

# Scanlines Quickie

Where art and technology meet

Journal of BRISBANE MOVIE MAKERS ~ February, 2018.

Hello everyone! We hope your new year is going well and your creative juices are flowing. This space is usually for the President's report, so you may be wondering, "Where is it?" Well, we don't have one. And we don't have a President. David has, due to the forces of reality, had to re-locate to SE Asia and will be there for some time. We would like to thank David for his time in the chair and really appreciate his efforts for us in sometimes difficult circumstances. More about that shortly.

## Thursday night's meeting

This Thursday night we are having a "special". Special in that we don't do it often. But, in our recent survey of member's wishes, it scored quite highly. We are going to show a feature and be invited to analyse it afterwards. It has a lot to analyse in it's motivation and realisation and could well influence the way we approach our own productions.

It is a mature movie (MA) for which the lead actor gained an Academy Award, but it seemed to slip under the RADAR a bit in Oz. A pity, because most who saw it regard it highly. After the showing, which will have to get going at as close to 7.30 as possible as it runs 100 minutes, we will distribute a sheet with some points to ponder and, given time, some discussion.

## The AGM and what follows

You should all be aware that on March 1 our AGM falls. This year, it is especially important. Why? Well, we have no President. And, to add to our woes, a number of long-standing committee members are unable to continue. Now, the jackpot question— what happens if we don't have a President and committee? Answer; the club folds. Simple as that.

How big a burden is it to be President? Not all that great. The President attends one committee meeting a month. He/she presides over the meeting and tries to keep the rest and him/herself on track. As everyone knows, he/she tries to do the same at general meetings, presents items of interest, introduces visitors and generally acts as MC. It's not like running the UN!

In addition, he/she and the committee get to steer the club. Collectively, they look at our finances each month and make decisions on what to spend or not to spend, upcoming meeting suggestions, proposed activity suggestions and things generally to keep the club running smoothly. It's not so much a burden as a privilege and is why existing members have kept at it for so long.

However, for everyone there comes a time when, for personal reasons, relocation, declining health, family matters and a thousand and one things, a person can no longer serve on a committee. This is the situation we currently have. The usual process would be that as a member steps down, another steps up. Indeed, many clubs have a strict rotation of members through the committee.

**Currently, we have no indication that anyone is willing to fill the vacant positions!**

This club does not exist in a vacuum. We exist and operate under Government regulation. In return, we are provided with official recognition of our existence and protection against some unfair litigation. Our rules are provided, among them that we need a President, Secretary and Treasurer and there are rules regarding committee numbers and quorums.

**If no-one comes forward, if we cannot meet the minimum requirements, we cease to exist!**

It's that simple. Since 1937, this club, under various names, has existed to support, teach, encourage and provide a means to facilitate non-professional movie-makers to pursue their interest in a unique field where art and technology meet. Since 1957, I have seen this club, through good times and bad, through thick and thin, keep it's eyes on it's goal. But *never*, has it been in a situation like this.

We have upwards of forty members. We are probably the biggest video-maker's club in the country. We were the second club established by a couple of months. The oldest, AACS (Australian Amateur Cine Society) in Sydney is long gone. Most of our members have never served on the committee. Never contributed their ideas and aspirations. Apart from anything else, we really need "new blood" on the committee. While I feel committees of recent times have done a pretty good job keeping up with the times, we really need fresh ideas, younger thought patterns and new, innovative ways of doing things. That can only come from you, our latent membership.

So, please give it some thought. Nominate yourself, or another member, for President or another committee position. Spend an enjoyable year (or two?) steering the club in the most exciting era of it's history. No experience? Who had experience when they started? There are no strangers, everyone knows everyone.

A former member mentioned to me shortly before he died— "You know, I've been in many clubs and organisations over the years and this is the only one which is not racked by cliques and malcontents."

And it is. It's a wonderful club.

A nomination form is attached. Send it in or bring it in for our brief AGM.

