



AUG-SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

The British Film Designers Guild



Promoting the
BRITISH ART DEPARTMENT

Vectorworks and Maya – A happy marriage?

The UK film business seems to love these two programmes. Vectorworks for the Art Dept and Maya VFX.

There are plenty in competition... Solidworks, 3Ds Max, form-Z, Modo, Sketch-up, ZBrush to name some other 3D software. Then we've got ... AutoCAD, TurboCAD, ArchiCAD etc. Yet still the two programs in the title win on usage percentage. Alas importing and exporting between these two are compatible as Betamax and VHS, so filtering through other files or programs seem to work the best like the .dxf format.

'So what's the big deal?' I hear you say. Compatibility within the art dept. We function as a team and need to pool work and interact with each other's files. How often do we get - I haven't got that program, I can't open that file, can you export that etc.

Andy Nicholson is leading the defensive within the art dept. He told me a few key points...

- Whatever CAD/3D modeling package we use, it's most valuable attribute is the usefulness of its output to others.
 - The way we construct objects using our chosen 3D package can greatly affect the usefulness of that data when exported to other departments (or manufacturers) using alternative 3D Suites.
 - CAD Software: Vectorworks / AutoCAD / Solidworks....It doesn't really matter; all are very sophisticated and for Film Set, Prop or Vehicle design work they do more than we'll ever need. What matters is their ability to integrate with other software as well as output 2D drawings.
 - Pre-vis & VFX departments all accept that importing a 3D file from a different modeling platform will usually need tweaking, whatever the file type. The math involved in 3D modeling programs is often unpredictable and many pre-vis depts. find that having a 'Scripter' on-board really helps their efficiency.
 - One additional and very important **new feature** of Cinema4D 2010 release is its ability to export in the latest .fbx file which is native to Maya and other Autodesk applications. (Is this the missing link?)
 - It goes with the territory that 3D is an extremely dynamic environment, there's always something new to learn or a better way to get your desired result. Make it your responsibility to learn the capabilities of your chosen 3D package!
-

Few really know their programs and potential, **Mark Harris, Steven Lawrence** (that I saw in action on John Carter of Mars) are the front runners. Even so they will argue are length the pros and cons of methods.

The conclusion, well it's not an exact science and it's a very fast moving world at the moment. There is a knee jerk reaction to use Vectorworks even above hand drawing in the young art dept ranks. It's all about application, not applications.

A recent development is that the current Vectorworks now works 'hand in hand' with Cinema 4D. Finally we have two film orientated programs that are 'affordable' and linked; for use inside the art dept. Autocad and Maya programs are both Autodesk but Vectorworks is most popular by far by us.

So are these the future for the Art Dept...

Vectorworks 2011 Architect with Cinema 4D Visualise. They are 'easy' to use and above all compatible together. Now the new .fbx export from 4D is Maya friendly.

Alas we are still stuffed when in direct use with Maya. So in answer to cross department programs, looks like we may have a marriage of convenience; but they won't be getting a divorce any time soon.

A Conversation from Su Whitaker.

Press releases... with links

[Vectorworks announces partnership with MAXON Computers](#)

Nemetschek Vectorworks announced a new partnership with MAXON Computers of Germany.

Beginning with the next release of Vectorworks software, which will be available on 14/09/10, our Renderworks rendering application will be based on MAXON's CINEMA 4D render engine.

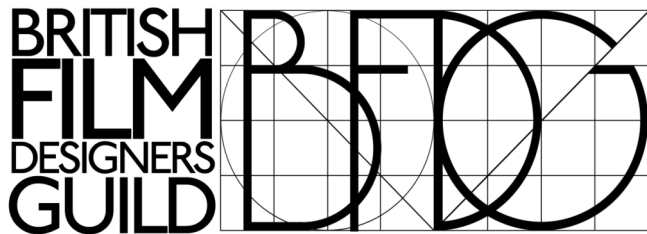
"The CINEMA 4D render engine is blazingly fast and now Renderworks 2011 offers this speed to our customers, completely integrated into their Vectorworks workflows. With improved speed, rendering quality and 64-bit support, virtually every aspect of the Renderworks experience is improved," said Sean Flaherty, CEO of Nemetschek Vectorworks. "And with 'no-translation' transfer directly into CINEMA 4D, we provide a solution for customers who need animation or additional high-end rendering features. This is a truly integrated visualisation solution courtesy of the Nemetschek group."

