

STORYBOARD



April 2008

FROM THE CHAIR

For seven of the past eight years Colin has served as our Secretary but sadly he has decided not to seek re-election for next season. It is a very important post we now have to fill. Colin has done a great job for us and we thank him sincerely for all the hard work he has put into it. It won't be easy replacing him. I have also been considering my position as Chairman, having served thirteen of the last fourteen seasons in the chair. Isn't it time you had someone different banging the gavel? I will not seek re-election if someone does come forward to be proposed as the new Chairman. We will have some very important decisions to take at our AGM on 16 May. Will we have a new name, a new Chairman and a new Secretary?

We recently held another very successful Inter-Club competition which was won for the very first time by Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers. Graham and Jeremy did a fine job as our two judges, and have since written reviews of each entry for all the participating clubs to read. Having read their comments I congratulate them on a very fair summing-up. A report on the competition itself appears in this issue.

There is also a breakdown of our Unclassified Competition won by Graham's revised version of 'Aubrey's Seat'. We've had a lot of feedback about which version members preferred (Graham's original or the new one) both on

our website and at the hall. I believe the majority, including Graham, liked the redone version with its added voice-over, more than the rather obscure original. But then some of our members confess they do like films that are rather ambiguous, not to have everything explained, and to leave it to the viewer's imagination.

The Committee has now chosen the winners of our Editing, Sound, Photography, Comedy and Film Of The Year awards which we want to keep secret until they are announced at our Annual Show in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Spelthorne on Friday 18 April. Admission to the public will be £5 which includes the programme while members pay the usual £1 for the night. The show will start at 8pm. Doors will open to the public at 7.30pm, but as we like to get the hall set up before the public arrive we will open the hall at 6.15pm. Helpers will be much appreciated!

Helen has kindly agreed to hold another of her popular Barbecue's which is to take place on Saturday 3 August in the garden of her Weybridge home. May the sun shine on us that evening! In the meantime enjoy the remainder of the season before it closes with our AGM in May. And don't forget we have three summer meetings at the hall on 6 June, 4 July and 8 August and then we return to weekly meetings starting on 5 September.

Ken Ferguson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday	8 Apr	Management Committee Meeting
Friday	11 Apr	The Chairman's Night
Friday	18 Apr	The Annual Movie Show
Friday	25 Apr	Open Night
Friday	2 May	Show from Worcester
Friday	9 May	Summer Project / Group Comedy Ideas Discussion
Friday	16 May	AGM / Summer Programme

The next issue of STORYBOARD will be out on Friday 2 May

THE UNCLASSIFIED COMPETITION BREAKDOWN

Our final competition of the season had seven entries (plus two from Steve shown outside the competition) bringing the total to 29 for all our comps. Well done to everyone for making it a bumper year! Graham's revised version of 'Aubrey's Seat' was the outright winner with Tim's 'Four Elise' in second place just pipping Margaret's 'Sabah Coast To Coast' by a mere two points. Here is the breakdown of votes...

AUBREY'S SEAT (Graham Large)

Sound 198	Visual 199	Editing 199	Entertainment 366	TOTAL 962	Average 41.82
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FOUR ELISE (Tim Stannard)

Sound 158	Visual 178	Editing 193	Entertainment 358	TOTAL 887	Average 38.56
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SABAH COAST TO COAST (Margaret Stedman)

Sound 164	Visual 187	Editing 186	Entertainment 348	TOTAL 885	Average 38.47
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FAMILY HISTORY (Ann and Geoff Clark)

Sound 179	Visual 173	Editing 180	Entertainment 348	TOTAL 880	Average 38.26
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PARDEEP WEDS GURPAL (Jeremy Holder)

Sound 144	Visual 169	Editing 170	Entertainment 299	TOTAL 782	Average 34.00
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ROLLER MAN (Graham Large)

Sound 145	Visual 168	Editing 171	Entertainment 290	TOTAL 774	Average 33.65
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FORT VANCOUVER (David Peters)

Sound 122	Visual 136	Editing 140	Entertainment 259	TOTAL 657	Average 28.56
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23 Members Voted

Ken Ferguson

SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me...

The senility to forget the people I never liked
 The good fortune to run into the ones that I do
 And the eyesight to tell the difference.

APRIL 2008

THE 35th INTER- CLUB COMPETITION

Ken Ferguson reports

For the first time ever Hemel Hempstead Movie Makers won our Silver Salver for their excellent documentary 'The Rex'. It was one of nine films entered into this year's competition, judged by our two members Graham Large and Jeremy Holder. It told the story of how a 1930's cinema in Berkhamsted was saved, restored and brought back to life by a team of dedicated enthusiasts. Our judges summed it up as being a valuable record of a wonderful project and fully deserved first place.

