SIGGRAPH THINK BEYOND

2020 S2020.SIGGRAPH.ORG

CHAPTER WEBINARS
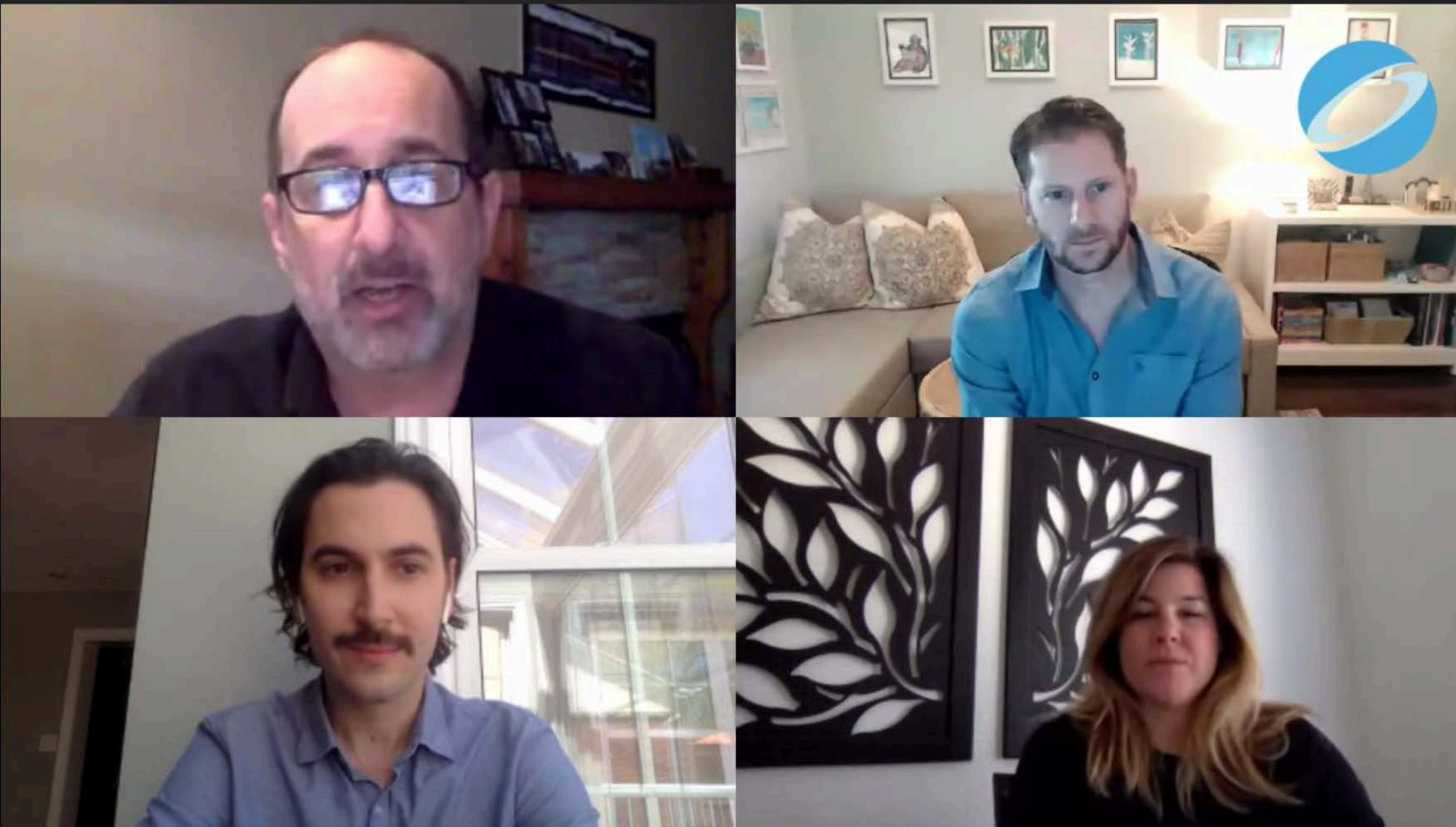
Alain Chesnais - Toronto Chapter

HOW THE CHAPTER WEBINARS STARTED

- In March Toronto applied stay at home policies for non essential businesses

- We had to cancel our April event, a talk by Jos Stam, a leading nVidia researcher

- Toronto Chapter leadership held a brainstorming meeting to address COVID related strategies