[Maxon Cinema 4D press notes on Vectorworks integration](#)

Vectorworks is an excellent CAD software solution for design studios of all kinds. Whether you work in architecture, landscape, entertainment, or manufacturing, Vectorworks gives you the flexibility and versatility you need to design it all. Plan your projects with Vectorworks' comprehensive 3D toolset and apply all types of materials to define the basic appearance of all included elements.

When everything is ready you can save your project as a CINEMA 4D file ready to visualize. Inside CINEMA 4D you will easily find all your objects as not only geometry but the materials and lights will be transferred as well. Even the project structure will be preserved for maximum comfort.

And even if subsequent changes need to be made to the project in Vectorworks, the intelligent update function helps get the changes into your visualization without losing the work already completed.

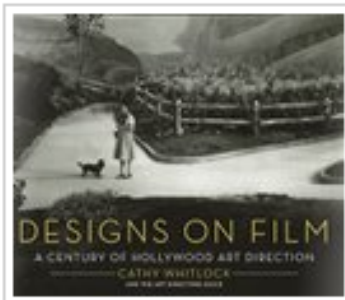


Please join the Face book group for direct and interactive interchange of views and comments. This month there have been some highlighted work and publishing. KP



Gary Tomkins Following on from the book published in April called "British Film Design", another, more substantial tome has just been released called "Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood Art Direction", in collaboration with The (American) Art Directors Guild. This new book is a very different offering from the well written but ...

[See more](#)



[British Film Designers Guild photos](#)

 Monday at 14:25 · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)

 Kevin Phipps likes this.



Gary Tomkins If you're really short of content for the next newsletter.....

Yesterday at 14:53 · [Like](#)



Warren Lever <http://vimeo.com/9679622>



The Sandpit

vimeo.com

A day in the life of New York City, in miniature. Winner: Prix Ars Electronica Award of Distinction 2010 Official Selection: AFI Fest 2010 Original Music: composed by Human (<http://www.humanworldwide.com/>), co-written by Rosi Golan and Alex Wong. Please...

 15 December at 09:26 · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)



Warren Lever tilt and shift.... stunning...

15 December at 09:27 · [Like](#)



Warren Lever the science..

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilt-shift_photography

and the full link.. go large and the soundtrack is fantastic as well so sit back and enjoy...

<http://vimeo.com/9679622>

A warm Welcome to **Maddy Lamont...**



Hi everyone

As you will know by now Mary Krauss is leaving the Guild as administrator shortly and I will be taking over the reins as of the end of January next year – to those of you who I have not met yet, my experience stems from the spheres of the communications and marketing world, which I am sure will

leave me in good stead to help you all from a practical and administrative point of view with the day to day running of the Guild. My background, though not directly linked to the Film Industry, has been very much associated with it from a family point of view – so I understand at least in outline how the many of the different departments work – especially those associated with the art department so I look forward to working with you all and to meeting you at one of the future Guild events

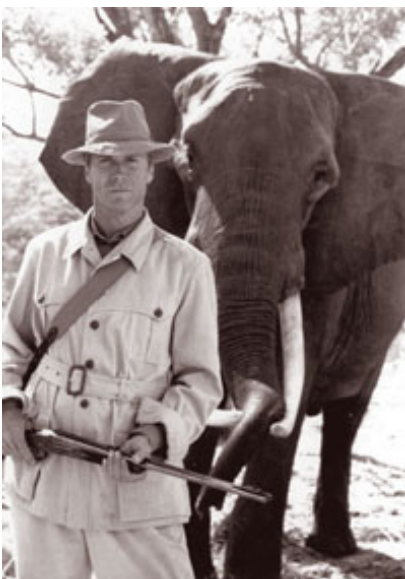
Very best wishes Maddy

Comment – We will formally meet Maddy at the next AGM this coming January.

A fond goodbye...

