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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

This is a story about 4 people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

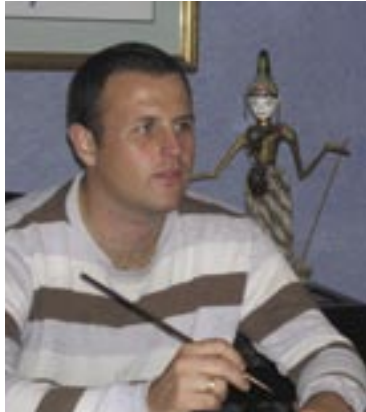
There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Think about it. The Committee will need some new members in the New Year. Start thinking now about joining them. It really is an excellent way to get to know everyone in the club. We shall need at least one new member. I'll have more information on vacancies in the next newsletter.

This evening we welcome four clubs for the Inter Club Competition, Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Staines and Mid Sussex. Staines won the trophy last year with their film "Keeping the Flame Alive". I always

enjoy this event because as well as having a chance to meet members from the other clubs, it is good to see the type of films they are making.

Since we met last month a group of us have completed our entry to the 2 Days Later competition which was to "make a film in 48 hrs" challenge. Our entry, "Mind



Games" (pictured), was Val Hitchman's idea and was a short suspense chiller complimented by racy music arranged by Val.

The brainstorming session for the Albany, held at Jean Hibberd's, produced an excellent idea from Harry Newland which I shall develop into a script. As the Albany is a regional competition and this newsletter is

available on the web, we shall keep the idea to ourselves. Anyone in the club who wants to find out more, please contact either Paul Holden or myself by email.

The new screen is now being used for showing of club films to various residential homes and clubs as well as The Fleet

Arts Club. With the various donations we receive each time we use the equipment the screen will have paid for itself by mid October. We still need volunteers for screening these events, full training will be given if necessary. Thanks.

Rita Wheeler

STOP PRESS

Hi all

I am on the market for a cheap second hand video camera as my old one has finally died after years of abuse.

I'm not after anything fancy. Just something I can ride with on the snowboard and not be worried if I take a tumble.

Thanks, Steve

Christmas Meal

If you want to come to the Christmas Meal, make sure you put your name on the list, make your choices from the menu AND pay £18 to Jean.

ALBANY COMPETITION FILM

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART?

On the 9th September, Dick and Jean Hibberd hosted a Brainstorming meeting at their house for the forthcoming Albany Competition, for which the theme is "In the Hot Seat". Volunteers who had responded to the call at the last meeting comprised, in addition to the Hibberds, Neil Cryer, Paul Holden, Alan Hussey, Harry Newland and Rita Wheeler.

Several ideas contributed by different members were considered, but the meeting homed in on an idea suggested by Harry Newland, enhanced with considerable hilarity by additional

suggestions arising from the batting back and forth of ideas added by the other members of the group, and aided by "food for thought" in the form of typical Hibberd refreshments, most welcome; and it was agreed that this should be the story to be filmed as the Club Entry to the competition, which is run early in the New Year.

Rita took notes of the meeting, and undertook to draft a script for further consideration by all concerned. Obviously, prior to the Competition, this will not be published to anyone not involved in the production – but this Club Entry will

not necessarily be filmed solely by the Brainstorming Committee, and this is a last call for any Club Member wanting, and willing, to take part, either as one of the filming or post-production crew or cast, to contact Paul, as the nominated Producer, as soon as possible, letting him know in what capacity you would like to contribute to this Club effort.

Filming is expected to take place round about late October/early November, to give adequate time for editing, and peer review of the draft edit, before finalisation as a competition entry.

Paul Holden

SEPTEMBER CLUB NIGHT

At the September club night, members of Surrey Border Film & Video Makers were entertained by Tana Fletcher who talked about her animated series "Willoughby Drive". Tana brought two of the puppets with her to demonstrate how she made the stop frame puppet animation.

She explained how patience, dedication and attention to detail were imperative to making this type of puppet film.

The puppets were made to approximately one fifth the size of a person, i.e. between

sixteen and eighteen inches as opposed to the usual 9 to 12 inches used in most puppet animation.

She had two different types of puppet head. One was made from a hard material with a simple hinge joint to open the mouth, the other had a camera cable release which pushes the mouth open and shut easily and with the character of Mrs Gumble Bump a second cable release caused her to frown. The eyes were either moved by a finger or with a hatpin which fitted into a tiny hole drilled into the centre of the eyes. Separate eyelids were used for either blinking or shutting the eyes and lids of different sizes were used to either widen or narrow the eyes to change an expression.

Initially actors Jonathon Cecil and Anna Sharkey created the different voices for the various puppets and eventually Gillie Robic joined the team for the children's voices.

How does one start to make an animated film? The way Tana did it was to first write the script. She chose simple stories about three couples in a street called Willoughby Drive, and during each episode some



extraordinary person or event would take place. Once the script was ready she would record the actors. She would then break down every second of recorded voice into frames, there being twenty-five frames per second, and by listening to each syllable she would note on her

dope sheet the number of frames each word would require.

