

DIMENSION

The Newsletter of the L.A. ACM/SIGGRAPH

May 2000



L.A. ACM/SIGGRAPH Presents
Tuesday, May 9, 2000



"CGI's High Resolution Future in Digital Cinema, HDTV and Beyond"

The Program

6:30-7:30 Doors Open (Priority entry for members up until 7:00)
7:30 Presentation

The Location

The Los Angeles Film School
6363 Sunset Boulevard Hollywood, CA

Directions

From the Westside, go east on Sunset Blvd. Make a left when you arrive at Ivar St. Ivar St. is located in between Cahuenga Blvd. and Vine. The School is on the northeast corner of Ivar and Sunset. Across the street from the Cinerama Dome Theater.

From the 101 North, take Cahuenga exit. Turn right at end of off ramp, heading south. Turn left at Sunset Blvd. Turn left again at Ivar St.

Parking

Parking is available in the Los Angeles Film School's parking lot for \$4.00. It is the first driveway on the right hand side. Parking is also available across the street at the Cinerama Dome for the same price.

Fees/Registration

The event is free to L.A. ACM SIGGRAPH members and \$10 for non-members. New members who sign up on-site and pay the \$25 annual membership fee (checks or cash only) do not have to pay the \$10 fee.

The Event

CGI's High Resolution Future in Digital Cinema, HDTV and Beyond

Our May panel presentation will feature several noteworthy pioneers from the world of High Definition (HD) technology. They will lend their unique, vantage point insights as to how HD advances are being incorporated into today's production and exhibition strategies. The advance of digital cinema toward solid-state optical technologies, HDTV and ultra high resolution CG scene synthesis are all steadily pushing the quality of the picture envelope.

Our moderator, Paul Carey, will begin our program with an orientation on: what TV is, the historical development of HDTV with applications and the transition from NTSC to ATSC.

Each of our guest presenters will discuss how their arenas of expertise are engaged with High Definition format issues now and into the immediate future, whether on the computer, tv or theatrical screen.

Steve Briggs, Compaq Computer Corporation
Computer/TV Convergence Facilitated by High Definition

Robert Hopkins, Sony HiDef Center
HD Production and Post Production

Gary Demos, DemoGraFX
The Impact of HD on the CG Community

Dave Schnuelle, Lucas THX
Digital Cinema, Mastering and Exhibition

Spark up your brain. Come ready to round out the evening by asking our panelists any and all questions you have about HD's transformations, impact, and future!

Speakers

Paul Carey:

Paul Carey's experience includes industrial control and timing products, consumer products manufacturing, retail service management, and retail sales management. Paul was the founder and President of Component Video, Inc. (1983) a systems integrator exploiting analog component video and computer graphics tech-

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 13, 2000 An Evening
with The Walt Disney Company

Call the SIGPHONE, 310-288-1148

For recorded information on the time
and location of our next meeting.

Dimension Advertising Specs:

\$5 per line (~70 char/line)

1/4 Page (3.75"x 4.75") \$100

1/2 Page Horiz. (7.5"x 4.75") \$200

1/2 Page Vert. (3.75"x 9.75") \$200

Full Page (7.5"x 9.75") \$400

Accepted Media and Formats:

Zip, Jazz, Quark, FreeHand, Illustrator,
Photoshop, TIFF, and EPS. Make sure
to include all linked images and fonts.
Macintosh format. For Media, include
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nologies in film video and print applications. Paul is currently active in various engineering societies and has served as Chair of the Hollywood Section of the S.M.P.T.E.

Steve Briggs:

Steve Briggs has a Masters in Solid State Physics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He worked at Digital Equipment Corporation prior to the merger. From 1989 to 1992 he was employed at Compaq in Houston. For the past three years, while at Digital, and now Compaq, he has been working with studios in Hollywood developing the company presence in the film industry.

His work with Blue Sky Studios led to acknowledgment of Compaq in an Oscar winning film, "Bunny" and the nomination of "Los Gringos". At present, he is responsible for the High-End Film and Video Segment of High Performance Computing.

Robert Hopkins:

Robert Hopkins is Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Sony Pictures High Definition Center, a production and post production facility specializing in the use of high definition technology. From 1985 through 1995 he was the Executive Director of the ATSC which, during his tenure, developed the Digital Television Standard. He joined ATSC following 20 years with RCA.