Coincidentally there were two entries about Robins nesting in garages. 'Squatters In My Garage' from Orpington, and Reading's 'Who Ate All The Flies?' had some really super close-ups of these wonderful little birds raising their young. Both films were placed joint runners-up. A short comedy from Shooters Hill titled 'Full Of Hope' and set in a hospital ward came third.

An entry from Ealing 'Baby Odessa' had our judges confused as they were not aware at the time that it was a homage to a classic scene in the 1925 Russian film 'Battleship Potemkin' filmed on the Odessa Steps. The Ealing 'copy' of this classic scene filmed in black and white showed some clever editing skills but it lacked coherence and was too confusing even to those who recalled its original masterpiece.

The Bourne End entry, 'Farming Friends' delightfully told the story of a farmer's ploughing competition aided by scenes of their friends and supporters enjoying the day's event. We were introduced to an array of colourful characters which added to the enjoyment of this well made film. In 'More Meccano Magic' from Harrow we were re-introduced to a wonderful meccano model maker whose intricate models made for some interesting viewing. Graham and Jeremy felt that it was a shame we didn't actually see him working on one of his models adding that the film would have certainly benefited from seeing him tightening up bolts and generally going about his business. For me I felt that at 14 minutes it was too long for such a static subject.

I was impressed with 'My Passion' from Surrey Border even though I did feel it was too long at almost 17 minutes This related the story of a young man with learning difficulties and his passion for trains. He made an excellent subject for a film and his quiet, unassuming persona really came across. Despite a small number of technical faults I thought this was a very polished production and a worthy documentary.

Wanstead and Woodford came up with a comedy titled 'The Open Door'. It was nicely acted by the couple who had all their house contents taken away by removal men who had gone to wrong address. This unlikely plot nevertheless was quite funny, but it was all rather laboured and certainly needed far sharper cutting to give it the pace it really needed.

Once again I thought the standard and quality of this year's entry was a high one which made Graham and Jeremy's task of judging them even harder. Well done to them and to Roy and his projection team for a very smooth show. Thanks also to Tim for organising it.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are informed that an Annual General Meeting of Staines Ciné & Video Society will be held on Friday 16 May 2008 at Laleham Village Hall at 8pm.

Any items to be included in the Agenda must be handed to the Secretary not later than Friday 25 April 2008.

APRIL 2008

FROM THE WEBSITE

Jeremy 15.3.08: Well - what a frightening experience that was! Judging other club's films and then having to tell experienced film makers what we thought of them. My real problem was the very limited time in which to do it and the fact that I couldn't scribble notes while the films were being shown. Graham is clearly a past master and was of enormous help to me.

I was so confused about the film '**Baby Odessa**', as I think many of you were. So I decided I just had to find out more about why the film was made. After contacting Ealing VFM, I had a long chat with the film maker, Alan Robinson. He made it as homage to the legendary 'Odessa Step Sequence' in Sergei Eisenstein's silent 1925 film 'Battleship Potemkin'. The sequence depicts a baby in a pram slipping from the grasp of a dying mother as civilians are massacred. I feel its a great pity that we were not made aware of the connection in some way before the showing. If you're interested in this, take a look at the one and a half minute video of it by clicking on this link and playing it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/video/2008/jan/31/potemkin>

Margaret 16.3.08: My hat off to Jeremy and Graham for a sterling job yesterday. I agree, Jeremy, that knowledge of the Potemkin connection would have been very helpful. I saw Battleship Potemkin many years ago, and remembered the Odessa steps sequence, but had forgotten the pram bit (which is only a small part of the whole sequence). As it happens I bought the Guardian a few weeks back to get the DVD freebie of Potemkin. I've just played it and the sustained sequence of people pouring down the wide Odessa steps is extraordinary.

Geoff 16.3.08: Even being aware of the Odessa link to Eisenstein's classic, Baby Odessa was still "confusing". In my 40 years with the Kingston Club I remember being requested to hire the Odessa Steps sequence at least twice from the BFI. Apparently it is the first film where editing was used for effect (montage?). I don't think many Kingston Members were too impressed even with the classic in those days.

STAINES CINÉ & VIDEO SOCIETY

Founded in 1955

President : Dennis Valkhard

Vice President : Roy Bowley

Affiliated
to the



Film & Video
Institute

Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Technical Secretary
Membership Secretary

Other Committee Members

Ken Ferguson
Colin Hignett MBE
Colin Hignett MBE
Tony Valvona
Roy Bowley
Richard Enser

Jill Carr
Ken Dalston
Jeremy Holder
Tim Stannard
Barrie Wright