

Budapest

Masterclass success

Forty-two emerging filmmakers took part in the extraordinarily successful 2007 biannual Budapest Cinematography Masterclass. Conducted by the Hungarian University of Drama, Film & Television in collaboration with the Hungarian Society of Cinematographers (HSC), the unique two-week initiative was sponsored by Kodak, Panavision, CILECT (Centre International de Liaison des Écoles de Cinéma et de Télévision) and the MEDIA Programme of the European Union.

Internationally-renowned Hungarian cinematographers Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC – the sole winner of both Oscar® and Emmy® awards – and Emmy award-winner Elemér Ragályi, HSC mentored the 16 cinematography scholars selected from nearly 100 applicants. They were joined by 26 student delegates from film schools around the world, 12 of whom were sponsored by Kodak.

The well-honed programme embraced instruction, demonstrations and hands-on opportunities in scriptwriting, choreographing, lighting, shooting and directing. Daily screenings of students' short films were followed by lively discussions involving Zsigmond, Ragályi and the entire class.

Visits to Kodak Cinelabs Hungary and the Focus Fox Post-Production Studio provided valuable insights for the students, as did the hands-on KODAK Look Manager System training and the instructional demonstrations on film, hybrid motion imaging technologies, processing and post-production by Holger Schwärzel of KODAK Germany. "The students really liked the presentation and face-to-face training on KLMS

and they really got the chance to emulate different corrections and look variations although the lab delivered only a one light print of their daily work. It helped them to understand the film system and the tools that make visions happen. I realised from their questions about film stock and processing that their interest in shooting on film is extremely strong."

The Masterclass was rated a resounding success by the Kodak-sponsored students who relished the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other aspiring filmmakers. "The 15 days of non-stop cinematography was very inspiring; it has injected some fresh air into my cinematographer's world," says Neus Olle-Soronellas from the UK, adding "Listening to Vilmos Zsigmond, let me understand why he is where he is; he's one of the best." "Shooting on set with Vilmos has inspired us to make beautiful and interesting movies" remarks Anastasia Loginova from Russia, who puts the success of the Masterclass down to "the masters and the highly professional support crew." Raphael Beinder from Germany appreciated "the great opportunity to look over the rim of the teacup and discover how the craft of cinematography is taught, perceived, accepted, cultivated and financially supported in other countries." Pedro Castanheira from Portugal is "much more confident" and will follow Zsigmond's advice to "try not to under-estimate hard light." He likened the Masterclass to "one of the best lifetime experiences: endless bombs of oxygen that will help us find our way in this difficult profession." Massimo Bettarelli from Italy says "Elemér



Ragályi, taught us composition and the use of camera movement; his lighting is incredible. Vilmos's style is a perfect mix of new and classic concepts and he explained the uses of fill light behind the camera and hard directional light. I returned to Italy much more open-minded and realised how the northern light of Turin has influenced my taste and how different it is for South American cinematographers."

Wonderful moment

Hungarian-born János Xantus (*A Játékos (The Gambler)*, *Túsz történet (Stand Off)*) was director of the Masterclass. "I was pleased with the Kodak-sponsored students, who represented a high professional and artistic level. They were open and eager to learn and participated very actively during the sound stage work. Those familiar with the KLMS

software enthusiastically helped other participants to explore the possibilities."

The Masterclass delegates planned a surprise for the masters. They wrote two songs which they dedicated to Zsigmond and Ragályi. "They sang the songs with an acoustic guitar during the closing ceremony. We all were touched; some laughed, others were in tears. It was a wonderful moment that proved the students had formed a warm community," concludes Xantus.

The Budapest Masterclass is just one of many initiatives in Kodak's worldwide programme of activities to help cinematography students and educators enrich their knowledge of the art and craft of filmmaking. Kodak also sponsors student film festivals, awards, seminars and showcases. For further information, visit the Kodak website at www.kodak.com/go/education.