OBITURY TO JOHN GRAYSMARK FROM ALAN TOMKINS

I knew John and his family more than most, as I lived next door to them for 7 years, in semi detached bungalows, in the early part of our careers in the film industry. It was whilst working with John at MGM Studios, he told me the bungalow next door was being put on the market. I went over the same evening and secured the deal, a few weeks later I moved in. For seven years we cemented a wonderful friendship and had many shared drives to Shepperton (1.5 hours) and Pinewood (1 hour) – there were no motorways then to shorten the journey time! To be a good



friend and a great boss needs wearing two hats so speak, but John always handled that skill with great aplomb. It's been said he was a 'larger than life' character, but in his case that label could have been invented for him! He was large in his generosity to friends and family and, to young emerging talent, and large in his own talent. That being the case, but he never suffered fools easily, they could be directors or producers. John would put his views over and all the time I knew him, his views always turned out to be right.

I have many fond memories of John from our stint on 'Lawrence of Arabia' in 1961 up to 'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves' in 1990, prior to his leaving for Los Angeles. I missed him then, and I miss his mischievous charm now, it was this that adhered him to all who met him.

A.T.

White Hunter, Great Heart.



The Guild event 'An Evening With Peter Lamont' was a wonderful success. It was a very entertaining and educational account of how Peter and his team recreated the full-sized Titanic, or just one half of it as we learnt. He brought to life how the location to build the ship was found and the logistics of constructing vast sets for such a demanding schedule.

Hearing these tales are especially relevant to guild members starting their careers as such large set builds are often out of the questions in these days of tightening budgets.

We should be as proud of our craft as much as we are of Peter's impact on the industry over his career.

Many thanks to Peter for taking the time to speak to us, but also Sonja Klaus and her team for setting up the evening and Mark Farley for the hosting the event in the beautiful surroundings of Farley Hire.

It was great to see old friends and meet new ones; we should do it again, soon!

Comment – Word on the street is another 'Evening with' is in early prep.

Advance notifications for 2011 -

AGM - Sunday 30th Jan - Pinewood, Lunch, Social, Gossip time and **Awards**.

Next **Committee meeting** – Tuesday 18th Jan - Pinewood North Lodge 12.45pm

PRODUCTION NEWS

Game of Thrones / Ireland / PD Gemma Jackson / SAD Paul Inglis / SD Sarah Whittle, Richard Roberts

Untitled Alien Prequel 1 & 2 / Pinewood / PD Arthur Max / SAD John King / AD Adam O'Neil, Marc Homes, Peter Dorme / AAD Helen Xenopoulos, Andrew Palmer, Anthony Caron-Delion, Tom Whitehead, Claudio Campana / Snr D Steven Lawrence, D Kate Grimble, Jo Finkel, James Collins, Simon Rogers / JD Luke Whitelock, Richard Usher / ADM Jody King, Jason Denham / ADA James Corker, Archie Campbell / Co-ord Sarah Griggs / R Gina De Ferrer / SD Sonja Klaus / SD AD Karen Wakefield / ASD Luke Edwards / CA Ivan Weightman, Julian Caldwell

Jack Giant Killer / Longcross

PD Gavin Bocquet / SAD Peter Russell / AD Mark Harris, Gary Tomkins / AAD Ben Collins, Stephen Swain / ADA Jake Hall / SD Richard Roberts / GA Alan Payne / CD Joanna Johnson

Wrath of the Titans (Clash 2) / Longcross

PD Charles Woods / SAD Ray Chan / AD Stuart Kearns / AAD Jane Harwood / D Andy Procter / ADA Camise Oldfield

Life of Pi / Location Taiwan & India / PD David Gropman /SD Anna Pinnock / CM Malcolm Roberts

The Avengers / New York / PD James Chinlund / SAD Jon Billington / AD Julian Ashby / AAD Steve Morahan

Ghost Rider : Spirit of Vengeance / Romania / PD Kevin Phipps / AD Steve Dobric, Justin Warburton-Brown / SD Dominc Capon / SA John Greaves

