

Message from the Chairman - *Mike Sanders*

May I extend a warm welcome to our latest members Marc & Elliot Stanley, and Tim & Ollie McCoy-Page, both father and son duo's; and John Hunt. Please help them along and ensure they are welcomed at our future meetings as we would for any new member. Younger people being attracted into the club is just what we need. There will be a new members evening shortly where we have the opportunity to match the aspirations of our newer members with club activities. Alan Butcher our training officer will announce that event, watch out for it in Border Post or by email. There is no doubt that getting new people involved with projects is the best way of learning the craft and by asking even more questions! To that end we have entries to be made for both the Albany and North v South competitions, as well as our own club competition so no pressure there then - but being busy-busy is so much better than being a couch potato.



The Surrey BAFTAs are just around the corner, it's the clubs chance to celebrate film making from its members and Ollie's film on bullying that we recently saw is an eligible example. Rather than the club competition being limited to 6 minutes, it includes all the films played in the last 3 years up for an OSCAR. The red carpet might well be an expense too far for the club budget, especially with such a long entrance corridor to our venue! - so just imagine it - like listening to radio plays, paint your own scenery. Talking of club films we need to resurrect "Fascinating Farnham". The idea of this project was to be able to sell DVD's in the local shops about Farnham and what wonderful events go on there year on year, as well as to enlighten the viewer about the area's history, architecture and growth. There is in fact no need to limit this to one DVD it could well be a series. So where have we got to? There is quite a lot of material residing with Sir Paul Holden, but it all needs putting together and some additional material to be filmed - see Sir Paul if you would like to help with that. I have offered the use of editing suites as I have 4 and they are not all in use at once; and they can share a common disk resource/media pool where all 4 can play back the same video file at the same time. The only snag with this is a physical one, people will have to come to my studio to use them. February is the month for our club AGM, and there will be other tantalising goodies, so I will leave any further comment looking back on last year to my Chairman's report.

Press Release

Members of Surrey Border Movie Makers hosted a premiere evening in January for their film "Frequency Hertz" which came 1st in the Southern Heat of the North -v- South competition and 3rd overall. The Producer, Maggie Ledwidge talked about the challenges of being a first time producer, followed by Jeremy Bayne-Powell and Paul Redman who shared the role of Director. Neil Cryer showed his film "The Making of a Club Film" which included footage of the initial brainstorming session, location visits, discussion of filming angles through to the actual day of filming. Screenwriter Rita Wheeler explained where she got the initial idea from and how the script changed as it was developed. Cinematographer Gary Perkin talked about some of the problems encountered on the day of filming and Geoff Bentley explained how he had very little time to edit the film due to the early deadline of the competition.

Following the break an impressive short film about bullying at school written, directed and filmed by Ollie McCoy-Page was screened. This was followed by the film that won the North -v- South competition. Called 'Revolution' it was made by Chesterfield Film Makers.



Some of the Cast & Crew of "Frequency Hertz"

Video Production Show 25th to 27th February

The Broadcast and Video Production Equipment and Software show is on at Excel London 25th to 27th February. If you want to try something before you buy, see product demonstrations, or talk to suppliers this is the show for you.

Apple Final Cut, Adobe Premiere Pro, Grass Valley Edius & Avid will all be demonstrating their software, but please note that they might be doing this on someone else's stand, such as a large distributor like Holdan or another re-seller.

Some of the smaller booths will also be interesting to visit so don't forget those. Further information can be found on their website at <http://www.bvexpo.com/>.

To travel there, take the overland train and the Docklands light railway. There is quite a long walk from the station to the show, but it is under cover.

Border Post-Its

This is your forum for posting your production needs. If you're planning an epic and you need others to join and help, let the editor know. We'll post it if you email it (at the editors discretion) or you can contact any member of the committee - see back page!

If you haven't already done so, please remember to sign up for "Film in an Evening".



