

producer



Peter Fincham
The task facing the new director of television at ITV

On target
Writer Irvine Welsh directs his first feature-length drama, Good Arrows

roaring success

Disney makes stunning natural history films in HD

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Pinocchio

It's easy to use, quick to set up
and flawless in operation

Stewart Menelaws Studio Scotland Ltd

Pinocchio records in HD

Music and arts DVD producer Opus Arte this summer commissioned HD facilities house Brighton TV to record Opera North's *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, using kit from Presteigne Charter. The event was recorded at Sadlers Wells theatre in London.

"It was a challenge," comments Jon Lee, Brighton TV's technical director. "We saw it as an opportunity to get a fly-away studio into what was practically a cupboard at Sadlers Wells. The room was 12 x 6 foot and contained seven VTRs, the gallery, mixing desk and six crew. Although we were very squashed, it was a great success." Seven fibre-optically connected HDC-1500 cameras were used for the shoot. "These cameras were chosen because they are good in low light and also great at getting rid of background noise," adds Lee.

Capturing Oceans series for BBC

Oceans is a new eight part series for BBC Two that explores the hidden stories of the planet's oceans – in HD. Explorer Paul Rose leads a team of ocean experts in a series of global science expeditions that aim to investigate our past and our relationship with the sea.

The series was primarily shot using the HDW-750P HDCAM camcorder supplied by Sony Specialist Dealer, Visual Impact, alongside an additional HVR-Z1E and some specialist cameras for particular shots. "In terms of why we chose to use HD, I think from a technical point of view the detail in HD makes the underwater (and topside) material all the more compelling," says Matt Dyas, producer/director of Oceans. Dyas says Visual Impact worked seamlessly with his own crew to provide support. "We needed to make sure the kit was always ready to operate, even in the most extreme conditions. This is particularly important when doing underwater filming, one unchecked seal or a leaking circuit board could jeopardise our entire shoot," he says. Read a full interview at www.sonybiz.net

Studio Scotland adopts XDCAM HD

Studio Scotland Ltd rates XDCAM HD as one of the best business moves it has ever made. Earlier in the year, the production company in Fife bought a PDW-F350 XDCAM HD camcorder. Since then, the camcorder has recorded footage underground and in a burning building. In August, it captured Prime Minister Gordon Brown addressing business leaders in Kirkcaldy. Studio Scotland's managing director, Stewart Menelaws, says: "I love this system. It is virtually bulletproof. It's easy to use, quick to set up and flawless in operation. "A nice touch is the delete last clip feature which stops the disc clogging up with duff takes. Client after client love the instant playback. It boosts their confidence in the end product. Our work flow has never been faster and it is a joy to work with." One of Studio Scotland's first location jobs with the PDW-F350 saw the camcorder entrusted to a fire officer in a burning building. It has also begun filming an ambitious docudrama about the Middle East called *The Daniel Project*, which previews at Mipcom 2008 in October. "Many jobs down the road and dozens of discs later, we have had no problems with our F350 and it still looks as good as new. The best part is our clients love the results," says Menelaws.



Gordon Brown

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