

Sep/Oct 2014

FAST FORWARD

The magazine of **CHICHESTER FILM & VIDEO MAKERS**
Registered Charity No 1110816 www.cfvn.org.uk

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ROBBIE ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT



See pages 2 & 4

FROM THE EDOTOR
by Keith Baker

Monty Python star Terry Jones admits that he relied on cue cards to get him through the comedy team's recent reunion shows at London's O2. "I had a job remembering my lines" he confessed.

Jones is in good company. Groucho Marx and Bob Hope were among the many stars whose most brilliant apparent ad libs were frequently down to strategically placed reminders, while Marilyn Monroe required dozens of takes to say the line "Where's the Bourbon?" even with the help of cue cards hidden in the dresser draw in *Some Like It Hot*.

Marlon Brando often resorted to them too, especially on the set of his controversial 1972 film *Last Tango In Paris*. However director Bernardo Bertolucci refused the actors request that his lines in a particular scene be written on his co star Maria Schneider's bottom.

So you see, even the great and glorious are not infallible. Next time you are asked to act in a club production don't say "I couldn't possibly" because you possibly could!

I was at the Zoo recently and had a strategic plan of what I needed to film. I was well into the penguin sequence when I heard 'What do you think you are doing?' I looked around, supposing that the question was directed at me but there was nobody within reasonable distance, so I put eye to eyepiece again. 'I said what do you think that you are doing?' Looking down at what was to be the end of my *tilt* shot I spied this rather fat bird in what could only be described as a tatty waiters outfit.

Feeling a tad foolish, as you can



**Don't take
pot-shots of
penguins.**

imagine, I told it that I was filming a penguin sequence for my Lindeman entry and offered my club membership certificate. 'You cant film us penguins without our permission'. I explained that I was able to film anything that was in the public domain and as he

was standing in front of me, that was public domain. 'You are causing an obstruction was his reply' 'No I'm not' I said 'There is nobody else here, nobody else wants to look at you' He was getting a little fretful by this time. 'You should offer me a contract' he squawked, 'I cant appear in your film without you contacting my agent. I'll be reasonable. Just an appearance fee, no percentage of the profits' I ignored him and bent down to take a shot of the tiny penguin chicks. 'My children, my children' he bellowed (can penguins bellow?) 'Taking films of children. That's got to be illegal, especially as they are not fully plumed. You p***' he cried as I packed my gear and headed towards the tea shop.

Watch out for my Lindeman entry, 'A Day In The Life Of A Belgian Bun!'

CLIVE'S COMMENTS

By Chairman Clive Hand

Welcome back and I hope you have all had a good summer. The monthly workshops continued through the summer and seemed to be enjoyed by those that attended. Attendance was down a bit but I guess that's to be expected with members going on holiday.

The two initial screenplays that were presented at the first workshop have been developed over and by

the final workshop had been developed into really good stories and ready to go into production. Hopefully, we will have two winning films that will challenge for the Best Film Award at the 2015 Albany Competition.

We also took the opportunity to do some practical work and at the July workshops members were challenged to go out on-location to make a short film incorporating 3 objects. The 'rushes' were shown on the night and members had the opportunity to edit the footage into a finished film and present at the final workshop. We had 5 films to show with some very good results bearing the challenges of filming in Chichester. One of the films, edited by Pam Baker, had a surprising twist at end turning the original idea into a really good story, worthy of a remake I think!

At the last workshop we went back to basics. Members, selected using the Clive Hand system of volunteering, carried out a number of demonstrations to highlight some of the basic rules of filmmaking. This started with 'shot size'. We all talk about 'close ups', big close ups' and so on but do we actually know what they are? We also looked at framing shots and the 'rule of thirds', and the '180 degree rule' or 'crossing the line'. Finally, moving onto the use of manual focus and pulling focus. A useful refresher for all and a bit of fun too.

The new programme was sent out to all members some time ago so you should all have a copy. If you are unable to find it let me know. You will have received your year



THE CLIVE HAND
VOLUNTEERING
SYSTEM

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book by the time you read this and programme is in that too. Hopefully, this will be another successful year for Chichester Film & Video Makers and I am looking forward to see your films in the forthcoming competitions.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

By Robbie Grieve

I have really enjoyed meeting throughout the summer and pitching my script, 'The Reunion' to the club. It was good to have such positive feedback and it encouraged me to go back and do more work on it. Thanks to Kevin, Clive, Mike M and Paula for their input. I hope it is now almost ready for someone to take it on and start filming.

As you all know, I am clueless about the actual mechanics of filmmaking but I am learning every day. Who knows, one day I might be ready to take a more active role in the process.

