

Markee

May/June 2011 • V.26 | No.3

Film • Video • Animation • Audio • Locations • People

2.0

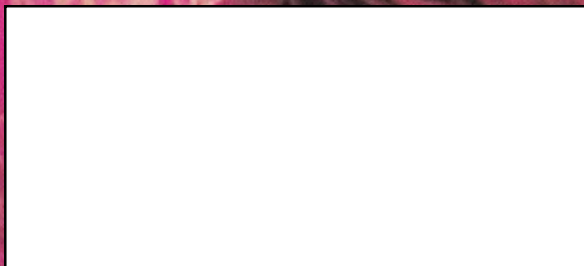
FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS
AT
WWW.MARKEEMAG.COM

Special Ks:
**High(er)
Resolution
Production
and Post**

Film and Video:
Education for the Next Generation
and Industry Professionals

Spotlight:
Capital Region Sees Stars

Stock Footage Guide



POSTNET STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bolingbrook, IL
Permit 211

High School and College



**Hands-On Learning:
Educating the Next Generation of Production and Post Professionals**

BY MICHAEL FICKES

EDUCATION

Professional



**Back to School:
Industry Professionals Hone Their Crafts and Master New Ones**

BY MARK R. SMITH

game because they can get immediate feedback to their questions. That's especially true when we get as many as 50 people in a chat room at once. Also key in that mix is the inclusion of industry experts as guests on the show, because I don't always have answers, and they come from various sectors of the business."

While part of Miller's original intent was to keep in closer touch with Midtown Video's customers, jtown.tv has "also allowed us to heighten our digital presence and expand our reputation by reaching viewers that otherwise



[Above]

Demonstrating various booming techniques in the field is part of one of Rich Topham's audio workshops at PSS.

wouldn't have encountered us," he says. "So it's about providing value to our market and building our brand."

PSS Audio Workshops Solve Problems

Rich Topham of New York City-based Professional Sound Services (PSS; www.pro-sound.com) conducts workshops on the tools, techniques and procedures used in the pro sound business. But while he's based in the city, he might just as well be in an open room near you.

Do you want to know about the aesthetics of sound recording, audio design, pre-pro planning and the latest in equipment and tools? Then call PSS, which holds at least two workshops per month at its store in The Big Apple or at a college, university or private businesses in another locale, such as Topham's spot-on-the-map on this day, Ohio University in Athens.

It's cameramen and editors who usually partake. "The shooters want to know sound better, and the post people want to know why the sound that they're getting isn't good," Topham says.

To that end, the most popular topics are "using wireless mics, frequency ranges and how to hang lavalier mics on talent so they don't get clothing noise and you pick up the talent's true voice."

Other topics include: types of patterns of mics and which ones to employ in given instances, matching time code, and matching picture and sound with the new cameras and recorders on the market.

The workshops can last from two to six hours, "depending on how in-depth the users want to get regarding the topic, as well as specific questions [they have] that pertain to how they are working and solving their issues," Topham says.

His overall goal is for his students "to walk away with the knowledge of how to record sound, so their future projects are more successful and their sound is much better." Repeat participants are not a rarity. "My students want to not only reinforce what they learn, but they encounter new problems they ask me to help them solve."

Topham seemingly stops at nothing in his quest to educate; his students get his cell number and are welcome to call virtually any time. "I just had a former student that I had not spoken to in four years give me a ring," he reports.

The biggest challenges of continuing education in pro audio today consist of keeping pace with camera upgrades. "The mics and the booming techniques have remained the same for the past 20 years," he says. "What's key with the latest gear is learning the software changes and knowing how to negotiate the menus, as well as the differences in the laws for wireless mics – and how those laws affect clients. Wireless technology used in the field is another big issue, due to the multitude of new broadband devices that make a crowded spectrum even more crowded," Topham says.

Indeed, what inquiring minds want to know seems to change constantly.

Students offer input concerning potential PSS offerings, and each seminar includes a Q&A period where Topham can cover everyone's specific needs.

What's coming up this summer? Most likely a student filmmakers' seminar toward the end of July and a gig with the University Film & Video Association, a Boston-based trade group, the following month. 🎧

SALES • RENTAL • SERVICE
 311 WEST 43RD STREET, SUITE #1100 • NEW YORK, NY 10036
 TEL: 212.586.1033 • TOLL FREE: 800.883.1033
WWW.PRO-SOUND.COM



LECTROSONICS WIRELESS DEPLOYED ON ABC'S MODERN FAMILY



PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER, STEPHEN A. TIBBO, CAS

"THE LECTROSONICS VENUE IS A GREAT SYSTEM," TIBBO SAYS. "NOT ONLY AM I ABLE TO EASILY SCAN FOR OPEN FREQUENCIES IF I GET AN INTERFERENCE HIT, I CAN JUST AS EASILY, AND QUICKLY, CHANGE THE FREQUENCY. THIS, COMBINED WITH THE FACT THAT I HAVE 16 WIRELESS CHANNELS IN SUCH A COMPACT FORM FACTOR, IS A HUGE BENEFIT. I'VE SET UP MY FIELD VENUE WITH THE SAME VRT BLOCKS AS MY PRIMARY CART VENUE, SO I CAN PICK UP MY MOBILE KIT AND BEGIN RECORDING QUICKLY."