

Masters in the sun

Australia's Sunshine State nurtures new talent

Griffith Film School in Brisbane, Australia played host to the first Kodak Cinematography Student Masterclass, earlier this year. Designed to accelerate film students' skills in the art of cinematography, the three-day event was created following discussions between Kodak, Griffith Film School and senior members of the Queensland branch of the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) who all recognized the need to provide high calibre training at the professional level for emerging filmmakers. Shooting took place at the Queensland Maritime Museum, which offered some beautiful interiors and impressive exteriors including a ships-hull and proppers.

The masterclass was offered at a significantly reduced fee made possible through the support of the local Queensland industry including ARRI Australia, Atlab, Cameraquip and Cutting Edge. In fact ARRI went beyond the call of duty by bringing their new Super 16mm 416 camera out from London especially for the students' use.

Senior Queensland directors of photography, Phil Cross, ACS, Nino Martinetti, ACS, Tim McGahan, ACS and Ben Nott, ACS along with Chris Hart from Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester generously provided their time to instruct the participants on lighting and camera operation. Hart shared his technical knowledge gained from two decades of testing film stocks and helped participants understand how to apply practical tests creatively.

"Kodak continues to invest in young filmmakers of tomorrow," says Hart. "Workshops such as this are a great opportunity for students to accelerate their learning. Despite the hype surrounding digital, discerning filmmakers understand the superiority of the film image and are keen to discover how to work with film to produce amazing results. It is our privilege to help them."

Feedback from the participants was enthusiastic and positive. "Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend the Kodak Cinematography Student Masterclass. It was the best money I have spent!" comments participant, Bec Parkinson. "I learnt so much more than I thought I would. It really inspired me to take more of an interest in cinematography and I can't wait to put into practice what I learnt."

Camaraderie

ACS National Vice President, Ron Johanson, ACS, brought his unique brand of passion to an inspirational discussion with the students on the exceptional benefits of the film industry including the camaraderie and the personal satisfaction gained from a career as a cinematographer. Johanson also introduced local cinematographers, Tony Luu and Aaron Leong, who discussed their distinct backgrounds and career paths, which led them separately into a film career. Listening to the details behind their real-life careers gave the students insight into how their choices can create new directions and what steps they can take to have a successful career in cinematography.

Participant, Bernie Kavanagh, best sums up the benefits, "Sitting in on the afternoon chat with the DPs talking about their different career paths really ended up inspiring me," he enthuses. "I have been shooting for 12 years in video and am mad keen to get into film regardless of my knowledge of HD and video. However I often feel the old school approach that says I have to start again and do my time in film before stepping up to a cinematographer's role. Hearing the different career paths was a real confidence boost to 'just do it!'"



1 Shooting on the Kodak Masterclass took place at the Queensland Maritime Museum.