

Budapest Masterclass Teaches Global Language of Cinematography

Below left: John Schwartzman, ASC guided students through hands-on courses.
Below right: Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC served as a master instructor at the 2005 Budapest Masterclass.

For an international contingency of students, the University of Drama, Film and Television in Budapest represented the happiest place on earth from August 21 through September 4, 2005. In collaboration with the Hungarian Society of Cinematographers (HSC), 16 students and 28 participants gathered for the eighth annual Budapest Cinematography Masterclass. Twelve of the participants were delegated by Kodak, who has sponsored the two-week long workshop since its inception. Additional sponsors included Panavision and CILECT (Centre International de Liaison des Écoles de Cinéma et de Télévision), an international association of film schools.

Renowned cinematographers Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC and John Schwartzman, ASC served as the master instructors for the course. Students were organized into teams that filmed short exercises on a sound stage at BK Filmstudio Ltd. using the latest Panavision 35mm cameras and lighting equipment provided by Sparks Ltd. Zsigmond and Schwartzman guided the hands-on course and offered immediate feedback on the set and during dailies. The course also included screenings of participants' films, as well as classic and contemporary movies photographed by the masters. Screenings were followed by lively discussions.

"Students from very different cultural backgrounds found themselves able to work together, and many formed close friendships," said Janos Xantus, director of the Budapest Cinematography Masterclass. "The tireless and probing Vilmos Zsigmond and enthusiastic and passionate John Schwartzman were inspirational. The open dialogues were engaging and educational, and proved that cinematography is a global language and creative collaboration."

Kodak took participants on tours of Kodak Cinelabs Hungary and Focus Fox Studio. The company's Clive Ogden, regional technical manager for the Entertainment Imaging Division, also led a discussion on the advanced film technology built into the VISION2 line of stocks, and presented an overview of the Kodak Look Manager System, a tool for managing color from the pre-visualization of images through post-production.

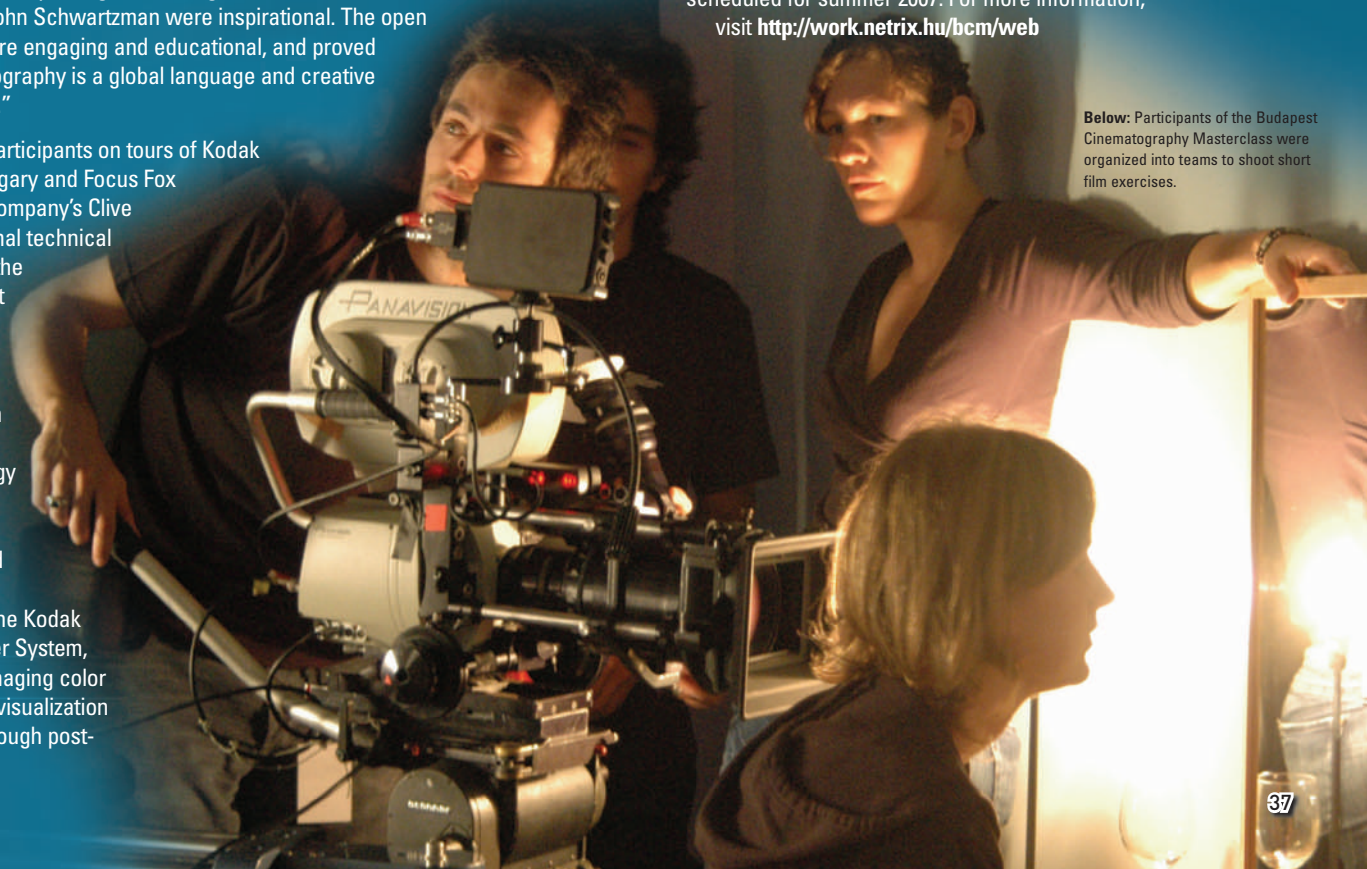


"We are investing in film technology because we see a future with no boundaries," said Ogden to a group of eager ears. "There are many new digital tools for filmmakers today, creating new workflow options. We will continue to listen to our customers and offer them creative solutions. The Kodak Look Manager System is just one example of how we can take the advantages of film and build a bridge to the hybrid post-production world."

During the closing ceremonies, students received certificates of completion, and Kodak presented awards to Zsigmond and Schwartzman for their dedication to helping the next generation of filmmakers.

Participants were chosen by the Board of Professors of the University of Drama, Film and Television from 92 applications representing CILECT-affiliated film schools. Further support was provided by the Hungarian Motion Picture Foundation, the National Cultural Fund and the Budapest Office of Tourism. ■

The ninth annual Budapest Cinematography Masterclass is scheduled for summer 2007. For more information, visit <http://work.netrix.hu/bcm/web>



Below: Participants of the Budapest Cinematography Masterclass were organized into teams to shoot short film exercises.