Gary Demos:

Gary Demos is President, CEO, and Director for DemoGraFX. Gary developed the first random-access (DRAM-based) frame buffer at Evans and Sutherland under the supervision of Ivan Sutherland.

In 1975, Mr. Demos joined Information International, Inc., where he was the Senior Technical Director of hardware and software for computer-generated filmmaking. Mr. Demos supervised development of precision CRT film recording and scanning hardware, and architected the first Digital Film Printer, pioneering a new branch of film production technology.

In 1981, Mr. Demos co-founded Digital Productions and served as the Chief Technical Officer, Senior Vice President and Director. Along with his colleagues, Mr. Demos received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Scientific and Engineering Award for the "Photo Realistic Simulation of Motion Picture Photography by Means of Computer Generated Images" in 1984 and for *The Last Starfighter* and *2010*. He also received an Academy Scientific and Engineering Award in 1995 for "Pioneering Work in Digital Film Scanning", and an Academy Technical Achievement Award in 1996 for "Pioneering Work in Digital Film Compositing Systems."

In 1986, he co-founded Whitney/Demos Productions. He led a



software development team for the Thinking Machine's Connection Machine II, which he selected as the company's main computing engine.

In July of 1988, Mr. Demos founded DemoGraFX, where he serves as President, CEO, and Director. Most notably, he has been a prominent strategist in US and International Advanced Television (HDTV) standards since 1989, and is recognized for his pioneering and innovative technological contributions for his layered compression system.

Dave Schnuelle:

Dave Schnuelle was the Project Supervisor for the *Star Wars Episode 1* digital cinema release, and is

also Director of Engineering for International Video Conversions, in Burbank, California. Mr. Schnuelle was the founder and Principal Engineer of the Lucasfilm THX Digital Mastering Program, a service used by the major motion picture studios to ensure the technical quality of their home video releases. Prior to that Mr. Schnuelle was Chief Engineer of Modern Videofilm, a major post-production facility in Los Angeles. As an independent consultant, Mr. Schnuelle designed and supervised the construction of Universal Studios High Definition Transfer Facility. Mr. Schnuelle is a co-inventor of several patents on test signals and vertical oversampling in film transfers.

L.A. ACM-SIGGRAPH Chapter Election 2000

It will soon be time for elections! Start thinking about becoming involved! Check out the descriptions of our elected officers for the L.A. ACM-SIGGRAPH Chapter below. We will also have appointed officer positions available. Let us know if you want to run for elected office or become involved!

CHAIR:

The duties of the CHAIR include presiding at all regular and special meetings, calling Executive Council meetings, and appointing ad hoc committees. The Chair will be an ex officio member of all committees. He or she is responsible for informing ACM Headquarters of changes in the executive Council due to elections, appointments of vacancies. The Chair will handle all funds or other duties in the absence of the Treasurer. In the absence of the Secretary, the Chair will file all reports required by ACM and ACM SIGGRAPH. The Chair will also perform other duties as normally fall in this office.

VICE CHAIR:

The duties of the VICE CHAIR include planning the program for all regular meetings, and assuming the duties of the Chair at the Chair's request, absence or incapacity. The Vice Chair will be responsible for ensuring that business is conducted in accordance with these bylaws.

SECRETARY:

The duties of the SECRETARY will be to keep minutes at all the regular meetings conducted by the Local and the Executive Council. The Secretary will ensure that members, officers and ACM Headquarters receive proper notice of all meetings and elections. The Secretary is responsible for records, reports, correspondence and newsletter information. The Secretary is responsible for filing all reports as required by ACM and ACM SIGGRAPH.

TREASURER:

The TREASURER will maintain the financial records of the Local, prepare financial reports as required by ACM, maintain membership lists, process membership applications and renewals and handle all the funds of the Local. Prior to disbursing funds, the Treasurer will verify that all requests for payment are authorized in the Local's budget and approved by the responsible officer or committee Chair. The elected officials will be responsible for appointing the following positions:

Other Positions:

Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Advertising Coordinator, and Publicity Chair, Volunteer Chair, SIGGRAPH-Art Chair, SIGGRAPH-Tech Chair.

Contact us at: la-elections@siggraph.org