

The Newsletter of

The Puget Sound Stereo Camera Club



CLUB COMPETITION THEMES



APRIL

FLOWERS, PLANTS
AND FRUIT

MAY

PORTRAITURE
AND CHILDREN

JUNE

OPEN



SEPTEMBER

WHAT I DID ON MY
SUMMER VACATION

There's a lot on our plate for this month's club meeting.

This month our special guest is Portland's 3D filmmaker and inventor, Jesse Blanchard. He will be introducing us to the Robert Rig, a durable and easy to use beam-splitter. The device allows the photographer to get extra close with total control of the interocular distance. It can also be used to take HDR photos. For more, see page 2.

The InterClub competition entries will be chosen on Saturday, so bring your best half-dozen shots. The PSSCC is still in the running, but we need a strong finish. Judging will be done by the Cascade Stereoscopic Club of Portland, Oregon.

Remember, the NSA's convention is earlier than usual this year. For details, see page 4.

Your Editor was given a special treat last month when she was invited to tour the Hillsboro campus of LAIKA, makers of *Coraline 3D* and *ParaNorman*. To learn more about LAIKA's next 3D stop-motion feature, *The Boxtrolls*, see her article on page 5.



Howdy, pardners. It looks like y'all might have fallen off my chuck wagon. Cowboy up and bring some vittles to the next roundup.

The PSSCC exists to provide a venue for the promotion and enjoyment of stereo photography through education, presentations, and critiques. The Club meets on the second Saturday of the month at noon, September through June, at the Federal Way Senior Center in Auburn, WA. Back issues of this newsletter can be viewed by joining the PSSCC Yahoo Group at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PSSCC>. Please join us at our next meeting.



Check Out this Beamsplitter from Jesse Blanchard of Portland's Goat & Yeti

Those who attended last summer's NSA convention may remember a Stereo Theatre presentation by filmmaker Jesse Blanchard, *Chompers*, subtitled *Nature Bites Back*. The entire production was shot in stereoscopic 3D with the Robert Rig from Goat & Yeti. The film features a terrycloth muppet-like puppet woman who is devoured by her clawfoot bathtub when it sprouts sharkish chompers and does her in.



Jesse Blanchard on the set of *Chompers*.

His second NSA entry, *Shine 3D*, featured a barbershop quartet singing for its life. In the bloody tradition of Monty Python, the singers are dispatched, one by one, by an unseen (but vicious) offstage monster.



Shine 3D was awarded the "Best of the Festival" award at the Los Angeles 3D Film Festival, an "Audience Award" at the Portland International Film Festival and at the Faux Film Festival. It was also shown at the New York Children's Film Festival.



You won't want to miss this exciting demonstration by an experienced 3D filmmaker and inventor. Jesse, whose firm, Goat & Yeti have an impressive client list that includes Nike and Adidas, promises to give PSSCC's members a memorable introduction to his easy to use, durable rig. With a price tag under \$2,000, it's also within range of the 3D enthusiast's budget.

If you're interested in a preview look at the Robert Rig, jump on YouTube and search for Goat & Yeti. There are several demos featuring Jesse's set-up procedures as well as clips that show what can be created with the rig.



FIRST PLACE: Wayne Pennington for "Cape Flattery, Olympic Peninsula"



SECOND PLACE: Wayne Pennington for "Sequim Condo Grounds"



THIRD PLACE: Stewart Turley for "Ponds Near the Arboretum"



Keynote Speakers Announced for the 39th Annual NSA Meet

Rebranded as 3D-Con, the 39th annual convention of the National Stereoscopic Association, begins early this year on June 4th. Returning to the convention for the third time is famed 3D enthusiast and historian, Brian May, PhD, CBE, FRAS.