After getting the puppets, props and sets ready she would then create a detailed storyboard

by practicing the movements with a stopwatch in real time. Then translate this into animated time. (25 frames a second.) So if for example the puppet raises it's arm, she raises hers (1 second) and multiplies this by 25 and then moves the puppet's arm 25 times while the camera takes 25 still photographs. This equals one second's worth of animation. Although she usually does two frames a movement.

Working roughly 45 hours a week, Tana took 10 months to a year to make one episode. The puppet series known as Willoughby Drive, with all its innumerable changes, cuts and remakings, took somewhere near fourteen years to complete.

Between explaining how the films were made Tana showed three of the thirteen episodes. All the club enjoyed the subtle humour portrayed so well in the voices and characters of the puppets and several members bought copies of this wonderful animated series.

To learn more about Willoughby Drive and the Dolphin Puppeteers go to: www.dolphinpuppetfilms.co.uk

SHORT CIRCUIT

The Media Lunch Club that I am a member of ran a screenwriting competition called Short Circuit, for a ten minute film script based on a discussion of film or television over lunch.

The initial judges were Sir Roger Moore, Guy Hamilton (Director of Live and Let Die), Joseph D'Morais (Producer of Tsotsi) and Steve Brookes (ex BFI commissioner on over 100 short films.) My script was voted the best and along with the two runners up

scripts went forward to a performed reading at the Actors Centre in London where an audience vote would decide on the winner.

This happened last Tuesday at the John Thaw Media Theatre in the Actors Centre. Unfortunately, mine did not win the audience vote! A great disappointment but this was also a very good and useful experience to see how the actors interpreted the script.

Rita Wheeler

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ...

Paul and Harry Newland completed the confidential Surrey Border filming, sponsored by the Farnham Lions, of the behavioural problems of a young man with learning difficulties at the Leonard Cheshire Home at Bells Piece, and have delivered the final result – two copies of a largely unedited DVD for him and the staff to see and review from time to time, hopefully to improve his future behaviour!

Paul and Harry also helped out the Alton Arts Society at their first meeting this autumn, with camera and club projector, when all of their own qualified projectionists had gone on holiday!

Gordon and Pam Sutton provided the same regular service for the first session of the Fleet Arts Society. Both of these activities substantially help to minimise any increase in future Club subscriptions. (More volunteers to help with this service will always be welcome, to spread the load from our hardworking regulars!)

The 48ers (comprising Paul, Rita and Al, Harry and Olive, Neil, Val, Ellie and Jenny) worked on the 2 Days Later project to produce a "suspense movie" in 48 hours. The finished film was sent off on 25 September and we eagerly await the results!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

JANUARY CLUB NIGHT WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY

GOOD NEWS - you will not have to make any major decision on New Year's Day (whilst maybe nursing a sore head.....??) about whether you can make the January Club Night or not.

The January 2010 meeting has been changed to the 2nd Friday in the month.

THIS IS FOR JANUARY CLUB NIGHT ONLY!!

LEARNING ZONE

Beginners guide to editing Starting to Edit with Free Editing Software

It's time to do it. Take that plunge. Your vacation videos are waiting. For the novice who's ready to jump in and learn video editing for the first time, here are some tips to help you along the way.

Shooting and editing your own video, is becoming easier and easier. Having a really good video editing facility in your home is not expensive at all. Those of you who have miles of raw tape and are now ready to take your first steps into editing it down couldn't have picked a better time for getting started. In this article, we will assume you already have the necessary gear needed to shoot your footage, and we will go over some steps you need in order to make your raw footage look polished and professional with basic computer needs to get started editing.

Step 1

One of the first things you need to consider when you begin to learn video editing is the bare basic gear you'll need. First, of course, is a computer - either

a Mac or Windows PC will do. It will probably be OK to start with an older one, but newer computers are more robust and faster. Video editing and compression take up a lot of processing power, and slower CPUs may struggle to keep up. Once you are comfortable with the process, you can do some research to see which computer upgrade best suits your needs.

Step 2

You'll need a program that will save your footage on your computer. Windows has Movie Maker and Apple has iMovie; both get the job done.

Step 3

Now you need to edit your raw footage down to something useable. If you're new to editing, take your time and don't worry - if you cut something you did not want to or you make a mistake, you can always undo it. What you basically want to do is cut out the long rambling shots, and the stuff that's unnecessary to tell your story well.

Step 4

Save and export your finished movie. Deciding on what format to use for saving your final work will depend on what you

want to do with it. QuickTime is standard for Mac computers, but Windows PCs can play QuickTime too. AVI is a nice solid choice, and you can play it on either format. Jump In!

Video editing is one of those tasks that require both right-brain and left-brain activity because it combines both technical knowledge and creative skills. At first, editing is going to feel quite complicated, and you might become frustrated by the technical detail. You know what you creatively want to perform, and can't seem to make it happen. Don't worry, even the hard-core pro started out confused by all the minutiae. Take it one step at a time, one finessing tweak at a time, and eventually you'll find editing is one of the most satisfying hobbies you can do on a computer.

