

MODERN CINEMA

WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY ■ 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Title: **The Importance of Collaboration between Main and 2nd Unit.**

Presenters: **Don McAlpine ACS ASC
Brad Shield ACS**

Abstract

Don McAlpine ACS ASC and Brad Shield ACS discuss the important relationship between the role of the main unit DoP and the Second unit DoP. The interplay between the roles and the close collaboration these DOPs developed during their work on both “Narnia” and “Wolverine”.

Bios

Don McAlpine ACS ASC

Don McAlpine is an Australian cinematographer. Born in New South Wales, Australia. Before his film career, McAlpine was a physical education teacher in Parkes, New South Wales, Australia. He began using a 16mm Camera to film athletes preparing for the Melbourne Olympics. McAlpine's early career in Australia found him collaborating with other great Australian filmmakers from 1972 to 1981. In particular, Bruce Beresford. McAlpine filmed many of Beresford's early films including, *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie*, *Barry McKenzie Holds His Own*, *Don's Party*, *The Getting of Wisdom*, *Money Movers*, *Breaker Morant* and *The Club*. McAlpine also worked with another great Australian filmmaker, Gillian Armstrong, in *My Brilliant Career*. America came calling in the early '80s, when three of McAlpine's films - *My Brilliant Career*, *Breaker Morant* and *The Getting of Wisdom* - were released in New York. The director Paul Mazursky offered to fly him to Greece for a two-week trial on the movie *Tempest*. McAlpine passed the test and began an eclectic Hollywood career that has ranged from the sci-fi carnage of *Predator* to the comedy of *Mrs Doubtfire* and the stylish action of *Patriot Games*. McAlpine has filmed some of the most acclaimed films and was also nominated for an Academy Award for his visually stunning film *Moulin Rouge!* He is a member of both the Australian Cinematographers Society and the American Society of Cinematographers. Asked to pick the films he is most proud of, McAlpine nominates *The Getting of Wisdom* and *Romeo + Juliet*.

Brad Shield ACS

Brad Shield ACS started in the film industry at a Brisbane commercial production company, “Jumbuck Productions” in 1980, on his first day at Jumbuck he was sent up into the lighting grid to throw streamers at a Giant Chicken (a commercial for KFC), so started a long love for the film industry.

At Jumbuck productions he got to taste many facets of working as a crew member on a film set, working in all departments but being drawn to the camera department. Brad went



freelance and worked in Brisbane on commercials as a camera assistant for 3 years before moving to Sydney.

Brad worked as focus puller on commercials and films for 10 years before going to the USA to learn the fundamentals of Steadicam operating, after many many hours practising in the Panavision test bay Brad slowly started to get work on song clips and commercials. His first break came doing the McDonalds commercials with David Deneen, operating the Steadicam with a James Dean look alike and another with a Marilyn Monroe look alike, these commercials got quite a lot of attention and got Brad a B/camera Steadicam operating job with John Seale ACS ASC, on Beyond Rangoon in 1995.

Brad went on to do Steadicam and Camera Operating on Moulin Rogue, Thin Red Line, and Star Wars episode 2, Paradise Road, Mission Impossible and others. Brad got to work and learn with some fantastic DP's. On Quiet American Brad operated the B/camera, Steadicam and got to shoot some 2nd unit and additional photography. Since then Brad has shot main unit on 3 Australian Films and 2nd unit photography on such films as Ned Kelly, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Prince Caspian, Ghost Rider, Stealth, Where the Wild Things Are and Wolverine.

Brad is currently grading his latest film 'The Clinic' and looking for his next job (which he hopes isn't throwing streamers at a giant chicken).

