



HD D-VHS® D-Theater™ Platform Featured

In this issue, we continue our Exclusive Report on the new JVC D-VHS® D-Theater™ HD prerecorded high-profile movie release platform. While I appreciate that our status as a premiere home theatre and movie review publication enables us to preview new technologies before the general public, I am so excited with the high-performance this platform delivers, that I can't wait until our readers are able to see and experience for themselves the quantum leap in picture quality delivered by D-VHS D-Theater prerecorded 1080i content at an incredible 28.2 megabits per second (Mbps) data rate.

We compare a digital D-5 format studio master of Universal Studios' *U-571* to the D-VHS D-Theater release version. While the D-5 data rate is 375 Mbps compared to the 28.2 Mbps data rate of the D-VHS format, the differences in picture are virtually undetectable. The consensus of the industry insiders gathered for this event at the WSR Reference Holosonic™ Home Theatre Laboratory was that the small differences we could see could not have been seen on any direct-view CRT, rear-screen, DLP, D-ILA, or

plasma display that consumers use.

We missed by a few days the opportunity to review Artisan Entertainment's *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, and other titles from 20th Century Fox and DreamWorks. The titles were in the final process of quality control and the studios would not release them to us. But, come next Issue 61, June, we hope to be able to publish a number of reviews on the first slate of D-Theater movie titles, and as well offer all D-Theater titles to be released on two of our Web sites, www.WidescreenReview.com and DVHSMovieGuide.com.



www.htcruise.com

Sound Achievements Honored

Perry Sun, Managing Editor

Every year, two awards ceremonies are held, prior to the Academy Awards®, to honor the outstanding creative efforts of members of the sound community for motion pictures produced during the previous year. One of them is the C.A.S. (Cinema Audio Society) awards for achievements in sound mixing for film and television features. At the 38th annual event, the honoree for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing for a Motion Picture was *Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring*, with rerecording mixers Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, and Gethin Creagh, and Hammond Peek as production mixer. Christopher Boyes recently won his second Oscar® for Best Sound Editing for *Pearl Harbor* (along with George Watters II).

The other award event for motion picture sound is the Golden Reel Awards, held by the Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE). The event honors outstanding achievements in sound editing in the areas of feature film, television, computer entertainment, special venue, and student film. Among the many winners at the 49th annual ceremony, *Black Hawk Down* received the

honors for Best Sound Editing In Feature Film—Effects and Foley, and Best Sound Editing In Feature Film—Dialogue and ADR. Supervising sound editors Per Hallberg (Academy Award winner) and Karen Baker led teams of winning sound editors for both categories. The winner for Best Sound Editing in Animated Feature Film went to *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*, with Academy Award-winner Gary Rydstrom and Michael Silvers as supervising sound editors, amongst their winning sound editing team.

The Academy Award winner for Best Sound went to *Black Hawk Down*, with rerecording mixers Michael Minkler and Myron Nettinga, and production mixer Chris Munro.

DTS®—Expanding For Your Aural Pleasure

David J. Weinberg, Contributing Editor

Multichannel audio is clearly expanding in two directions—higher-resolution formats (DVD-Audio and SACD) and mobile surround systems. DTS® has taken major strides into these two arenas.

DTS DVD-Audio Discs

DTS Entertainment (www.dtsentertainment.com) is the source of almost 120 DTS-encoded 5.1-channel music discs covering the major music types from classical and rock through jazz and country. They have now extended their musical offerings into DVD-Audio. DTS Entertainment has already produced 18 DVD-Audio Discs (only a few of which contain music already available on DTS-encoded discs based on the CD format), with another 20 titles nearing release.

All DVD-Audio discs from DTS Entertainment include four versions of the material:

1. A 5.1-channel mix, compressed with MLP (Meridian Lossless Packing) to get more content on the disc in DVD-Audio format.
2. A separate two-channel mix of the same tracks, authored in DVD-Audio format.
3. The same 5.1-channel mix as above, DTS-encoded for the DVD-Video portion of the disc, playable on DVD-Video players that recognize a DTS soundtrack (all but some early first-generation players) digitally feeding DTS decoders.
4. The original two-channel mix, in PCM or Dolby® Digital, playable on all DVD-Video players.



Gary Rydstrom



Michael Semanick And Christopher Boyes