At the moment I am halfway through a very good library book called 'Beginning Filmmaking: 100 easy steps from script to screen' by Elliot Grove. I know most of our members are experienced filmmakers, but for those just learning it has some very useful tips. It is written in a very simple format with lots of examples from well-known films and even I found it easy to understand.

The summer meetings have involved some work but it's been fun has well. Going out in the park and making impromptu films tested our ingenuity and imagination and we came up with some very amusing short films. After a bit of tweaking between meetings, they were shown at the August meeting.

There were three versions of the

'Gunpowder Plot', giving us a new take on Chichester 'history' and a good laugh.

The other group's film was called 'Hit and Miss' and involved an old lady (me - typecasting again) being knocked over by a bicycle. Two people rush to my aid and call my son to take me home.

When someone commented on my acting skills I had to confess that the look of agony on my face as I was helped up from the ground was NOT acting!

Pam later added a twist to the tail which I will not reveal in case it is shown again at future meetings. Don't want to spoil the ending.

So you see, you don't have to jet off to exotic climes to make your holiday films.

Staying at home is just as much fun.



Lead actress Robbie, being helped away by her son(?) in "HIT AND MISS"

SO WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?

By Geoffrey Claridge

How many of our club members venture down to, or up to, depending where you live, to the Walnut Tree, Runcton on the first Friday in each month to talk films and video and just occasionally to complain about the state of the world in general. Numbers vary and to be honest it seems that it's generally the same old few. Not I hasten to say chronologically old but old in terms of video making experience.

Anyway at the last meeting over a reviving glass of lime juice and soda water (we all buy our own) "he" the past-master of the one minute Oscar winners gently told me off, in the nicest CFVM way that I should have read his flyer, and yes we all get one, that the Malta Golden Knight Film Festival Competition had come around again.

The flyer said that any member with "a half decent film" should send in an entry particularly as it was

A note for your diary

Tuesday 30th September.
We have been invited by
HAYWARDS HEATH MOVIE MAKERS
to join them in a 50/50 film evening
An extra evening for those who wish to join this friendly group
when each club will present a half evening film show.
7.45pm for 8.00pm, in the Upper Room,
Haywards Heath Methodist Church ,
Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath

free. He (I wonder who he can be) suggested one of my modest little one man films made on holiday that by some mistake by our club judges, had made it come within sight of a second place in a club competition, might have a chance in Malta.



Geoffrey Claridge,
International dabbler.

Well that turned the lime juice to vinegar as I thought about it. Back home a couple of those "near misses" of films I ran through and noted some of the more obvious mistakes.

Already the feeling of entering the competition was starting to get a hold. So another absorbing hour or three in front of the screen getting my faithful Apple i-movie to adjust here, modify there and generally tidy things up a bit before burning new DVDs.

As "he" promised the entry forms can be downloaded and by the time you will have read this my simple little efforts will be well on the way to winning first prize.

If only !!

By the way, I thought I knew my way round Apple's i-movie, but in trying to improve a bit of the voice-over I came across an adjustment button that automatically corrects volume, bass and treble of a voice on already recorded tracks as well as modifying music levels. Every day there's something new to be learnt about the mysteries of computers.

Anyway thanks to both "him" and Malta for persuading me to have a go, or should thanks go to the Walnut Tree because without being there I would never have been persuaded to have entered, and after all I had nothing to lose.

Make a note

**FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER
SURREY BORDER Movie Makers
Inter-Club Competition**

between

**Reading Film & Video Makers
Orpington Video & Film Makers
Haywards Heath Movie Makers
and Chichester Film & Video Makers**

**St. Joan's Centre which is beside St Joan of Arc Catholic Church,
19 Tilford Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8DJ, just 200 yards South
of Farnham Station. Start time 7-30pm.**

Come along share a car and support CFVM

Our entry will be "MY DEAR MURRAY"

**We will also screen "KATE FLETCHER -FIRE ON THE FLOOR
in the supporting film show.**

WINTER CHEER!**By Jacquie Clarke**

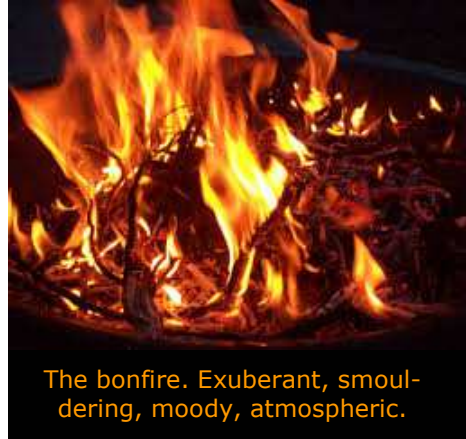
Recently, at the end of a lovely, warm, sunny, blue sky August day, I sat in my sister's garden filming the flames, flying sparks, plumes of smoke and crackles of a bonfire. Bay cuttings produced crackles and fountain-like Roman candle firework flames whilst dried holly spitted and burned slowly, the leaves turning from green to deepest gold before being consumed by flames.

