TECHNICAL NEWS

SUPER 8MM SEEMS TO STIR SUPER EXCITEMENT

An item about Richard Leacock and his revolutionary new Super 8mm sync sound system in the last issue of CINEMA CANADA stirred more excitement than all the other half-tones and typographical errors combined! Let's reiterate, for those wanting more information: Ricky Leacock, the same man who shot LOUIS-IANA STORY for Robert Flaherty, and who filmed all those cinema verite masterpieces with Don Pennebaker in the sixties, is now at the Film Department at the Institute of Technology, Massa-Cambridge, (M.I.T.) in chusetts Mass.Leacock, with a little help from his friends, developed a super-cheap super 8mm crystal-sync sound system, by making slight conversions on massproduced equipment. He will be giving a workshop production course this summer (June 11th to July 1st) on the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham, in conjunctin with a program run by the University Film Study Centre. Others involved with the Summer Film Institute will be Yvonne Andersen of the Yellow Ball Workshop teaching animation; Stan Vanderbeek, holding an experimental workshop in the creative potential of video; Vlada Petric, Ivan Passer, and Anthony Leihm will conduct study sessions on contemporary East European Cinema; Stan Brakhage, Donald Skoller, and Standish Lawder will help to examine the Independent American Cinema; and Gerald O'Grady will hold an introductory course to film study. After all that, by the time you read this it will probably be too late to apply, since the closing date for registration is listed as May 10th. However, for further information contact: Terry Kemper - Summer Institute Coordinator/ University Film Study Centre/ Box 275/ Cambridge, Mass. 02138/(617)894-0920 . . .

For further information on the topic of super 8mm filmmaking and its growing popularity, please write: SUPER 8 RE-SEARCH NEWS/ WGN CHICAGO/ KDUB DUBUQUE/ P.O. BOX 1166/ DUBUQUE, IOWA/ 32001 U.S.A.

NEW CAMERA DEVELOPMENTS

Two new camera developments were announced by Panavision's president, Robert Gottschalk. Designed to reduce lighting requirements, the cameras, in combination, require only one-fourth the light required by conventional equipment. The R200 NXX, silent reflex camera, has a special movement that alows a shutter opening of more than 200 degrees, giving added exposure to film. Panavision claims it also reduces the strobing effect caused by panning and zooming. During testing the unit is said to have proved to be 7/8 of a stop faster than the pellicle reflex cameras, resulting In the ability to film a scene with about one-half the light required by pellicle cameras with superior definition. A series of super speed lenses, available in both the anamorphic and spherical lens series are from 100 per cent to 200 per cent faster than any other anamorphic lens without sacrificing definition or quality, according to Panavision. Cameras and lenses are currently in production.

SMPTE CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK

The 111th Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers took place in New York City from April 30th through May 5th. During the course of the week excerpts from sports and documentary films were shown, the filmmakers were present (Larry Lindberg, the Maysles Brothers), to comment on technical problems and how they solved them with their peculiar production methods. Other topics under discussion were the new super cable-less sync sound system, and production techniques for surgical teaching films, There was an educational workshop on photo-instrumentation techniques in which participants were able to have working experience with a variety of instruments. Laboratory practices, videoplayers, education in motion picture technology, and a symposium on theatre projection and screening-room practices, as well as a two-day conference on public broadcasting rounded out the event.

KODAK ANNOUNCES 'NEW LOOK' IN SOUND, SUPER 8 PROJECTOR

A new, sound, super 8 motion-picture projector, featuring a totally unique design in operation and appearance, is announced by Kodak Canada Ltd.

The horizontal, low-profile design of the Kodak Supermatic 60 sound projector completely eliminates the bulky inconvenience of conventional upright projectors. It also provides instant loading of projection cartridges, allows movies to be shown on a large screen or on a built-in Kodak Ektalite projection screen, and makes the projector ideal for individualized study or use in carrels.

Among the projector's many convenience features are: a built-in 'pop-up' 6 by 8-inch Ektalite projection screen for displaying color movies even in daylight conditions, automatic threading of film from Kodak projection cartridge, single lever control, special safety mechanisms to help prevent film damage, two forward projection speeds (18 and 24 frames per second), stop-motion, instant review, automatic rewind of film into the cartridge, high and low lamp positions, amplified power output of 5 watts, built--in speaker and connections for external speakers or headphones, and easy access to the projector mechanism for routine cleaning and lubricating.

Loading the Supermatic 60 projector with Kodak projection cartridges is as easy as dropping the cartridge on its side into the projector. Gravity properly positions the cartridge and holds it in place. Snap-open Kodak projection cartiridges are easy and inexpensive to load and unload, if desired, and fit many Kodak super 8 projectors. Kodak projection cartridges are available in 50-foot, 100-foot, 220 foot, and 400-foot sizes.

Lifting the projector's cover allows the user to preview films on the 6 by 8-inch Ektalite projection screen attached to the inside of the cover. The Ektalite screen, providing images at least six times brighter than conventional screens, permits viewing of movies even under bright room light conditions. An optional 15-30 mm f/1.3 zoom lens provides a 5 by 6-inch image on the Ektalite screen. Closing the cover allows the user to project on conventional screens and room walls.

The projector casing is shock-resistant and forms its own carrying case.

The projector base has a handsome walnut wood-like vinyl finish.