For March 2014 Issue, email to:
editor@surreyborder.org.uk

IN PRODUCTION

Action Movie

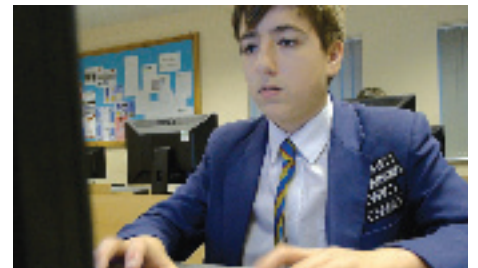
Reported by Peter Frost
Based on Info and Production Images
by Ollie McCoy-Page

Having enjoyed film making from age 13 onwards, I am really pleased to see that we have younger active people in the club. Ollie McCoy-Page at 14 has already shown his metal with a two minute Anti Bullying film made by him and featuring some friends in his school movie club. Now there's another production in the pipeline.

With a massive £0 budget, it's an action movie in which the Government has had secret documents stolen from them and they are out to retrieve them. Six boys are involved in the action, while Ollie is masterminding the production, directing and filming on a Lumix GH2 and using a Rode videomic Pro for sound capture.



The meeting room



On the case



The missing secret documents



The spy in action and below editing in FCP-X

Ollie is also sound and video editor using Final Cut Pro X, Motion 5 and Logic Pro X. As his club is only able to get together during free time at school, the production timescale is just one hour a week for four weeks to completion.



Seriac Film Festival - Sunday 5th April

This year the 2014 SERIAC Film Festival and AGM is due to be held at the Oast Theatre in Tonbridge, Kent on Sunday 5th April. What was once a simple 19th century Kentish oast house, in use until 1966, became the Oast Theatre in 1974 and home to one of the most prolific theatre and arts clubs in the country. The Oast Theatre is situated on the outskirts of Tonbridge, and has seating for 112 people. For anyone that is interested in attending the address is: London Rd, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3AN, located next to the Premier Inn.

Tickets for the festival are available on the door or by contact with Freddy Beard, email beardfreddy@gmail.com (Tel 01689 813616).

This year, thanks to a grant from the IAC, they are offering tickets at a reduced price of £5.00 each, which is an opportunity not to be missed, and this includes an early evening buffet. A bar is also available.

They have received over 50 entries for the festival so are looking forward to a bumper show. Seriac will be holding their AGM at the end of the evening break where members can air their views.

The Oast Theatre is situated next to a Premier Inn, as a suggestion for those who may wish to eat beforehand. The SERIAC Film Festival starts at 2.00 pm. (Doors open 1.30pm)



'Appy Families' a film by Geoff Baier

Reported by Peter Frost
from text by Geoff Baier
Movie shots by Brian O'Connell



Geoff joined the club to make movies. He has always wanted to be a film producer and has written many scripts as a member of Rushmoor Writer's Circle but had never taken this through to actual film production. Now he has. Time was not on his side after Christmas, so two more complex scripts were put aside in favour of 'Appy Families' for the Reed Competition.

The 3 minute story is of a family in debt with the younger members offering their help to clear a pay-day loan when mum loses her job and dad isn't paying the alimony. A tale of today, you might say.

Geoff used the last club meeting to seek out willing helpers and enlisted John Mills to play the role of Dad but the script had to be changed and Dad got the chop.

Brian O'Connell offered to help with the filming and editing, together with his array of equipment which, like Topsy, keeps on growing (another frustrated professional wanna-be).

Geoff drew ideas from Alison Proom, a fellow member of Geoff's Writers' Circle

with amateur dramatic experience. On Saturday 11th January, Alison and her daughter Maddy, who is on a drama course at school (a chip off the mum block) had a meeting at Geoff's house with his grandson, Nathan, and girlfriend, Lizzie. Nathan and Lizzie are not actors but Nathan is learning acoustic guitar which would provide a useful bit of 'business' for him during the three minutes movie. Everyone contributed ideas at the first meeting. Brian saw two original ideas and agreed to film the final one on Saturday 18th Jan.