Once the editing bug has bitten, you're going to find you'll spend a lot more time tweaking some shots, and realize others don't need as much attention. Just jump in with both feet and get editing, you'll love it as much as all of us other filmmaking anoraks do. **Videomaker Magazine**

A GREAT USE OF CAMCORDERS

There was an article recently about an innovative group of people using camcorders for education in Northern India. The people at a non-government organization called The Digital Study Hall, shoot video of the most gifted and effective teachers in their state of Uttar Pradesh.

They use as inexpensive DV camcorders as they can find that have mic inputs, so they can attach a wireless mic to record the teachers. The Digital Study Hall staff then lightly edits the footage and burns it to DVDs to make fast, cheap yet excellent-quality video lessons.

These lessons are quite valuable when used in other schools around the state. Some schools are very rural and the local teachers' abilities are not as developed. The Digital Study Hall staff provides these schools with a TV set and a DVD player, so that the local teachers can deliver the video lessons, one per day. After using these videos, not only do the students' grades improve, but the local teachers also learn from their virtual mentors, the video teachers.

This is an incredibly valuable use of video. The costs are low, and the users are lay people; they are not trained as video producers, but the impact is huge.

Some schools do not have consistent AC power. There are recurring blackouts, which interrupt the lessons. In some rural schools, there is no access to power. In these settings, The Digital Study Hall staff was using several automotive batteries with a DC-to-AC inverter. This system is costly, cumbersome and not very portable. Working with products provided by OMPT, the video playback solution was simplified. A half-gigabyte portable media player (PMP), was brought in which holds 1,000 hours of video, and a pico projector - a handheld LCOS-based video projector that utilizes LEDs as a light source.

A set of computer speakers was purchased, UPS batteries and a solar panel in the market in Lucknow to provide DC power for the speakers, PMP and projector. This setup uses much less power than a TV and DVD player. The system is more secure, because the teacher can lock it up at night easily.

Agricultural extension agents will also use this equipment to provide advice to farmers, and health care educators will use it to help train villagers on topics like hygiene, nutrition and sanitation.

The work being done by The Digital Study Hall is really something to be proud of.

Videomaker Magazine

ATTENTION FILMMAKERS!

This autumn will see the first Winchester Film Festival 2009, a three day public event taking place on the 9-11th October 2009, offering a selection of free screenings in great locations across the city.

There will also be two filmmaking competitions; one for students, supported by the University of Winchester, and the other, The Future Of Film Award, offers 14-19 year olds in the Hampshire area the chance to submit a film under the theme of the "Olympics".

Two of the shortlisted films will trailer before each feature during the festival, before the selected films are assessed by a jury of professional film makers. The winner will then be announced at an awards ceremony on Sunday 11th October at The Screen.

For more information about the competition and the festival itself, go to www.winchesterfilmfest.com



MEETINGS are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm

New members are very welcome, either phone 01252 717877 or turn up at the door!

St Joan's Centre is 200 yards south of Farnham station and is in the grounds of St Joan's Church. The entrance to the church is by a narrow road opposite the junction with Alfred Road, and St Joan's Centre is to the right of the church. There is ample parking.



COMPETITIONS

You don't have to be a member to look on the IAC website:

www.theiac.org.uk

Here you will find an events diary and all the competitions being held, entry forms, news and competition results.

October 16-18th Guernsey Lily Festival. Oct entries close for Southern Heat TBA

Oct 31st '2 Days Later' screening event at the Theatre Royal, Margate.

November North V South Southern Heat. Date TBA.

EVENTS

October 30th SOCO Region weekend at Bournemouth

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2010 Albany competition will be hosted by South Downs Video & Film Makers on Sunday April 25th 2010. The venue will be the Ferring village hall, Ferring, West Sussex. Just to remind you that the theme for 2010 is "In the Hot Seat".

DECEMBER COMPETITION

It isn't too early to start thinking about your club entry for the December meeting, our club competition. Any subject at all as long as it is not more than 6 minutes.

If you haven't entered before, there is a trophy for the best 'first time winner', also for the best holiday movie and the best documentary.

Technical trophies are offered for the best sound, editing, photography and creativity. Then there's the big

one for the overall winner.

The judges will pre-judge the entries, scrutinizing them at home and writing helpful comments for you to be able to improve your masterpiece the next time round. This is a good learning exercise.

So get busy now as the entries will have to be in no later than the November meeting. It always goes to the last minute!!

Pennyj

CLUB DATES

- 2 Oct** Inter Club Competition
- 6 Nov** Retrospective on John Woolmer
- 4 Dec** Club competition
- 8 Jan** New Year's meeting

DIARY DATES

- 31 Oct** '2 Days Later' screening event at the Theatre Royal, Margate.
- 6 Nov** Deadline for Club Competition films
- 6 Dec** Christmas Lunch at Farnham House Hotel

YouTube

The club would like to feature a variety of films on the SBFVM website which would be linked through YouTube. If you would be happy for your film to appear through this medium, please let Neil know. REMEMBER, this will enable us to advertise the club to a wider audience and hopefully entice more people to the club.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: