

UK spotlight

ISSUE No 12 February 08

MEMBERS

Company of the Month

Prime Focus Group strengthens global offer



Prime Focus Group and its London arm VTR plc, the holding company of Prime Focus London and blue, has continued to strengthen its offer and capabilities with the

addition of four leading post businesses; Post Logic in Los Angeles and New York, Frantic Films in Los Angeles and Canada, and Machine Effects Ltd and Simon Clarke in London.

These acquisitions position the Prime Focus Group as one of the largest film, advertising and television post-production and visual effects companies in the world. The group is now able to offer global access to some of the finest creative talents, services and facilities across the major markets of North America, India and the UK.

Post Logic is a leading US post-production facility known for delivering high level digital intermediate, colour science and post production services to independent and studio feature clientele. Recent projects include Halloween, American Gangster, Phoebe in Wonderland and Smart People.

Frantic Films, based in both Canada and the US, is an award winning visual effects company. Frantic is world renowned, having worked on some of Hollywood's biggest films with recent credits including Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer, Grindhouse, Superman Returns, X-Men 3, and Poseidon.

[LINK](#)

How to win your champers

The member company of the month is our most proactive member of the previous month. This is determined by a point system 1 point per MediaBase entry, press release or job ad sent to us. 2 points if you include a link to our website from yours and 4 points if you put this link on your home page. The winner receives a bottle of bubbly and a column in the next newsletter.



New Members

Munky

[LINK](#)

Vine Productions

[LINK](#)

Noise London

[LINK](#)

NEWS

Tenon and Harbottle & Lewis sponsorship

Professional Expertise

We are delighted to announce two major new sponsors for UK Screen in 2008:

Harbottle & Lewis is a London based commercial law firm with over 80 lawyers providing specialist advice primarily to the media, entertainment and communication industries. Most recently Harbottle & Lewis has been short-listed for the 'Law Firm of the Year' in the 2008 M&A Awards.

[LINK](#)

Tenon is a leading provider of accounting and business advice to entrepreneurs, providing clients with expertise in the business services, tax, financial services, corporate finance, recovery outsourcing and forensic accounting. Tenon is the ninth largest UK accountancy firm with almost 1800 staff UK wide operating through a network of more than 45 offices. Tenon is able to offer local expertise with the backing of a national plc.

[LINK](#)

Both sponsors will add significant value to the membership in terms of supporting our project-based work (e.g. CID, Staff Handbooks, Client Contracts); providing access to expert speakers for member briefings (e.g. Film Tax Incentives, Contracting Freelancers, Production Equity Stakes); providing of regular news bulletins; as well as being available for individual member consultations (restrictions do apply). For more details see

Harbottle & Lewis
Tenon

[LINK](#)

[LINK](#)

Website Revamp

Our new look homepage will launch at the end of February. The latest member news will now appear the front page rather than just on the press page. This will raise the profile of our members news keep the site more dynamic for visitors. This should add extra

value to the PR you send us through so make sure you keep those press releases coming! Send to: rebecca@ukscreenassociation.co.uk

We are also commissioning our own independent articles to appear on the front page. These will be written for us on a regular basis by a select group of industry journalists and overseen by Andy Stout. The purpose of these is to give an insight into, comment on and reflect the views of the service sector working in film and TV. These articles will only be found on our website so providing visitors with unique information and attracting more people to the site. We are also happy to look at any ideas you have for articles so if there's a subject matter you feel needs addressing then please let us know. Send to: angela@ukscreenassociation.co.uk

The member centre which contains member discount information, useful documents and working group information (amongst other things) will also be having a new look in order to make it much more intuitive and easily accessible.

20th February

PR Surgery

We will be running our 3rd in the series of PR Surgeries this month so make sure you book you place. These sessions are run for members only by PR agency Bubble & Squeak and have so far covered things from how to send press releases, where and when to advertise and how to handle PR in a crisis. The final session will be looking at sales and how that fits in to the marketing mix. The session will cover who should to do the sales, the various techniques, top tips etc. If you are interested in coming along, please email angela@ukscreenassociation.co.uk

Digital Cinema Event – online

For those of you who wish to revisit the discussions or were unable to make our event on Understanding Digital Cinema, you can now watch it online on our website. Simply log in to our member centre (call us if you don't have your password) and look under 'Technology'.