Geoff managed to 'borrow' a neighbour's dog for the film. Student, Joanna Ley, on a media course at the local 6th Form College, agreed to draw the storyboard.

Somehow, what seems to be a sizeable lounge/dining room in your own home suddenly shrinks in size when cameras, lights and operators come on the scene, let alone the actors.

Geoff found that his role as director got a bit squeezed as there was no room for him alongside Brian and his two cameras and when Geoff tried directing from the floor, his feet, which were not in the script, appeared in shot and had to be masked out in edit! There was no room for a separate boom mike and operator.

Hoping to 'warm up the actors' Geoff started with shots of the major row at the end of the film. This worked quite well but he forgot to keep a record of which of the 40 shots, as shown in the storyboard, had or had not been filmed. So the film story was edited around what had actually been

shot rather than to include all the ideas in the script. Brian then took on the task of editing and reckons that from filming through to edited competition entry took about 30 hours.

The whole production was accomplished within 12 days. All in all a lot was learned, the experience was good fun and Geoff sent in his entry ahead of time.

Brian's filming and editing experience has led to what Geoff believes is a creditable first short film - and having seen it, I would agree with that and compliment his actors on their very convincing performances.

Production notes from Brian:

Shoot: Arrived 9.00am; First shot 10.30am; interior finish by 2.00pm; Exterior about an hour and wrap at 3.30pm

Lighting: 3 on tripods - 2 in the back room, one in the window

Cameras: 3 on tripods for the argument, 2 for the rest

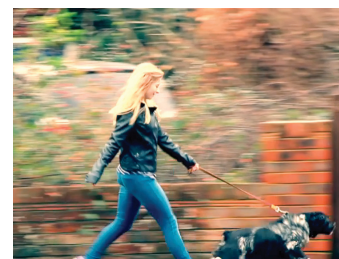
Sound: Video mic pro and Zoom H4N

Data: 36gb of 100 video clips and 35 audio clips

Lenses: Mostly 18 - 55mm and 135mm for outside

Editing: Over 20 hours of uploading, organisation and editing

Cast: Alison Proom - Mum; Maddy Proom - the Geek; Lizzie Parker - Daughter; Nathan Baier - Son



Scenes from the finished film above and below. Far right: Storyboard and Geoff directing.



Meetings are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm. New members are very welcome, please email secretary@surreyborder.org.uk 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.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 7th February 2014: (Club Night) AGM.

Friday 7th March 2014: '70 Years in the BBC'. An evening with Terence Patrick.

Friday 4th April 2014: Film in an Evening – the theme is: Two Sides to Every Story.

Friday 2nd May 2014: Surrey BAFTA. Surrey Border Artistic Film Tributes Awards. An evening of celebration with OSCARS. Outstanding Surreyborder Creative Arts Reels

Friday 6th June 2014: A selection of BIAFF films, with discussion.

Competition News

Opening Lines BBC Radio 4 Showcase (Reminder)

Twiddling your thumbs, wondering what to do? The next window for sending in material to Opening Lines - BBC Radio 4's showcase for short stories is January 6th – February 14th 2014. The team are looking for original short stories which work being read out loud i.e. with a strong emphasis on narrative and avoiding too much dialogue, character description and digression. Pay particular attention to how the story opens and closes. Check their website for more details.

Amazon Associate

Please support your Club. For those members who are not already aware of it, our Website now advertises Amazon, with a link to the Amazon site. So if you are going to use Amazon to shop, please pause before you do so, go to our site first, and then click on the link to Amazon. This will not cost you anything but will help to pay for our club website.

Your Club Contacts

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Border Post

Your contributions for inclusion will be appreciated together with photographs if possible. Please send them to the Editor, Alan Wheeler, for the March 2014 issue at this email: editor@surreyborder.org.uk