REMEMBERING MARK MILSOME GBCT ACO

It was with utmost sadness that we learnt about the death of Mark Milsome. He was killed in an incident during a motor vehicle stunt, on the night of Saturday 18th November. Our condolences and regrets go to his family and those of you who knew and worked with him. He will be remembered with great affection.

Little is known of the details of this incident, but we can assure you that we are working closely with BECTU's legal office, and will convey any findings of the Health & Safety examiner's report.

This is a tragedy and we would ask that you respect the family's grief and direct all messages to his agent Sarah Prince of PrinceStone (sarah@princestone.com).

BSC OPERATORS NIGHT 2017 - WINNERS

A great night was had by all. Thanks to Audra and Helen of the BSC for all their hard work – it paid off! Many who attended said how much they enjoyed the night. It was lovely seeing and catching-up with old friends. Many congratulations to all those nominated for these prestigious awards and special wishes to the winners:

BSC/ACO/GBCT Television Drama Operators Award
Winner: Stuart Howell GBCT for *The Crown*

Nominees: Peter Cavaciuti for *Roots*, Episode 1
Danny Bishop for *Rillington Place*
Chris Plevin for *Game Of Thrones*, Season 7, Episode 4

BSC/ACO/GBCT Feature Operators Award
Winner: Peter Cavaciuti GBCT for *Allied*

Nominees: John Hembrough for *Lost In London*
Peter Robertson for *Life*
Roberto De Angelis for *Baby Driver*

Bert Easey Technical Achievement Award
Aerial expert – Marc Wolff GBCT

GETTING THE FOCUSBUG

The need for accurate and reliable focus information has long been the Holy Grail for the camera crew, and as technology advances there have been some great devices that have served their place over time. Tape measures, manual calculators and tables have now tended to be overtaken as new technology advances give real-time accurate information to keep the focus accurate and consistent. There is now a great new contender that is making waves, and is a great new tool in the arsenal for the camera department.

Focusbug Technologies have introduced the Cine RT, and is looking like it will become very popular going forwards. The system has been developed by two working camera crew in response to ever-increasing speed of operations, and an on-set climate where run-and-gun production and shooting the rehearsals was becoming the norm. When there was a clearly apparent disdain as tape measures were brought out on the set, the inventors set about making a new tool.

Laird Pierce is an IATSE 669 first assistant who has been working in the camera department since the late '90s on feature films, episodic television and documentary production. Jonathan Ritchie is a computer programmer with a 20-year multi-disciplinary background in film production as a sound engineer and a drone specialist. His company, Fourth Dimension Aerials, was amongst the first of its kind to build and pilot drones for use in world-class documentary productions.

Their main idea was to create an alternative measuring device to enable assistants to get traditional marks very quickly and discreetly without using tape measures and to avoid them "getting in the way" on a fast-moving production. The Cine RT assists the focus puller when working off a monitor, and this is especially crucial on a set with low lighting levels, atmosphere and/or diffusion which can compromise the monitor image.

Pierce and Ritchie wanted to add a tool to the first AC's kit that would eliminate the need to pull tape or sight lasers, and also dispel the notion that there is no time to get useful focus marks.

They quickly realised that a multi-faceted approach was needed, and ultimately decided the use of ultrasonic technology and native RF communication within the Cine RT toolset would expand its versatility.

The system's proprietary software was built from the ground up, tailored to the unique requirements of focus pulling and, as it has been created by technicians who know what they need to see, it has become a "must have" piece of kit.

Two years of design evolution and revision through industry beta testing has yielded the current Cine RT System. The Cine RT has now been in use and tested thoroughly by first ACs of IATSE 669 whose valuable feedback and input through all phases of development has helped guide the product to its current development.

Manufactured in Canada, the units are shipping now in January, and consist of various modules to make life a little easier for the extremely challenging art of pulling focus on productions.

How it works

The low profile Ultrasonic Base Sensor operates as both a rangefinder and receiver. It has the ability to track Cine RT Bug Ultrasonic Transmitters while sending constant distance information to the Cine RT Handset, Cine RT High-Bright LED Displays, Preston HU3 and ARRI WCU-4 Handsets.

The base unit mounts on the camera via several mounting block options, which enable a variety of industry-standard brackets to be used. With all of its control systems, sensor array, RF systems and targeting laser combined into one compact unit, the Base is designed to minimise camera build weight and clutter.

The Handset Control Unit is a touchscreen hub to access Live View display modes, operational tools and user settings. The Handset allows all adjustments to be made remotely without needing to be hands-on with the camera.

The Handset also doubles as a discrete tape measure allowing up to eight marks to be quickly collected, stored and edited without pulling a tape or sighting a laser. You can select the Focus Whisper or Marks View to hear or see your marks in relation to your target's movements in real time.

The compact High-Bright LED Display relays distance data with 0.55" (14mm) ultra-bright LED characters. Five levels of brightness ensure exceptional visibility in all lighting conditions.

You can remotely chain several High-Bright displays to offer multiple readouts of the same source, or use two High-Brights to track two different targets simultaneously while in Dual View.

The miniature Ultrasonic Bug Transmitter measures 1.6" x 1.6" x 0.4" (4cm x 4cm x 1 cm) and weighs less than 0.7oz (20g). The Bug can be easily hidden and will transmit ultrasound through most fabrics with no RF emissions.

They can be placed on your assistants, stand-ins or principal actors for fast continuous distance information. You can track up to four Bug sources to distances of 120' (36.5m) in line-of-sight from the Base. The UK Reseller is Panastore UK. For more information visit www.focusbug.com.