[LINK](#)

Training

Leadership and Management Course - £50 Discount

Dates: 27th and 29th February 2008
Cost: £495 (£445 for members)

One of us is offering our members discounted rates to attend a two day Leadership Management course at the end of February which will be led by Alec McPhedran. This course is designed for Managers in the Creative Industries with each section introducing basic principles of management in a hands-on way. The course will work through real life examples and situations and facilitate ways in which you can apply the learning. All delegates will be expected to apply the learning immediately after the course. For further information...

[LINK](#)

Training Directory - coming soon!

The training directory is coming together, so thanks to those who have already recommended courses. We're looking to launch this in March, but in order to make it as effective as possible we need more input. Recommendations don't have to be industry specific, courses like health and safety, HR, management training etc are things all facilities need at one time or another so assurance that our members are sending staff on a recommended course is hugely beneficial knowledge to all in the service industry. To refer a course simply look in the member centre under 'Your Site Tools' and click in to 'Training Course Referral Scheme' and complete the form. Alternatively contact rebecca@ukscreenassociation.co.uk and we will send the form to you.

Events

Applying AI in Computer Games & Computer Animation

Friday 14 March 2008

This one day course organised by Bournemouth University and held at MPC has been offered to our members at a discounted rate of £200. The workshops include; Evolutionary Algorithms in Computer Animation, Architectures and Algorithms for Effective Learning in Games, Interactive Narrative Generation and its

Applications and Reasoning Systems in Writing Game Avatars. For those interested you can find details on our events page of the website.

[LINK](#)

BlackBerry® Women and Technology Awards - call for nominations!

The awards are in their third year and look to honour the individual (or company) that has achieved success and competitive advantage through innovation, management and return on investment via technology. The intention is to profile and celebrate incredible women who are playing a central part so that they can be an inspiration to many more women, so if there is someone you wish to nominate or if you want to attend the awards, please click on the link.

[LINK](#)

Business

Annual increase in compensation limits

The Government has announced details of the annual increase in the limits on certain Employment Tribunal awards and other amounts payable under employment legislation. The increases take effect on 1 February 2008.

[LINK](#)

Suppliers

Autodesk Collaborate on Awards

To celebrate the cream of the UK's computer graphics community, Escape Studios has partnered with Autodesk and AMD to host 2008's inaugural Escape Awards. The awards will be held at the Tate Modern in London on Thursday 27 March and will include categories for both professionals and students in visual effects, games and design visualisation. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 13 February.

Oscar-winning film producer Lord David Puttnam, whose credits include *Chariots of Fire* and *Midnight Express*, will preside over a panel of more than 30 judges, including director Danny Boyle, Autodesk's EMEA director Patrick Jocelyn and other leading industry figures.

[LINK](#)

Continued...

UNIT continues investment in VFX

UNIT, one of the UK's leading post-production and creative service companies, is pleased to announce the appointment of Melody Woodford and Andrew Keep.

[LINK](#)

Cream Recording Studios launches

Cream is a fresh new large-scale recording studio, which provides a comfortable, state-of-the-art working environment for the smooth and efficient running of music, track laying and mixing sessions.

The launch party will be on Friday 15th February so those interested in attending please R.S.V.P. to info@creamrecordingstudios.com

[LINK](#)

Craig Roy becomes Managing Partner at Locomotion

Since joining Locomotion as Head of Digital in January 2007, Craig Roy has successfully established a thriving Digital division and has now been made a Managing Partner of the independent Soho-based post house.

[LINK](#)

Grand Central recruit Haughey

Grand Central is pleased to announce a new and innovative recruit to their award winning in-house team - Paula Haughey.

[LINK](#)

Finish Post Knucklehead's Oscar-Nominated Film

Finish Post has recently completed the post work on *The Tonto Woman*, a short film based on Elmore Leonard's short story that has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.

[LINK](#)

Saint Annes completes 'Honest'

St Anne's has completed full post-production on the new ITV drama 'Honest' for production company Greenlit Rights.

"Honest" is an upfront comedy-drama about the wrong sort of people trying to do the right thing when the rewards for going straight are neither immediate nor bountiful.

[LINK](#)

IN THE DIARY

EVENT	DATE/TIME	VENUE
SFX	Tues 5th Feb @ 6.30pm	UK Screen office
OB	Thurs 7th Feb @ 11am	UK Film Council
Broadcast	Thurs 7th Feb @ 6.30pm	UK Screen office
Film	Tues 12th Feb @ 4pm	Double Negative
Audio	Wed 13th Feb @ 6.30pm	UK Screen office
New Media	Tues 19th Feb @ 6.30pm	UK Screen office