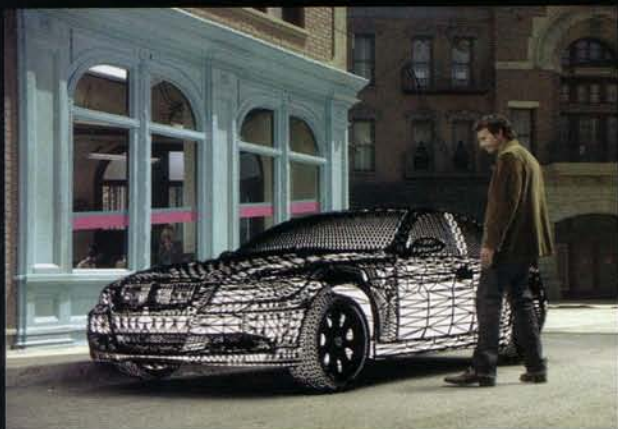


With advances in the postproduction arena moving along at a rapid clip, editors, VFX artists and those working in the expanding DI space who plan to attend NAB 2006 will want to check out the latest introductions from leading manufacturers and developers in the field. And those not making the trip to Las Vegas will want to explore what's new in the months ahead.

What's Up With Post?

By Christine Bunish



Images courtesy The Orphanage – Autodesk software

Increased 4K work spurs Quantel innovations

Quantel has increased its booth size this year and will showcase equipment spanning DI, color correction, post, graphics and broadcast.

Pablo, Quantel's next-generation color correction system previewed in late 2005, makes its full debut at NAB in a dedicated viewing theater within the Quantel booth. Featuring real-time 4K operation and Quantel's new TimeMagic technology, Pablo unites hardware and software-based color correction technologies in a single system.

"We'll be showing Pablo in DI and post applications," says Steve Owen, head of product marketing for post and DI. "Pablo has been well received by colorists and is an indication of the pent-up demand for a bit more flexibility in color correction. It's Pablo's aim to be a hero color-correction suite."

Driving the growth of Pablo and the powerful new iQ4, which brings real-time 4K to the mainstream DI process, is increased 4K work for digital cinema and the desire for solutions that facilitate handling the higher data rate. More than 500 motion pictures have been completed on the iQ platform, Owen reports.

Also making its debut is Pablo on eQ, the multi-resolution editing/grading/effects/deliverables system, which brings the creativity and efficiency of the DI workflow to commercial post. Quantel believes that delivering better quality high-resolution and SD commercials makes the DI workflow a win-win for clients and post houses alike.

"Our philosophy with Pablo, iQ and eQ is resolution coexistence," Owen explains. "It's not good enough to have a data-only or video-only workflow. You have to be able to offer the most expedient workflow for a [Thomson] Viper one day, film the next day or a combination of capture formats in one project the day after that."

"It's all about quality, creativity and speed," he concludes. "The key differentiators for our customers are the talent they have in-house and the technical infrastructure [they employ] to get the most out of that talent."

Leitch launches VelocityX

Harris Corporation plans to show enhancements across a range of products for the post market. Its Leitch-branded systems include the new VelocityX software-only nonlinear editor and the latest version of VelocityHD for HD and Standard Definition nonlinear editing.

The debut of VelocityX "fills a gap in our product line," says Product Manager Bob Bolson, by offering a low-cost, portable system ideal for off-line applications. "With VelocityX you have the flexibility to add a laptop in the field with native FireWire capture or a more powerful, PC-based editor to the working environment for off-line editing before finishing on VelocityQ or VelocityHD systems," he explains. "The real key is flexibility and compatibility with all file types."

Bolson says the new product is "very much customer driven." First unveiled as a technology preview at last year's NAB, VelocityX features GPU-accelerated effects for real-time preview of three-way and second-

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ary color correction, real-time preview of upconversion and down-conversion on the timeline, real-time blur and mask, picture-in-picture tools, and cropping and transparency tools. VelocityX is expected to ship mid-summer.

Leitch is excited about VelocityX's prospects among smaller production and post shops, in the education and government/military markets or "wherever there's a need for a mobile editing system," Bolson notes.

"Most VelocityHD users are still doing a huge majority of their work in SD," points out Product Manager Richard Green. "But with VelocityHD they have the luxury to switch over to HD when a project arises or combine HD and SD media on the timeline as needed."

Green notes that Leitch's all-SD VelocityQ flagship product continues "to sell quite well" and has been upgraded to the 9.1 release.