Frank Barnett Photography

Brian May at 3D-Con in 2012

He is a founding member of Queen, a world renowned guitarist, songwriter, producer and performer. Brian postponed a career in astronomy when Queen's popularity first exploded, but after an incendiary 30 years as a rock musician, he returned to astrophysics in 2006, when he completed his PhD and coauthored his first book, *Bang! The Complete History of the Universe*, with Patrick Moore and Chris Lintott. Stereoscopy has been a life-long passion, and his second book, *A Village Lost and Found*, written with Elena Vidal, introduced the genius of Victorian stereo photographer T. R. Williams to a global audience.

Joining Brian in the keynote lineup are the coauthors of his forthcoming book about Diableries, Denis Pellerin and Paula Fleming.



Denis Pellerin started printing his own black and white snapshots at the age of eleven.

He discovered stereo-photography while visiting a relative who had a small stack of stereocards. The next day Denis bought his first stereocards and began research into

who had produced them. His research took him to the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris and eventually to an assignment cataloging the thirty thousand odd stereos housed there. Paula Fleming rekindled his interest in Diableries and introduced him to Brian May. This proved to be the start of an exciting adventure which involved a lot of research in archives and old collections of newspapers and museums.

Paula Fleming did not discover the joys of stereo photographs in her youth. From 1970 until 2003, she was an archivist at the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives, where she still volunteers. Part of her purview at the Smithsonian was a collection of 3D glass plate negatives and vintage stereoscopic views. Paula soon became an avid collector. Her collection included images from T.R. Williams' "Scenes In Our Village," the subject of Brian May's second book. Paula and Brian also shared an interest in Diableries, so it was natural they would collaborate on a book about their mutual interest.



Mart tours
LAIKA



LAIKA, those wildly creative folks who brought us *Coraline 3D* and *ParaNorman*, has begun production on *The Boxtrolls*, its third collaboration with Focus Features. The film isn't scheduled for release until October 17, 2014, but work on the stop-action fable is going full tilt in the Portland suburb of Hillsboro.

When my friend and fellow 3D enthusiast, Claire Dean, invited me to join her on a quick tour (they squeeze them in during the lunch hour), I jumped at the opportunity. After signing non-disclosure agreements and surrendering our cellphones, we met a small group of employees' friends in a conference room. The only decoration in the room was a tree from *Coraline's* garden. There we were met by Claire's longtime pal, Larry King, who builds the elaborate sets.

LAIKA is housed in a building so nondescript, I wouldn't have found it without an address, but inside it's sensory-overload-dazzling. The puppets have skeletal wire frames supporting sculpted bodies that wear exquisitely crafted clothes. The lace trim on many dresses is so tiny and delicate, it is cut by lasers.





Behind the scenes of *ParaNorman*.

Larry made the comment that a lot has changed since the production of *Coraline*. For *The Boxtrolls*, 3D printers are being used to make the 100s of puppet faces and lasers cut the window frames, none of which are rectangular. He lamented the fact that "...there's not a straight line in the whole film," a carpenter's nightmare.

The rigging department features a large inscription on the wall: Rig Hard! – Ray Harryhausen. I imagine the new generation of riggers appreciates that note from the 92-year-old genius whose name is synonymous with stop-action animation. If you remember the skeleton sword fight from *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963) or the mythical characters from *Clash of the Titans* (1981), you've seen Ray Harryhausen's work.



Ray Harryhausen with his model from *Jason and the Argonauts*

The various fabrication departments were jam-packed with visual delights: puppets in every conceivable stage of construction, tiny costumes perfectly reproduced for a multitude of doppelgangers, exquisite Victorian hats no more than an inch tall. Although the studio was virtually empty, it wasn't hard to get a sense of the people who work there. A Marmite jar in costuming suggested the presence of a Brit. Larry confirmed that there is quite a large contingent from the U.K., many from the studio that made the *Wallace and Grommit* features.



The many faces of *ParaNorman*

There are more than 50 individual shooting stages, each surrounded by heavy black curtains. We were allowed to squeeze into one unit and get right up to the camera. The movie is being shot with a single Canon 5D on a slider!

