

STORYBOARD



November 2008

FROM THE CHAIR

Why is it that I have always found November to be a somewhat depressing month? Think for a moment. For starters we're back to long dark cold nights after having just put the hour back. There's Guy Fawkes night on the 5th to contend with and ever noisier fireworks to frighten the lives out of our pets (and us!), not only on the 5th, but for two weeks before and after. And then there's Christmas to think about with all the worries and demands the festive season brings. Am I really becoming a grumpy old man? Does anyone welcome the month of November? Of course being a member of SCVS there's always something to look forward to every Friday November night. Check out what's in store in this issue.

We held a very successful Gateway Trophy night recently and although we couldn't repeat last year's success with a win there was the consolation of Sheila's wonderfully prepared buffet which our guests from Reading and Bourne End, and our members, thoroughly enjoyed. Honours this year went to Reading with three very well made films which gave them 17 out of a maximum of 18 points. We came second with 15 followed by Bourne End with 13. A full report appears in this issue.

If you are intending to enter the 10 to 4 and/or the Four-Minute competitions then you need to hand your entry form to Tim, our Competitions Officer, by 21 November. Both competitions will be taking place on Friday 5 December. Not much time left, so

get cracking!

Our Technical Officer, Roy Bowley, has an extra busy couple of Friday nights at LVH this November. On the 14th he will be leading another of our Video Workshops, this one being 'Camera Techniques'. Roy will be discussing and demonstrating ways to get the best results from your camera. A week later (on the 21st) he hopes to have a good selection of visuals which he has asked you to film using the widescreen format of 16.9. If you've never set your camera to the 16.9 format you may be pleasantly surprised by the results.

I'm sure all members look forward to seeing the kind of films other clubs make. I have therefore managed to get Potters Bar Ciné & Video Society to compile a programme of their movies for us to see on 28 November. They would like some feedback on what we thought of their movies. Hopefully some members might volunteer to help me out with some comments.

A warm welcome to John Clarke who is now a fully paid up member of our Society. John has been put into the Shepperton Group.

The next issue, out on 5 December, will include members' Christmas greetings, so if you want to be included please let Jill know and pay her £1. News of the SCVS Christmas Social being held at the hall on 19 December is inside.

Ken Ferguson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday	7 Nov	Open Night
Tuesday	11 Nov	Management Committee Meeting
Friday	14 Nov	Video Workshop - Camera Techniques
Friday	21 Nov	Members' 16.9 Movies
Friday	28 Nov	Show from Potters Bar Ciné & Video Society
Friday	5 Dec	4 Minute and 10 to 4 Competitions
Tuesday	9 Dec	Management Committee Meeting

The next issue of STORYBOARD will be out on Friday 5 December. Please send in your articles, comments and photos by the end of November.

THE GATEWAY COMPETITION

Ken Ferguson reports

Our annual contest with Bourne End and Reading for the Gateway Trophy, first introduced in 1971, resulted in a win for Reading Film & Video Makers. Last year their President, Don Currie FACI (M), handed Jeremy the Trophy when we won it at Reading. This year as the hosts it was my pleasure to hand the Trophy back to Don again. With almost the maximum 18 points, Reading's excellent three films scored 17 points which left us second (15 points) and Bourne End (13 points).



The scoring got off to a great start for us when Ken and Diane Dalston's film 'Passing The Time' won the Storyline category with a maximum six points and it beat Reading's well made and acted drama 'A Bad Day At The Office' which got five points. Bourne End's 'Murder At The Manor' had some good production values but the finale was confusing. It got four points.

Next came the Documentary Category. We had high hopes for Graham's 'Keeping The Flame Alive' which has done very well in outside competitions. However this time it came up against two other excellent documentaries, quite the best being Reading's beautifully photographed and narrated 'Serengeti' which acquired the maximum six points. Bourne End's 'Engine Of Life' was a fascinating insight into what is a leaf, a subject I've never seen attempted before. It got five points, leaving Graham's film with just four points.

Before the marks for the third category - Open - were given, Reading were in the lead with 11 points. We were second with 10 points and Bourne End were third with nine. Laurie's 'Weir Here' I felt would be a strong contender for this Open category but in the end it was beaten by Reading's excellent drama, 'In The National Interest'. When secretly filmed evidence of the Nazi plan to transport Poles to death camps early in the Second World War is shown to British authorities by a Polish representative they refused to accept the evidence

despite his pleas to destroy the camps. This was an extremely well-acted and scripted drama and a worthy winner of the Open category gaining Reading a maximum six points. 'Weir Here' got five with Bourne End's nicely crafted 'Black Country Museum', which offered us a look back in time, getting four. The final result was Reading top with 17 points. Staines second with 15 points. Bourne End third with 13 points.

Reading's President Don Currie FACI (M) accepted the Trophy. A well deserved win.

Finally I must make special mention of Sheila's buffet. It was wonderful and it was obvious how much effort and time she put into it on our behalf. A special word of praise for Roy and his projection team who did a great job with the presentation of the nine films that were shown.

Next year the event will be hosted by Bourne End.

TEA ROTA



7 Nov	Derek and Dorothy Knights
14 Nov	Mike and Diana Hurcombe
21 Nov	Ken and Diane Dalston
28 Nov	Margaret Stedman and Vic Stroud
5 Dec	Geoff Conway and Colin Hignett
12 Dec	Tony and Norma Valvona

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

Sheila Harding and myself are master-minding the Christmas social gathering. There will be a hot first course followed by a selection of delicious desserts. You are asked to bring your cutlery, anything that you want in the way of drink and glasses in which to drink it. You do **NOT** need to bring plates or bowls or napkins. There will also be the usual games, quizzes etc. The cost will be £7 per member and the time is 7.30 pm. Of course I shall collect the money in due course, and what we want is "Chiefly Yourselves!"

