

HOT TOPICS AT NFT3



Students and industry experts put on quite a show at the BFI Southbank recently — Jim Slater reports

Attendees enjoyed the students' films (top), Mark Trompeteler introduces the day (below)



The BKSTS Education and Training Group took over NFT3 at BFI Southbank, London, on 9 July for an afternoon entitled 'Hot Topics and Work in Progress'. The eighth such event provided an interesting combination of talks from leading industry experts, screenings of films made by students from colleges at Farnham, Brighton, Bournemouth, Staffordshire and Sheffield Hallam, and some fascinating discussions on topics of particular relevance to film and media courses. Mark Trompeteler brought it all together — only those who've organised such an event can know the behind-the-

scenes heartache involved in getting all the material together and ready for projection. The BFI technical team did a great job in assembling films from DCPs, HDPro files and even Blu-Ray discs, as well as making arrangements for the different presentations and sorting out radio mikes. It came together seamlessly when required — the mark of true professionals. The afternoon consisted of screenings of work from the students, introduced by their tutors, who were encouraged to highlight 'hot topics' that affect their courses, interspersed with technical talks. BKSTS CTC member Chris Connett, from Christie, outlined the latest happenings in exhibition — a side of the industry that film students

BKSTS AGM AT MEDICINEMA

◆ The colourful and comfortable ambience of the ICAP MediCinema at Guy's Hospital, London (right), made for a superb venue for this year's BKSTS Annual General Meeting. It took place on Monday, 15 June 2015, and, after a welcome to around 25 members from BKSTS patron Sir Sydney Samuelson CBE, the audience was first treated to an interesting short film *Promised Bread* by students from Farnham Film School – a 'documentary' that turned out to be very different. The short was a telling indication of some of the young talent that is ready to join our industry.

◆ BKSTS President Roland Brown (pictured, right) conducted the AGM formalities efficiently. Before the accounts were approved, several members asked questions of the treasurer, seeking detail of administration expenses incurred during the year and the cost of auditing and accounting services, all of which were explained. Roland provided a list of Council members for the year ahead.



◆ A stimulating presentation about options for the future of the Society given by Derrick Trimble led to wide-ranging discussions among the assembled members – it continued long after the meeting had finished. The Futures Group has a mandate to submit recommendations for change to the council this month (September), and BKSTS Members are encouraged to get involved and share their thoughts. Have a look at the new BKSTS Futures Group website on <http://ow.ly/PDRQ6> and let them know your thoughts and opinions. A copy of the Draft Annual Report and the 2014 Accounts can be downloaded from the BKSTS website www.bksts.com



often don't consider for a potential career. During the day, Mark Trompeteler pointed out several times the various potential careers in film apart from the production side. Chris introduced the Premium Large Format cinemas that are 'on trend', explaining immersive sound systems and the potential for better images that higher dynamic range and higher frame rates make possible.

BIG PICTURE, SPECTACULAR IMAGES

Arri's Milan Krsljanin gave an in-depth presentation, "Big Pictures: Spectacular quality images", in which he ranged widely on higher resolution, higher dynamic range and higher frame rate images, telling the students that there is

"MARTIN UREN OPENED QUITE A FEW EYES TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF VIRTUAL REALITY"

3D possibilities: Martin Uren (left) gave attendees an insight into different 3D "rigs"

more to amazing images than numbers of pixels – we also need the better pixels that new technologies make possible. Without any commercial 'push' he explained the capabilities of Arri's latest range of cameras, including the Alexa 65 and its smaller siblings, and left us in no doubt that the new generations of large sensor cameras will easily cope with increasing demands for better pictures.

Martin Uren, chair of the BKSTS Education and Training Group, has long practical experience of 3D production at the lower-cost end of the market. This has earned him a deserved reputation as a 'guru' in this field, and he took attendees through the basics of 3D production and showed examples of

different types of 3D cameras and 'rigs'.

It was fascinating to see some experimental work he and his students have produced, including a piece where dancers filmed against a green-screen were superimposed on 3D material shot in a forest. The results were less than perfect at times, as he admitted, but the message that came over was that it is possible for students to experiment with 3D production, and that they will learn much from doing so. Virtual reality is another area in which Martin and his students have been investigating. He opened quite a few eyes to the amazing possibilities VR can enable.

Key to the day was the chance for students to talk with experienced members of the industry – a reception in the BFI atrium at the end of the afternoon saw enthusiastic conversations between students and practitioners from different business areas. **CT**

CHRISTIE Thanks to Christie for their generous sponsorship of the event, and to the superb BFI technical team for making it all possible.