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Victoria Division

February 2016 Meeting
Joint with The Artisans Guild
DEIDRE McCLELLAND – COLOURIST
Meeting Report

Ever noticed in the screen credits for film and television the title of Colourist and wondered what exactly they did? Almost every image you see on television or movie screen has been embellished, enhanced or changed by the creative skills of a colourist. Spoken against a backdrop of images from the TV series 'Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries' captured the assembled audience seeking to find out more.

Deidre McClelland started work in the New Zealand film industry and since then has built up extensive experience in the film and television industry that spans three decades, two countries, many companies and millions of hours of beautiful film footage.

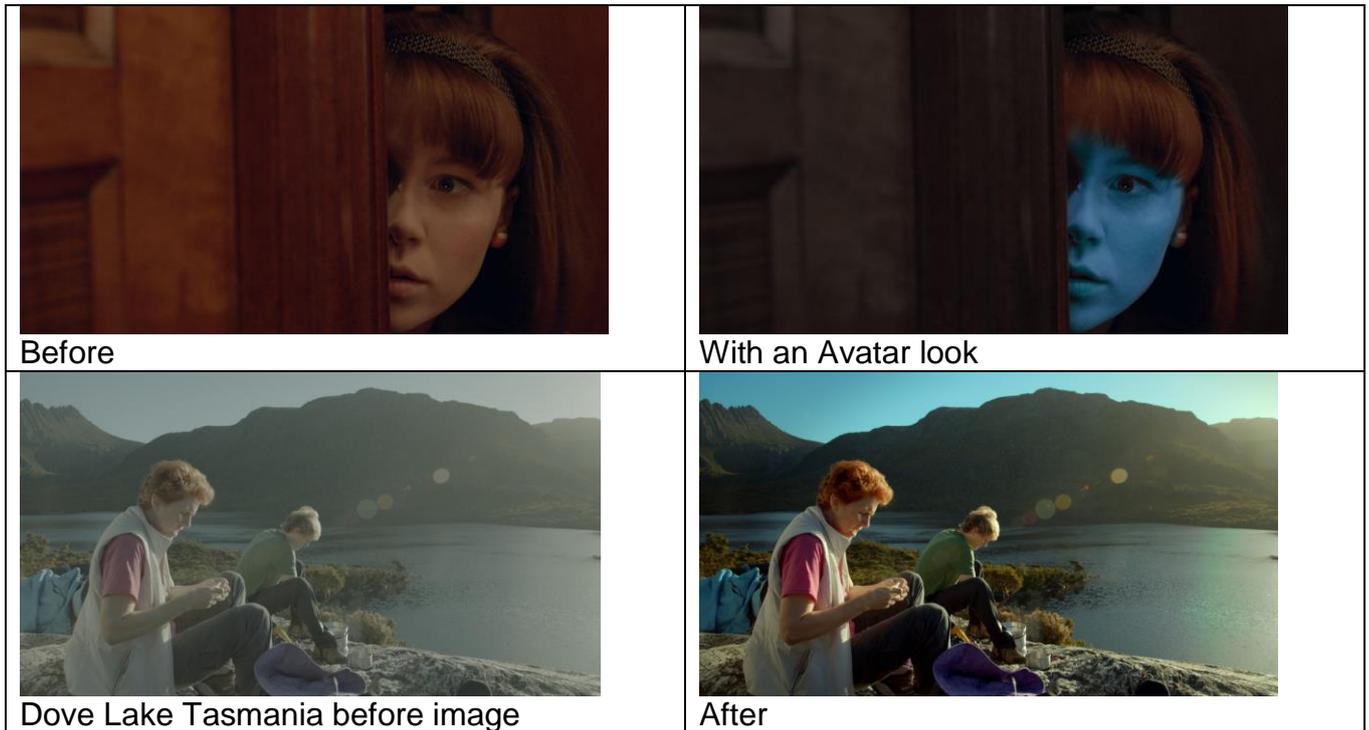
By mastering the most current equipment and innovative techniques and combining these skills with incredible creativity Deidre uses her considerable skills to produce the best possible images for her broad client base. She was the colourist on feature film *Red Dog – True Blue*, the prequel to *Red Dog* [one of Australia's highest grossing feature films] and *Life in Space*, a 3D feature film for IMAX release. Deidre is also currently working on television series *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* and *Tomorrow When the War Began*.



Colourful Deidre with Division Chair Derek

Sharing with us some of the techniques and features of her profession she described much of the software she works with as being akin to 'photoshop on steroids'. The scope of what she can do is breathtaking. For instance, a Director may decide to create in colour terms a 'mood board' using colour chips and then shoot the sequences covered by it, the colourist having the job of taking the images as shot and 'correcting as appropriate'.

It could be that the planned days shooting gets affected by the weather or the location is for a winter scene but is shot on a summers day or vice versa. The colourist then applies their creative talent to alter the images accordingly. We were treated to both stills and short film sequences to illustrate these and many other skills Deidre has, the images below just being typical examples of an almost endless list of possibilities



Other possibilities include that a scene may be shot on multiple cameras and the lighting conditions may change so having an affect particularly on colours which if not corrected would detract from the visual experience and take the focus off the action and on to the visual appearance. Not what an audience is looking for.

This was a most fascinating presentation from a highly respected member of the film and television industry of Australia, which is also highly regarded around the world. The audience enthusiastically thanked Deidre and most of us had at least one question for her. Would we ever watch a programme again and wonder!!

For more details on Deidre visit www.deidremccllelland.com.au

Derek Grantham
Victoria Division Chair

Divisions in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia

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