Helen Mills

EYE IN THE SKY

I've now had the reviews of "Eye in the Sky" back from the Guernsey Lily. They're somewhat more favourable comments than at the Cotswold.

Perhaps it had a more responsive audience.

Tim Stannard

This is quite an amusing short film which uses the subject of CCTV to good effect. Some of the characters seen in the park etc performed their parts very well and the announcements over the speakers were quite a good way to portray the amusement of the camera operators seen in the film. Unfortunately, some of the edits were a little suspect and some of the acting was not convincing enough, but it is good to see a club such as this actually getting it together and producing a film. I think that this will please most audiences and its short length ensures that it does not outstay its welcome.

Perhaps the film could have had a stronger ending, as it did fall a bit flat, in my opinion. However, it is a good effort by the club and I should like to see more of your work.

PETER ROUILLARD FACI

I very much enjoyed this comedy, and it made me actually laugh a few times which so many

"comedies" fail to do!

It's a simple premise and doesn't involve any great technical achievements, but worked for me because it doesn't try to over-reach and be something that it's not.

The two characters delivering the "instructions" via the cameras worked well, again not having to stretch to any great performances but coming across naturally as if they were enjoying themselves.

In fact all the characters were likeable (when they were meant to be) and the film didn't just repeat the same joke throughout — having said that, I enjoyed the continuing gag with the poor man being asked to strip for security reasons!

Overall, this was good simple fun with game actors and enough funny lines to merit praise.

DAVID MCGUIGAN

What an interesting concept for a film. From the one idea of having a speaker we saw a series of gags - some one off and the running gag of the man being told to remove items of clothing. This gave a structure to the film.

Camerawork was adequate, rather than exciting, some more inventive camera positions and close ups might have helped.. The soundtrack was clearly recorded. The two operatives played their roles well.

I thought that the film had gone as far as it could for ideas, but the ending was a surprise — and a good one too.

I enjoyed watching this film.

JOHN GIBBS FACI

Just on a whim, I emailed Peter Rouillard who was one of the judges and organisers of the Guernsey Lily and his reply is below. And he's so right. I even noticed it at the time (or at least when I got the footage back) but I gradually became accustomed to it as I got too close to the edit.

Hello Tim

Thank you for your email, I am pleased that you find the judges comments useful. After looking at your film again I know why I stated that some of the edits were a little suspect. These refer to the changes of shots with the people on the park bench. You have some edits where two 'long to medium ' shots follow each other from different camera angles, ie; left to right, then right to left. There is not enough change of angle or focal length between them, which makes it look almost like a 'jump cut'. This can be attributed to the camera angles which were not chosen carefully enough. This would certainly have made it difficult for the editor if he had no alternatives to work from, forcing the edits to almost 'cross the line' in places. Also, the choice of focal lengths, going from wide to close up in these sequences did not always work, again, mainly due to the camera angles used. Poorly chosen camera angles are a common fault on many amateur films, so please do not feel too disheartened - many are far worse than your film !

I hope that this makes sense to you and / or your cameraman and I hope it will not stop you from entering the competition again. I always like to see the work of clubs and groups getting together and making films - this is what clubs is all about. Best of luck with your next venture.

Kind regards

Peter Rouillard

FROM THE WEBSITE

Tim 13.10.08: Just a quick link for anyone who enjoyed the “Thomas” vids. This time Leo’s posted a pre-production look at how he’s approaching the next video. How much work goes into this?

http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ta5ap_i0h0

Jeremy 19.10.08: You'll see I've now put some photos of the Gateway evening on the 'Photos' page.

Also Roy asked me to remind you to come along on **21 November** when he'll be telling us all about switching your cameras to the more modern **16 by 9 format**. **Please would members bring some film footage in this format.**

Jeremy 23.10.08: Help! We now have numerous photos stored electronically on both the website and my PC. However, the organisation of them has become complex now that there are so many. I've concluded that to sort this out is a two handed job. Please therefore could one of you give me a hand one day? Best for me would be a Thursday or Friday.

Jeremy 1.11.08: Well I'm not sure about others, but as far as entertainment was concerned (apart from 'Picasso of the Pier' and the 3-minute 'Encounter') I thought the IAC's Top Awards Selection 4 very disappointing.

Tim 2.11.08: Your entries please! Our first competition is nearly upon us. December 5th is the date of our **4 minute and 10 to 4 competitions**. **Completed entry forms** must be with me by **Friday 21st November**. When I showed the clips for the 10 to 4 in September, nine people said they intended to enter. Roy tells me only three people have taken copies of the clips so far, so get a move on. Entry is open to all full members, and the rules can be accessed from the 'Competitions' page of this website.

Regarding **the BIAF winners** - I have to agree with Jeremy. The biggest disappointment in my view was **“Breendonk”**. The makers had clearly put so much time and effort into the production – location, costumes, actors and research - it was sad that it missed the mark so much. The attempt to make the dramatic footage look old was wholly unconvincing and acted as a great distraction for me. The attempts to re-enact scenes were very brave but even more unconvincing than the vintage film look. They might have got away with it if they had cut these scenes by at least 50% in duration and probably 25% in quantity. (Contrast this with the excellent acting and editing in the WWII film from Reading we saw a couple of weeks back). In contrast, the narration was excellent and the firsthand account intercut with (mainly static) shots of the instruments of torture and the rooms in which it all happened were truly heart-wrenching. All credit must go to the makers for trying this and it wasn't a bad attempt, but I have to say I was surprised this gained a BIAFF award.

STAINES CINÉ & VIDEO SOCIETY

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