable.

The other major competition of the region is The Triangle in which everything goes in threes. Westcliff have won this five times in days gone by and it would be good to think that we could get back in there!

The Rules set out the basics that each club entering must have a programme of three movies totalling not more than 40 minutes. Should a club progress to the next round these same movies must be used without any alteration. The categories of movies entered are: A documentary, an open subject film and one of a set subject. For the 2004/5 season, the set subject is *The Last Resort* and for 2005/6 is *Through the Window* The first round has to be played before the end of February 2005. Westcliff will be invited to enter sometime in August.

Clubs winning the first round of the Triangle are also eligible to enter a competition for 'Open' and 'Set' subjects and are eligible to win the coveted Leslie Gillham and Sidney Mannasseh trophies. The awards will be presented on the same day, Sunday, 19th September at the Quality Hotel in Hatfield.

### New: The One Minute Competition.

The Region is to have its own version of Westcliff's 'Just a Minute' competition and winners will pass on through IAC regional and national levels and could eventually represent Britain at UNICA. For full details please contact our Competitions Secretary, Geoff Woolfson.

### IAC Benefits: Ten good reasons to join!

As a member of the IAC you'll benefit from a lot of expert advice not only in the form of articles in the Magazines but also on-line at the website and perhaps more importantly by having the opportunity to see other people's movies. All around the country are events going on where you can see the work of others and what the judges thought about it. Recently Terry Mendoza and I judged the annual competition for the SERIAC (South East) region and there were some excellent movies entered.

The IAC has published a leaflet highlighting the **10 Good Reasons to join the IAC** and copies will be on our website soon You can also read all about it on the IAC's site.

## Biggest Library!

The IAC has the biggest library of amateur-made movies in the world with items going back to the thirties which track, not only the way technology has changed the hobby but also how the home movie maker has, perhaps without realising it, recorded important changes in family lifestyle. Other films are amateur documentary and drama award winners, and I am proud to say that that Westcliff's former Award winners such as Terry Mendoza, Peter Davison, Nigel Barnes and myself have examples of our work on the shelves. These days many programmes are available on tape and DVD as well as the traditional film versions although, as always much is needed by way of time, effort and of course cash, to carry out the thousands of hours of transfer to new media. There is now a proposal for the IAC library to be housed in The East Anglian Film Archive for safe-keeping, and we hope to have more news of that very soon.

## Music for Movies

If for nothing else, the IAC provides mechanism for us to use that all-essential music in our films in a legal way with its copyright clearance schemes. It is a complicated legal subject and rather than try to explain it here, I would urge you to visit the IAC's website and let Gerald Mee, the Institute's expert, tell you all about it. After all, the licences you need cost the price of a couple of camera tapes each year and the door is opened for the use of whole libraries of music. The Institute also has a music advisory service which can help you choose the music when the programme's needs stretch your imagination a little. But to summarise what's on offer, the Website says this:-

### SUMMARY OF LICENCE COVER

#### THE MECHANICAL COPYRIGHT PROTECTION SOCIETY (MCPS) LICENCE

This licence clears the re-recording of copyright music from commercial recordings bought retail, and the recording of live performances of copyright music which sometime previously has been recorded. It also clears the re-recording of professional mood music records for amateur use.

#### THE BRITISH PHONOGRAPHIC INDUSTRY (BPI) LICENCE

This licence permits the dubbing of commercial recordings, bought retail, under certain conditions. It does not cover performers' rights, or copyright in the music, or other sounds contained in such recordings.

#### THE PHONOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE LTD. (PPL) LICENCE

This licence permits the public performance of commercial recordings bought retail, or re-recordings made thereof.

For more details of the copyright licences do please contact the ever helpful Janet Smith at the Epsom office on 01732 739672 and tell her Chris Taylor has put you in touch! If she puts the phone down on you, then try again, but don't mention my name!

## IAC NORTH THAMES REGION ANNUAL MOVIE FESTIVAL – 2004 COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Title of production .....

Name of maker ..... Date of birth [youth & junior only] .....

Makers address .....

Post code ..... Telephone ..... IAC membership No .....

Mark [x] in appropriate box.

[a] Video Format VHS [ ] S-VHS [ ] Mini DV [ ] Other [state] .....

Sound Linear [mono] [ ] HiFi [stereo] [ ] Both [mixed] [ ]

Leader State length [including clock, colour bars & black] to start of movie .....seconds

Start of audio State if in black/start of captions etc .....

Length of movie State exact length ..... minutes ..... seconds

[b] Film Format Super 8 [ ] Single 8 [ ] Standard 8 [ ] 16mm [ ]

Running speed ..... fps Sound Magnetic [ ] Optical [ ]

Stripe Main [ ] Balance [ ] Twin [ ] Stereo [ ]

Length of movie State exact length ..... minutes ..... Seconds

Give brief description of entry .....

Copyright clearance – to be strictly observed [see rule 6]  
Copyright clearance on audio obtained: Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Musicians' Union informed: Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Copyright clearance on visuals obtained: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Entry Fee £ ..... Return postage ..... Total £ .....

Cheques to be made payable to 'North Thames Region IAC'

Will entry be collected at the festival? Yes [ ] No [ ]

I have read the rules of this competition and agree to abide by them  
Signed ..... Dated .....

## New Season's Programme:- Well under Way!

As we get to the mid point in the Club's summer break your committee have been hard at work planning a programme of meetings for the forthcoming season and the back page of the newsletter shows just how far we have advanced. Naturally there are a few meetings still to be confirmed but for the most part it's been settled. The programme on the back page of the newsletter is a taster, but remember there may be a few items still to be confirmed.

We have tried, to provide you with a good mix of technical content, balanced with guidance on the more creative aspects of the art. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we have a visit from Jack Cornish, a local film-maker who was so committed to what he wanted to do and say, that he got a team together to make his hour-long feature, and ended up with a major award at the Cannes Film Festival. Such dedication is something we can all learn from and we much look forward to his visit. We start the season on 13<sup>th</sup> September with a visit from the Essex Police TV unit to see how apart from taking photos of us doing 33 on a 30 limit, they use video in the detection of crime. There's also a good mix of competitions and in-house instruction to look forward to, and a full programme will be published on the website very soon.