



VIDEO ON-LINE

News and Stories From Westcliff Film & Video Club by Nigel Woodham

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IAC North Region Triangle

Our participation in the IAC North Region Triangle competition is looming. Westcliff won this event last year so it falls upon us to host it for this years final. Our first showing will be against Wanstead & Woodford C & V.C. and Ealing Film & Video Makers. Wanstead & Woodford will be hosting this part of the competition on Friday 7th April.

The set theme this year is 'Through the Window' and is being represented by an entry from Lester Reading in conjunction with a few experienced Westcliff members. 'Art of Glass' is a slick documentary with beautifully crafted images and carefully controlled camera work which results in a sumptuous on screen look. In the 'Open' section, another Lester led film 'Till Then' tells the story of lost love and reunion set to a wonderfully atmospheric soundtrack. The Documentary section is filled by Terry Mendoza, a well known and respected IAC entrant for many years. His film 'Unlocking Young Minds' is a thought provoking and ultimately uplifting story of children coping and being helped with their learning difficulties.



Triangle Entry - Art of Glass

These three very strong films will make the final stages of this years Triangle very interesting and entertaining. The final will be held at Westcliff Film & Video Clubs home 'Wyburns School ' off the Rayleigh Road on Sunday 7th May from 2.30 PM. **Please come along, everyone is welcome.**

To HDV or not to HDV that is the question?

With relatively affordable HDV cameras from all four major manufacturers now on the market and ready for inspection, myself and a gaggle of, (what is the collective noun for Videographers & Filmmakers?) Westcliff members headed to Earls Court in London for the annual Video Forum held in February. After meeting up under the clock on the concourse of Liverpool Street station we made strait for the event. Some were looking to buy 'stuff' and most were looking to get their hands on all the new kit.



Sony FX-1

Although this year two main manufacturers were conspicuous by their absence i.e. JVC and Panasonic. Both had new HDV cameras on display but only via their retail partners stands. After hours and hours of drifting from one stand to another, asking questions, getting answers, asking the same questions on yet other stands and getting completely different answers my head was spinning with information, a lot of which either didn't add up or at best was contradictory. I was looking to make a buying decision on the new JVC GY HD101 camera. Shoulder mounted, proper manual Fujinon HD lens, loads of manual settings, reasonably light weight and for what you are getting 'Cheap'. I asked on one stand 'Digital Village' what signal is output via it's IEE 1394 socket and was given an answer. Later in the day I was quizzing the rep on another stand who was also wearing a JVC reps badge. I asked the same question and was given a completely contradicting answer to the first one. By chance as I was about to leave the original guy I spoke to on the Digital Village stand turned up. So I confronted them both for a definitive answer. Well after about ten minutes I left them to it, neither could agree on an answer.....very helpful.

Whilst at the show I spoke at length after meeting on various stands with Tom Hardwick (Respected senior member on the DV Doctor web forums) regarding all the HDV offerings at the show. Conclusion....well we didn't reach one. If we could get all four available HDV cameras and pinch features off each and make up a hybrid then fantastic. There just seems to be too many questions at the moment. The Sony and Panasonic are horrible if you want to shoot for any length of time from the shoulder, the Canon had a terrible viewfinder and nasty servo focus ring (Oh! Why?) and the JVC in HD mode shoots 720/25p which will result in flickering images if anything is moving at speed within the frame.....my search goes on. The consensus on the day was the show has definitely moved away from the amateur film maker into the world of the pro and semi-pro more than ever before.



JVC GY-HD101