

XDCAM HD promo

Jon Essex shot a seven-minute promo for corporate producer Blue Sky Event and Media on XDCAM HD and DVCAM. The shoot, for Alpha Tape, was shot at Cheltenham Film Studios. Essex used the XDCAM HD PDW-F355 as the main camera and his DVCAM DSR-570 for close-ups. "The images matched nicely," says Essex. "I'd even suggest shooting in HD regardless of whether the destination is SD partly so you can future-proof and online in HD in the future and also since I feel that HD pictures obtained on the XDCAM HD down converted to SD are superior to images just using DV mode." Essex sourced his XDCAM HD from Sony Specialist Dealer, H Preston.

BFI remasters classics in HD

The British Film Institute has been using HDCAM SR for the last year to remaster its archive of films. "The HDCAM SR has more audio channels to use and a little less compression. It's the best on the block right now," says the BFI head of technical delivery, James White. The Institute works with three post houses to create digital masters: blue, Midnight Transfer and St Anne's, part of the Ascent Media group. It has recently remastered such classics as Terence Davies' *Distant Voices Still Lives*. At St Anne's, director of operations Johnathan Whitehead says: "They are remastering from huge libraries and old classics have been given a new lease of life by transferring to the new format."



Distant Voices Still Lives

The picture is more stable with Digital Master tape

The making of Law and Disorder: The Insanity Defense



In 1981, John Hinckley Junior shot US President Ronald Reagan and three others, including Reagan's press secretary, James Brady. At his trial, Hinckley caused an outcry when he successfully used the defense of insanity, claiming that he was trying to impress the actress Jodie Foster.

Now, a new feature-length documentary from Polaris Productions revisits this case as part of a wide-ranging investigation into the defense of insanity plea and the issue of crime linked to mental disorder. The production has already provoked interest from major international broadcast and film distributors.

Law and Disorder: the Insanity Defense is produced and directed by Sylvie Bolioli. Her short film called Gas, based on a previously unknown story by Alfred Hitchcock, was recently given a high-profile release. This new feature was originally planned as a fiction script, but Bolioli found such significant interest in the subject that she decided to make it into a full-length documentary first.

The documentary is a professional HDV production, using the Sony HVR-V1E and the HVR-A1E camcorders, together with Sony Digital Master tapes.

"HDV obviously gives a much higher quality picture than standard DV or DVCAM, but it is a more fragile format and it's easier to get dropped frames and noise on HDV," says Bolioli. "The Sony HD Digital Master tapes have got a much higher tolerance, so the picture is more stable than if I were to use standard DV tapes. I didn't want to take any risks."



Insanity Defense

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