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cinemuse

Network News

Technology Talk

HI-DEF DISPLAY DEVICES

With so many hi-def systems on the market, a good understanding of the options is important when deciding what system to install. Hi-def systems consist of two video components: a hi-def display device and a hi-def playback device such as a videotape player or video server. In this issue we will discuss hi-def display devices. These include projectors and monitors. Most of these will also display standard definition video and computer output.

Projectors

Projectors create a cinema-sized image. Most hi-def cinema set-ups have a screen width between 12 to 24 feet, though some are as small as 8 feet or as large as 60 feet. There are several kinds of projector technologies including LCD, DLP, and LCOS. Each has its own merits, most of which are somewhat subjective. The key projector features for hi-def cinema are: Native resolution: This is the maximum number of pixels the projector can produce without help from software. Many projectors that are hi-def compatible have a native resolution of 1024x768. This produces a good image, but doesn't quite deliver the hi-def experience. Look for a native resolution of 1365x1024 or more.

Brightness: This is the light output of the projector and is measured in lumens. The brightness should be suited to the room, specifically the distance from the projector to the screen (throw distance) and the amount of ambient light. In our experience, a 1500 lumen projector in a completely dark theater will produce a beautifully bright image at a throw distance of up to 50 feet.

Contrast: This refers to the projector's ability to render differences in brightness. Contrast is often measured as a ratio. Look for minimum contrast ratio of 300:1. (continued) ►

Member Happenings

Member Highlights

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, North Carolina, is a new CineMuse member site. The Museum is running daily screenings of CineMuse shows in their 250-seat *WRAL Digital Theater*. Shows that will be presented include *Canine Conspiracy*, *Weird Nature: Marvelous Motion* and all eight episodes of the popular BBC series *The Blue Planet – Seas of Life*. (For descriptions of these shows, see the CineMuse Library at www.cinemuse.com) The North Carolina Museum has worked with their local CBS affiliate WRAL to produce the spectacular show *Wilderness North Carolina*—a program they continue to present in their digital theater.

For more information on The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, visit www.naturalsciences.org.

Network Business

See you at the conferences

This fall, CineMuse will be exhibiting at:

ASTC: September 18-21, San Jose, CA, Booth #523

MAAM: October 16-19, Philadelphia, PA, Booth #38

SEMC: October 19-23, Winston-Salem, NC, Booth #23

HI-DEF DISPLAY DEVICES (CONTINUED)

Monitors

Hi-def monitors are great for use in exhibits, lobby displays, small theaters, or other small settings. There are three basic styles:

CRT: Hi-def CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors produce the best images. They are very heavy, so they need a permanent installation. There are also few sizes and brands on the market.

Rear-projection: These monitors are currently the best value for hi-def. Selection is good and prices are very competitive. Most have good built-in sound systems and wheels, perfect for temporary or mobile displays.

Plasma: Flat-screen plasma monitors have that high-tech look.

They can be mounted on a wall or placed on a stand. Most require external speakers. Hi-def plasma screens start at about \$5,000. If you see one for less, check the resolution. It's probably only 800x600.

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