Why was I filming a bonfire !

The reason is simple. I am planning and working towards my next film – a winter project!

For the last two years I've been in something of a film making wilderness. Confounded by the technicalities of editing, I stored up cards of footage, each one adding to my frustration to the point where I finally stopped filming. It was all too much. But – with much valued help and encouragement from club members, this glorious summer of 2014 has, amongst other projects, seen the completion of the long awaited Festival of Chichester footage. My confidence is growing, along with a new sense of direction in film making. I now realise that it's the application of 'art' to film that really grabs me. I also came to the conclusion that to even begin achieving my objective, I must plan well ahead !

So – I needed bonfire footage. There will be other bonfires but that evening presented perfect timing – all things lining up to make it possible. I wasn't shooting in the moment, hoping to capture enough footage to put together some sort of documentary. I was studying the bonfire through the camera – observing its nature, listening to its music, physically feeling the heat



The bonfire. Exuberant, smouldering, moody, atmospheric.

and capturing the primeval essence of fire that can bring out the pyromaniac in many of us. I forgot to experiment with the manual camera adjustment that would have allowed some fade in/fade out soft focus but that's now in my list of 'needed shots'. Playing back the footage I can further observe flame and smoke patterns, the mysterious inner life of the bonfire – dying down, reigniting, exuberant, smouldering, moody, atmospheric, thought provoking! My mind jumps to forest fires, burning homes, cosy firesides, the terror of wildlife caught up in flames. All this from a simple bonfire in a back garden – all fuel for a film maker/director's creativity.

But this is only the start of my project. I've thought much about what I'd like to achieve in this next one, making notes, looking for angles and new angles, examining my own beliefs, trying to look at things with a fresh eye, making advance preparations such as buying and planting amaryllis bulbs to flower in December, all of which I'll endeavour to experiment with. I can see that it's all about looking at life in every moment, being spontaneous when the time presents itself and giving

myself the freedom, without fear of failure, to experiment as an artist would with a brush or a writer with words...and to learn from the masters! Over the last five years I've served an apprenticeship of sorts, gathered together some basic film making equipment and experimented with screen play writing, producing, directing, acting, shooting footage and editing. It's time now to consolidate what's been learned, to deepen my knowledge and expertise and to find my own unique way of using the medium. There's a long way to go to even begin to convey through film what lives so tantalisingly in my emotions and imagination it can only be achieved by more and more experience and experimentation. I look forward to sharing the journey with you all.



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new
software into their brains.

THE SUSSEX FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th October 2014

**Plumpton Green Village Hall
1 West Gate, Plumpton Green,
Lewes East Sussex BN7 3BQ**

Doors open 1-30 for 2pm start

CFVM has entered "AN OUTSIDE CHANCE" & "JOEY"
Several members have entered films on their own behalf.

SHARE A CAR

MAKE UP A PARTY

'You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today.
They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.'
So that was nice.'

I went to the doctors yesterday and said, 'I've hurt my arm in
several places'
The doctor said, 'Well don't go there any more'



TEA ROTA

Here is a short rota for the
Duty Tea Crew.

If you can't make your due date,

please make your own
arrangements for your substitution
with another member *or the rest of*
us do not get any tea!

Sep 24th	Kevin Pritchard
	Mike Pepper
Oct 8th	James Keller
	Tina Keller
Oct 22nd	Keith Cooper
	Mike Cotes
Nov 5th	Pam Baker
	Judy Harvey
Nov 19th	John Harvey
	Jacquie Clarke

DUTY SCRIBE

Here is a short rota for the Duty
Scribe. If you can't make your due
date, ***please*** MAKE YOUR OWN
ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR
SUBSTITUTION WITH ANOTHER
MEMBER.

To just not turn up, means a meet-
ing does not get recorded and the
information is lost for ever. Copy
should be forwarded to the editor
as soon as possible after the event.

PLAIN TEXT,
NO INDENTS OR
FORMATTING PLEASE
Verdana font 9points would be great.

Sep 24th	Tina Keller
Oct 8th	Michael Knock
Oct 22nd	Coral Botteley
Nov 5th	Paula Puleston
Nov 19th	Chris Kenny

CHICHESTER FILM & VIDEO MAKERS

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors with which the Club may or may not agree. Excerpts from the magazine may be published without further permission as long as the source is acknowledged. The editor would appreciate if this could be done accurately, i.e. words not added when they emanated from elsewhere. >>FAST FORWARD>> magazine is sent electronically to all members and other interested parties, dated odd numbered months.

Copy date for the next issue is

5th Nov 2014

Copy to Keith Baker,
email bakershop1@gmail.com