*PS. You need to be financial to vote at the AGM.*

*Thanks to those who have already paid and have filled out the survey.*

## **Guest Speaker — March 15 — Col Usher**

Those who returned their short survey forms gave a solid vote to Guest Speakers. Well one is on the way. It's Col Usher. Most of us know Col. He has been around a long time and has won his fair share of awards. He also has some travelling to do to get here, so it's very good of him to bother to come. He has prepared what sounds like a very interesting evening and I, for one, am looking forward to it.

His presentation is on DaVinci Resolve, and the productions he has used it on. He will talk about what part it has played in his success and how he sees it's future. There will be time for a Q&A afterwards.

I know I have waffled on at length about Resolve and my determination to adopt it. Several members have said they downloaded it and were overwhelmed by its complexity. Well it's not so. It only looks that way. The year in which it happened to us was marked by great upheaval at our place, in many ways, but now I've had time to look at it seriously and it's not so frightening. It's like a mixture of Premier Pro and Vegas. If you can use any NLE, you can use Resolve. It is, of course free, updates a couple of times a month and the extra facilities it provides ... Ahh, the facilities. Don't miss this. It's a non-technical chat.

# The Sandgate Film Gala

Now, here's something. Many members will be aware of the Gympie "Heart of Gold" movie festival. It runs for several days at the end of each year. From small beginnings, it has grown to become a truly international festival with entries pouring in from all over the world. I had thought each year that I must go to that, but somehow it always slipped my mind. Well, last year we made the effort and attended one day. What have we been missing! It was terrific. So much so that we decided on the spot that we would attend the whole thing this year.

Now, the big news. Member, Catherine, and a helper or two, has gained the right to stage a subsidiary event in Brisbane. It will be on March 24 at the Sandgate Town Hall. If you have not been there, this is a heritage building that, I believe, the City Council has extensively refurbished.

On that day, there will be three sessions:

- 1 At 1.00 to 3.00 pm, a Family screening.
- 2 At 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Historic Brisbane.
- 3 At 7.30 to 11.00 pm, a Gala Night.

A Q&A with local moviemakers.

This will be a selection of the very best of the short movies entered into the Heart of Gold festival.

The amount of work that has been occasioned in obtaining and implementing this special occasion is beyond belief. But the effort has been put in and now all it needs is bums-on-seats. We would encourage *all* members to attend, not because it is a member that has done this, but because it will be an amazing show. It will demonstrate far better than all the talk in the world what a short movie can be and what we should be doing.

Bookings on line at **Eventbrite**.

## *Looks like the end of this track ..*

Back in 1991, when video (analogue) was just getting going and club numbers were rising rapidly (100+), I was President with a problem. The thing was, there was no communication with members between monthly meetings. I decided we needed a monthly newsletter to keep in touch. So, who had to produce it? Me! And what a job it proved to be. Remember, this was pre-internet days so it was a matter of writing the thing (six or eight pages with news and technical articles), printing it, copying it, folding it, stapling it, putting them all into identified and pre-addressed envelopes and mailing them. What a job! And when it was finished, it was time to start the next. And, the cost! But, it achieved it's purpose.

And so it's been ever since. With the much appreciated breaks from such people as Stewart, Bob Nichol and Bette Kay, and the occasional item from a small number of other members, also much appreciated, I have continued, largely, to write it. After a suggestion from a member, and discussion with a couple of others, I have decided to cease and desist. So, frame it if you will, this is the last Scanlines. It is running out of steam and instructional articles are no longer required. It's all on the internet.

If someone wants to take over, fine. Its been suggested that a more frequent news-sheet may be more appropriate and that may well be so. The new committee may have some productive suggestions.

So, it's goodbye from this version of Scanlines and hello to what follows. This time comes to all of us and I seem to not be getting any younger. Still, it's been a pleasure and, I hope, some times, some help.



# Brisbane Movie Makers

## NOMINATION FORM

### BMM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2018

I, (Name) ..... being a financial member of  
Brisbane Movie Makers Inc., do hereby nominate

(Name) .....

For the position of .....

On the management committee for the year 2018

Signed ..... Date ...../...../ 2018

Seconded .....

*(Secunder also a financial member)*