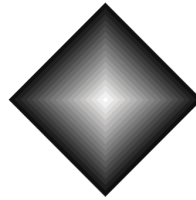


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Light Illusion
THE ART & SCIENCE OF DIGITAL IMAGING
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Steve Shaw supervises DI on Indian blockbuster 'Drona'

Specialist digital film consultancy, Light Illusion, has provided Digital Intermediate supervision services for India's latest blockbuster, Drona, at Light Illusion client facility FutureWorks, in Mumbai, India.

As part of an agreement with Eros and Rose Movies, Light Illusion CEO, Steve Shaw, acted as DI supervisor on the project, as well as being the lead colourist for the film, setting the film's look with Director Goldie Behl and cinematographer Sameer Arya, in conjunction with the film's post-production and vfx supervisor, David Bush.

"The entire post-production was performed at 4K, making Drona one of a handful of films to have been posted at this resolution in the world, and a real first for India," said David Bush.

"While a number of films have been scanned 4K, the logistical issues associated with handling 4K throughout the entire post-production pipeline means most projects are down sampled to 2K for the actual post-production and DI. This was not so with Drona," Bush continued.

And the film was one of India's most complex ever, with over 1400 vfx shots. Most of Mumbai's vfx post-production houses were involved in working on and supplying the wide range of vfx images, which makes the feat even more impressive.

Also working on the demanding, 20 hour-a-day colour correction process were FutureWorks colourists Ashish Nanajkar, Rahul Purva and Ranjit Patil. Quantel also supported the process with one of its own training operators, Meetal Gokul, who provided on-site assistance.

"Pulling together all the various post-production companies' vfx work was a lot more demanding than a traditional DI operation," said Steve Shaw. "It was only through the use of Quantel's Pablo 4K and Genetic Engineering shared workflow technology at FutureWorks that we had any chance of finishing the film on-time, and within budget.



"The complex nature of Drona – the mix of vfx shots and very varied cinematography, with the film being shot in Prague, the Namibian desert, Bikaner in Rajasthan, and within Maharashtra at Mumbai's Film City – meant that the DI process was one of the most complicated I have ever encountered," Shaw continued.

"The film itself has a very rich look, with each segment of the story carrying a style that separates it from the rest of the film," added David Bush. "This again made for a complex DI process, with far more than simple grading being employed. The film was lucky to be able to call on the services of Light Illusion and Steve Shaw, and combine them with Quantel's Pablo DI system."

ENDS

About Light Illusion

Light Illusion has become one of the industry's leading figures in digital cinematography and digital intermediate operations, with support provided globally to production and post-production operations, as well as being provided to equipment manufacturers. Steve Shaw, CEO, has numerous credits for feature film DI and grading work, as well as acting as digital film technologist in building operational workflows.

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