47 Ronin aka Samurai / Pinewood / PD Jan Roelfs / SAD Gary Freeman / Snr AD UK Dave Allday, Budapest Les Tomkins, AD Stuart Rose, Rob Cowper / AAD Guy Bradley, Gary Jopling / Snr D Patsy Johnson / D Oli Carrol / SA Simon McGuire / GA Carol Kupisz, Tina Chard / Co-ord Jen Lewicki / ADA Charlotte Malynn / SD Elli Griff / SD AD Malcolm Stone ASD Julie Pitt / PB Mike King / SA Giles Asbury / PM Graeme Purdy / CM John Mayer / CD Penny Rose

Untitled Bosnian War Love Story / Budapest / Dir Angeline Jolie

Mad Max : Fury Road / Australia / Dir George Miller

Men In Black 3 / New York / PD Bo Welch

Mission Impossible : Ghost Protocol / Canada

Dredd (aka Judge Dredd) / South Africa / PD Mark Digby / SAD Patrick Rolfe / SD Mish Day / AAD Alan Munro, Mark Walker

Pre-Production...

Gravity / Framestore Soho / Dir Alfonso Cuaron / PD Andy Nicholson / AD Mark Scruton / Co-ord Heather Noble / 3D Mod Julian Caldwell, Paul Threadgold, Andrew Williamson, Rhys Pugh / GA Helen Koutas / CA Jim Cornish / SD Joanne woollard / PB Billy Edward

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel / India / PD Alan MacDonald / SAD Peter Francis / SD Tina Jones

The Dark Knight Rises - Batman 3 / London & New York / PD Nathan Crowley

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – trilogy / USA & Sweden

Robopocalypse / USA / Dir Steven Spielberg / PD Guy Dyas

Paani / Shoot Spring 2011 / USA / PD John Myhre

? / Prep Jan 2011 / Canada / PD Chris Seagers

X-Men: First Class / LA to complete / Dir Mathew Vaughn

Visual Consultant Russell De Rozario

Dark Shadows / Shepperton / PD Rick Heinrichs / SAD Chris Lowe / AD Paul Kirby, Phil Simms, Jason Knox-Johnson, Dean Clegg / Co-ord Katie Gabriel

Penciled Productions...

Bourne Legacy (Bourne 4) / Contrary to popular rumour Paul Kirby is not involved in the film

Bond 23 / Prep 2011/ UK / Dir Sam Mendes / PD Dennis Gassner

Iron Lady / Shoot Spring 2011 / UK

Seventh Son / UK

Kick –Arse 2 : Balls to the Wall / UK / Dir Matthew Vaughn

Snow White and the Huntsmen / UK / PD Dominic Watkins

Untitled Directorial project / South America / Shoot Spring 2011 / Dir Angeline Jolie

Astro City / Working Title

Avatar 2 / USA

Dracula:Year Zero / Australia

The Man from U.N.C.L.E. / USA

Dark Tower / Stephen King novel / Dir Ron Howard

J. Edgar / Dir Clint Eastwood

Wizard of Oz / Really?

Dune / Mexico 2012

Post-Production...

Untitled Sherlock Holmes sequel / UK

Woman in Black / UK

Captain America: The First Avenger / Shepperton

The Invention of Hugo Cabret / Shepperton

Pirates of the Caribbean 4 - On Stranger Tides / Pinewood

War horse / Longcross

Available for work ? ... please keep us informed, we'll pass your name on.
But can't publish enquiries.

FROM THE RUMOUR MILL... And some of this info has to be considered just so.....If any Guild members have any more definitive information then please let the office know immediately!.....Please check with any individuals mentioned regarding availability... And do not quote or rely on any of this information!...

Rumours are published for the benefit of the membership only! Please let us know if anything is wrong, and it can be corrected.

Some enquiries the Guild has received have asked us not to publish information but would like to know available crew. So please keep us informed as this happens fairly frequently but we always respect privacy.

And Finally,

Do please, feel free to contribute to the newsletter, by way of comment, with some copy material, news or any info for the RUMOUR MILL....anything that is seriously wrong then please post on Facebook!

**Please send contributions via Maddie in the office or to me directly by email.
All submissions gratefully received.**

I am aware that many people, other than members of the Guild, have sight of, and read this Newsletter each month. If you would like to apply to become a member, or express a point of view to the wider membership then please do sign up and get involved.

Kevin Phipps

Chair

BFDG

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Maddie Lamont (& Mary Krauss)

Administrator

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