Photo by Bridget Phelan



Working with a green screen

The LAIKA crew was about to return from lunch, so we returned to the lobby. Opposite the reception desk is a small set from *Coraline*, encased in plexi-glass. Larry remarked how stark it looks now, compared to the elaborate sets and costumes of *The Boxtrolls*. Seeing my favorite movie heroine again reminded me of the set LAIKA lent the Oregon Historical Society for *1 Brain + 2 Eyes = 3D*, an exhibit that Claire Dean and I co-curated in the spring of 2009, shortly after *Coraline 3D* opened in theatres. The set dresser, Bridget Phelan (an alumna of *Wallace and Grommit's Aardman Animations*) presented a behind-the-scenes program at Portland's Living Room Theatre about a month later. After the Q&A, she indulged me by taking the snapshot at left – little wonder that I have genuine affection for all things LAIKA-made. Although it takes the studio about two years to complete a full-length feature film, LAIKA plans to step up the pace and release a movie every year. I can hardly wait for that! Meanwhile, *The Boxtrolls* are coming to a theatre near you in the fall of 2014.



Based on Alan Snow's bestselling fantasy adventure novel, *Here Be Monsters*, LAIKA's latest is a comedic fable that unfolds in Cheesebridge, a posh Victorian-era town obsessed with wealth, class, and the stinkiest of fine cheeses.



Photo by Reed Harkness

LAIKA CEO, Travis Knight, describes *The Boxtrolls* as "a visually dazzling mash-up of gripping detective story, absurdist comedy, and steampunk adventure with a surprisingly wholesome heart. It's Dickens by way of Monty Python. Tony and Graham (directors Anthony Stacchi and Graham Annable) have crafted a strange and beautiful world replete with fantastical creatures, good-for-nothing reprobates, madcap antics, and rip-roaring feats of derring-do. But at its core, like all LAIKA films, *The Boxtrolls* is a moving and human story with timelessness and powerful emotional resonance."



Photographic Society of America®

Founded in 1934, PSA has members in over 70 countries. Individual, Club, and Council memberships offer a wide variety of services and activities: a monthly magazine; online photo galleries, image evaluation, study groups, and courses; competitions; an annual conference; recognition; and discounts on photography related products and services. PSSCC participates in PSA's 3D Division that sanctions exhibitions for which points are awarded, and also sponsors the InterClub 3D Competition.

www.psa-photo.org



National Stereoscopic Association

The NSA is affiliated with the Stereoscopic Society of America. The annual NSA Convention/Trade Fair attracts members from all over the world, as well as many photographica dealers, photo historians, and experts in various state-of-the-art applications of stereo imaging. The convention is held in a different location in the United States each year, and is the high-point of the stereoscopic calendar.

www.stereoworld.org



The International Stereoscopic Union

Founded in 1975 the ISU is the only international 3D association in the world. The ISU is a club of individual 3D enthusiasts as well as a club of stereo clubs. The ISU's members currently number more than 1,050 and come from over 40 countries world-wide. Although the ISU caters mainly to the 3D amateur photographer, the ISU also has much to offer to members who are professional stereo photographers and cinematographers, as well as to those who are involved in the scientific aspects of the stereoscopic image.

www.stereoscopy.com/isu/



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Directions

From I 5, turn East at Hwy. 18 exit. Travel East and take the 1st exit at 32nd Ave. S (Sign reads Weyerhaeuser Road). Turn South on 32nd until you reach 344th St. (first left) and go East on 344th until you reach 38th Ave. S (1st right). Travel South on 38th to 352nd and turn left (East). Go 3 blocks, the Senior Center is on the North side (left) of the street.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER – PSSCC NEEDS YOU!

| | MEAT & ROLLS | FRUIT | CHEESE & CRACKERS | VEGETABLES | DESSERT |
|------------|---|-------|---|---|---------|
| APRIL |  | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |
| VOLUNTEERS | MART & FRANK | | STEWART | | |
| | We Need You | | We Need You | We Need You | |

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