

Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: Digital Video and the decline of IEEE 1394 - September 2011

I've written numerous columns in the past about digital video (DV), the advantages of the technology, and how it has impacted independent movie makers like me. As mentioned previously, the evolution of DV has gone in stages: underground movie makers first had consumer VHS & 8MM equipment to use, then DV formats, and more recently high-definition video (HDV & HD). My own productions have followed suit: I filmed several movies in VHS/8MM, several in Mini-DV, and more recently in HDV. * In switching to HDV I decided to stay with the Mini-DV tape recording format, which meant the continued need for a computer with an IEEE 1394 port. IEEE 1394 is a high-speed data transfer cable which can be used for (among other things) converting video on tape to a format the computer can read. However it turns out that despite the large amount of video editing being done nowadays, IEEE 1394 is starting to fade away as people move from tape-based cameras to chip/disc/hard drive models. With these new tapeless formats video is simply transferred directly from chips or built-in hard drives to the computer without the same need for conversion. This is why most computers nowadays have several USB ports, while IEEE 1394 ports are harder to come by. While the elimination of a certain cable connector may not break too many hearts, it is indicative of the continued transition to tapeless media. Put another way, physical formats (such as Mini-DV tapes) continue to be replaced by computer files and digital data. The evolution continues...

* Apple calls the IEEE 1394 connection Firewire, while Sony calls it iLink.