

Digital cinema is gaining momentum, and it is becoming a more viable reality. Although there are technical and logistical hurdles to overcome in the implementation of this medium, it will have a profound effect in the way we acquire, create, distribute, and view filmed entertainment. Panelists with varied perspectives on the feasibility of moving digital cinema out to the public outline the status of this film-industry evolution. Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers Fellow Charles Poynton guides the panelists as they explore topics ranging from how a nationwide digital cinema infrastructure is constructed to whether there is enough bandwidth available to support it. Panelists also speak to the image integrity and film quality issues involved in digital acquisition of filmed entertainment, and how this affects moviegoers.

Allen Daviau

Allen Daviau has five Oscar nominations and numerous awards to his credit. Raised in Los Angeles, he developed an early interest in photography and lighting, and launched his career during the 1960s shooting pre-MTV music videos for local record companies. From there, he segued into filming commercials and documentaries, and in 1968, he shot "Amblin" for a very young Stephen Spielberg, with whom he eventually reteamed on "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial." He is one of the world's preeminent cinematographers. His work includes "The Color Purple," "Avalon," "Empire of the Sun," and "Bugsy." For "Empire of the Sun," he won a British Academy Award and an ASC Outstanding Achievement Award. In addition to being a prolific traditional cinematographer, Daviau has experience with digital cinema acquisition.

James H. Korris

James H. Korris currently serves as executive director, CEO of the Entertainment Technology Center (www.etcetera.org) at the University of Southern California. A sponsored research unit of the School of Cinema-Television, the center recently opened its Digital Cinema Laboratory, a permanent testbed in the heart of Hollywood. A neutral forum for development of benchmarks in this emerging technology, ETC is committed to fostering development of enabling technology for production and distribution of all forms of entertainment content. He came to ETC with over 15 years experience in television and film development and production with Imagine Films Entertainment, MCA Television Group, Universal Television, and others. He is a member of the writers, branch of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Writers Guild of America.

Bob Lambert

Bob Lambert is corporate senior vice president, new technology and new media at The Walt Disney Company. He leads the group responsible for developing strategy and practice relating to conventional and digital production methods across Disney's diverse businesses. Among other initiatives, he was instrumental in the conversion of Disney's animation business to a hybrid of digital and conventional technologies, which won an Academy Sci-Tech award. He has been intimately involved in film, video, and digital techniques for acquisition, production, postproduction, restoration, and exhibition for the past 15 years, including the current deployment of a small number of digital cinema theatres worldwide.

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Cinematographer, ASC

JAMES H. KORRIS
University of Southern California

BOB LAMBERT
The Walt Disney Company

JOSHUA PINES
Industrial Light + Magic

ALLEN WITTERS
WAM!NET

Joshua Pines

Joshua Pines, digital photography scanning supervisor at Industrial Light + Magic, has overseen the company's film scanning department since 1990 and extensively researched and tested the merits of both traditional and digital cinema. He started his career teaching film courses at Cooper Union in New York City, where he earned his degree in electrical engineering. He started working in visual effects at MAGI in 1982 at the tail end of their work on "Tron". Prior to joining ILM, he also worked at R/Greenberg Associates, where he led the computer graphics division, and at Degraf/Wahrman in the film department. He has always thought that computers could be a useful tool in making better movies, and he still hopes that one day this may come true.

Allen Witters

Allen Witters, WAM!NET chief technology officer, leads the company's global network and technology operations, including research efforts in digital cinema production and distribution. He has been involved in technical consulting for the computer industry since 1975 and has broad experience in the invention, design, engineering, and implementation of digital media production and distribution networks. He currently operates the world's largest IP network designed specifically for media distribution and is involved in architecting the Navy and Marine Corps intranet, the largest US-government IT project in history. He has spoken extensively about digital cinema and digital distribution.



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