

THE TELEVISION WORKSHOP

Many artists and designers working in video and computer-based media face a double obstacle in the pursuit of their work: funding and facilities. With video and film even if they are in receipt of production funding it is likely to be small and not comprehensive. When it comes to videographics, computer animation/graphics, interactive systems and new media such as Virtual Reality, costs are so prohibitive as to almost proscribe artistic experimentation.

Since 1984 an organisation with a close understanding of the needs of artists, and the determination to do something to help, has been operating in Dundee. The School of Television & Electronic Imaging at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art offers some of the finest facilities in Europe for professional student training. As part of the School, **The Television Workshop** was established, specifically to encourage bona fide artists, designers, independent producers and cultural or educational institutions and agencies. Hire rates are determined strictly with regard to the level of funding for the project undertaken, and projects of particular interest to the College are sometimes co-produced.

We are keen to put the College, School and the Television Workshop on the cultural map both at home and abroad, broadening our base of operations and the type of work undertaken. Over the past few years we have attracted various sponsors and agencies for support for artists, designers and researchers in independent media production.

The key is partnership and co-production with individuals, organisations, television and production companies.

Researchers, Designers and Artists have particular needs and methods of working which demand empathy and sensitivity from collaborators, particularly in new media. As a major arts production centre we can offer these qualities plus the enthusiasm and creative drive of over two dozen professional students from all over Europe. Experienced creative operators who are artists or designers in their own right are available on a freelance basis where student collaboration is not appropriate.

Some of the projects and productions are summarised below:

Production bursaries have been awarded in association with the Scottish Arts Council to artists resident in Scotland. So far six artists have been given these bursaries: Pictorial Heroes, Malcolm

Dickson, Ian Haddow, Gwyneth Leech, Isabella Emslie, and James Mavor. A new bursary of £2,000 was awarded to Dianne Barry for her multi-media project, **Consuming Passions** in 1990.

Pictorial Heroes completed their work, a 22 minute single screen piece entitled **Sniper** in 1987. The work looks at the medium of television as a potential tool of democracy, and turns the tables on it through the use of a sniper with gun trained constantly on the offices of Scottish Television. "Sniper" won the second prize of £2000 in the 1987 Smith Biennial.

Other partnerships have been established with the grant-aided video workshop sector, in the form of training sessions for editors from the **Edinburgh Film Workshop Trust**, for example, on three-machine broadcast editing. Film Workshop have also used the Workshop as a facilities base and in 1988 commissioned computer graphics sequences for their Channel 4, 11th Hour programme, "Plutonium Dreams".

Kate Meynell received one of the "New Directors" Production Awards from the BFI in 1988, and post-produced her piece **Medusa** on Betacam at the Workshop.

Early in 1989, the Workshop edited all of the work for the National Videowall Project, shown at **Video Positive** in 1989, The Tate in Liverpool. Artists included Mike Jones, Simon Robertshaw, Kate Meynell, Judith Goddard and Stephen Partridge; and Lei Cox produced his new installation **Magnification Maximus** for Video Positive 91.

A major collaboration during 1989-90 was between the Workshop, students and **Fields and Frames Productions**. The **19:4:90 Television Interventions** series for Channel 4 involved a dozen students working closely with the production company and artists including Rose Garrard and Raul Rodriguez.

David Cunningham and Judith Goddard both produced their one-minute pieces for BBC2's **Late Show**, working closely with staff and students.

In 1990 the Television Workshop co-produced with Music And Arts, BBC Scotland, works from five young Directors/artists in a series of ten minute programmes entitled **Not Necessarily...** for transmission on BBC2 in the 1991. The artists were: Doug Aubrey, Kate Meynell, Judith Goddard, Lei Cox, and John Butler.

Betacam comes to DJCA!

During 1991 the facilities at DJCA are to be completely rebuilt and uprated to include a new Component Betacam SP Edit Suite; a new Graphics area; three composite three-machine Suites handling Hi and Lo Band U-Matic and Hi 8mm; and four offline suites. The facilities are to be installed in a completely refurbished and self-contained environment including reception areas, production offices and access to phones fax and coffee!

LIST OF PRODUCERS, ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE USED THE WORKSHOP

Kevin Atherton, Marty St James, Anne Wilson, Projects UK, Greater London Arts Association, Analogue Ltd, Anna Ridley, Edinburgh Film Workshop Trust, Central Arts, Peter Horobin, Malcolm Dickson, Ian Haddow, Alan Robertson, Douglas Aubrey, John Latham, University of Dundee, Becky Thomson, Robert McCaan, Stephen Littman, Zoe Redman, Midland Group, Transmission Gallery, Seagate Gallery, Noel Harding, Tony Judge, Peacock Printmakers, Strathclyde University, Jordanhill, North-West Centre for Video Training, Dundee Tourist Board, Dundee Rep, Dundee Art Gallery, Scottish Film Council, Dundee Project, Fruitmarket Gallery, the Smith Art Gallery, Hierographics, James Mavor, Kate Meynell, Commedia Film Link, Alister McDonald, Gwyneth Leech, Original Vision, RSSPCC, Frank Paterson, Grampian TV, BBC TV Scotland, Scottish Television, Isabella Emslie, Garth Parker Ltd, Lei Cox, Chris Knapman, Drugs Training Centre Stirling University, Dean Stockton, National Film Board of Canada, James Mavor, Film and Video Umbrella, Fields and Frames Productions Ltd, Variant Magazine, Third Eye Centre, Lyceum Theatre, DV8 Physical Theatre, John McCulloch, Merseyside Movieola, Strathclyde Rape Crisis Centre, Flashback Video, SSK, Scottish Woollen Council, Jeff Keen, Sonia MacAngus, Craig Armstrong, National Review of Live Art, Daniel Reeves, Raoul Rodriguez, Rose Garrard, Dianne Barry, Mike Jones, Simon Robertshaw, Judith Goddard, David Cunningham, TSWA, Video Art Plastique, Judith Barry.

For more information contact:
Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art
School of Television & Electronic Imaging
Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4HT
Scotland

Cathy Young, Production Assistant
0382 23261 Extension 250
Stephen Partridge, Production Director

tvwpress.hp