- Suggestion that we hold a webinar panel on working from home in VFX
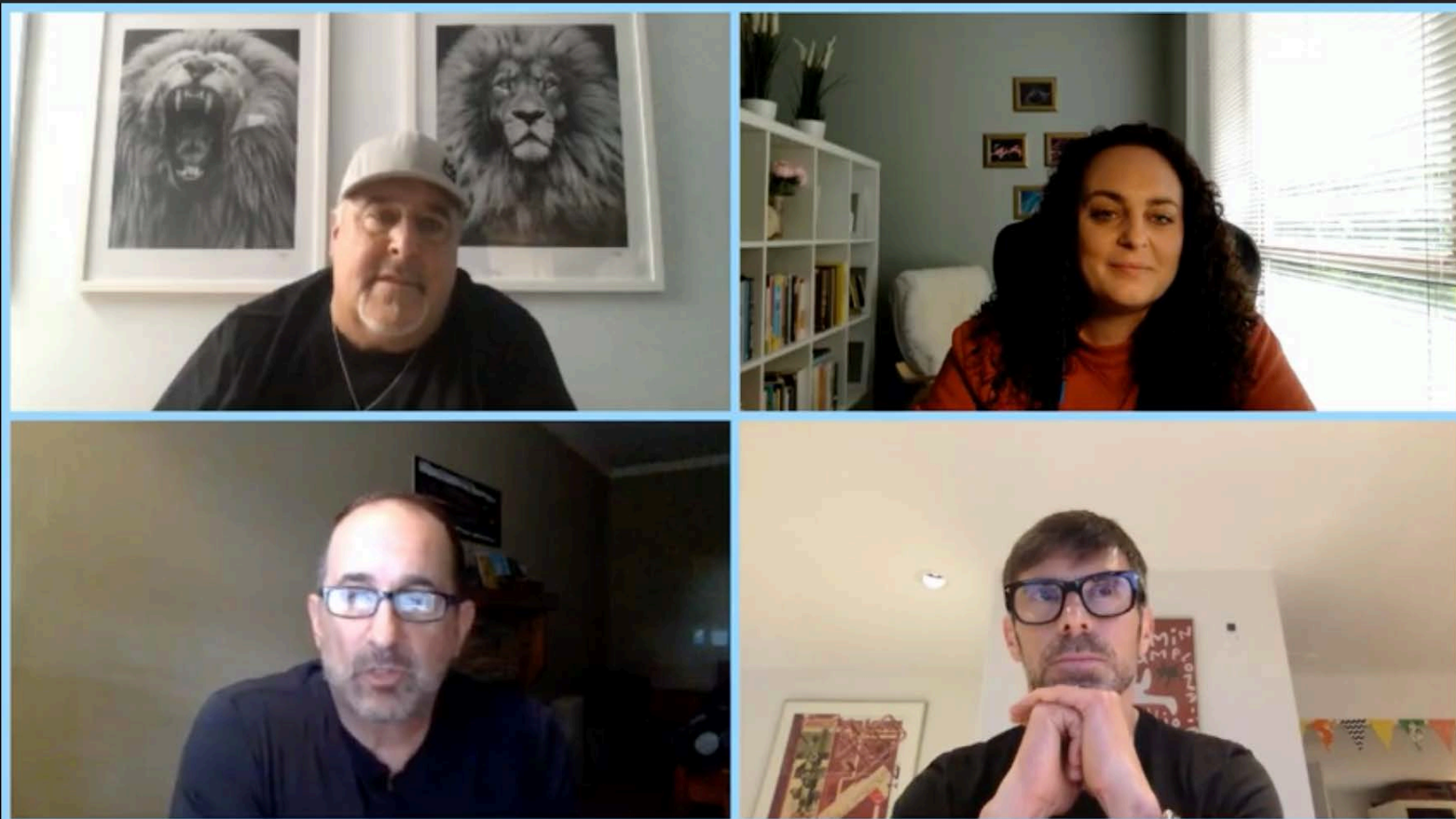
HOW CHAPTER WEBINARS EXPANDED

- Reached out to Vancouver and Montreal chapters to see if they would like to work with us on this

- They agreed and we expanded the concept to be a series of webinars organized by the Canadian chapters

- Myriam Beauvais from the Montreal Chapter and I both sit on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee

- We brought this up with Alex Bryant (2021 SV chair and D&I) to see what live stream software the SV use

- Alex suggested that we expand further to include all chapters and the D&I committee

OUR FIRST WEBINAR

- Panel format

- Streamed Live to YouTube

- Getting approval for YouTube was a nightmare!

- Needed someone to kick off comment trolls in real time!

- 1.8K views
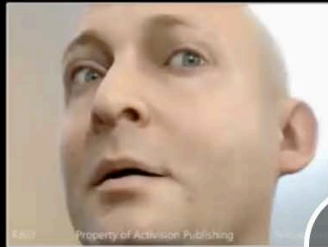
- https://youtu.be/l92HfGYGZEs

OUR SECOND WEBINAR

- Working From Home In Animation

- Panel format

- Streamed to Facebook

- Still many comment trolls

- Much more viral

- 4.9K views

- http://bit.ly/TorontoWFHAnimation

OUR THIRD WEBINAR

Light Stages and Light Fields for Socially Distant Filmmaking

Paul Debevec

Google AR/VR & USC Institute for Creative Technologies

Google   ACMSIGGRAPH   USC Institute for Creative Technologies

USC Institute for Creative Technologies   debevec@gmail.com   www.debevec.org   25 Jun 2020

- Socially Distant Filmmaking

- Tech talk format

- Streamed on Facebook

- Few trolls

- 3.3K views

- http://bit.ly/DebevecToronto

OUR FOURTH WEBINAR

- Immersive Technologies for Creation and Communication

- Panel format

- Key speaker bailed the night before

- Cheryl Lao stepped in as MC

- 3K views

- http://bit.ly/TorontoImmersive

SIGGRAPH FOR BEGINNERS

- Panel format

- Streamed on Facebook

- Well promoted

- Shared edited version on YouTube

- 3.3K views

- https://youtu.be/-uQ6rRwOS8k

THE SOFTWARE

- We used Be.Live for this

- Easy to learn

- Simple interface

- Few bells and whistles, gets the job done

- Streams live to Facebook or YouTube

- ACM SIGGRAPH has 2 accounts: 1 general, 1 for chapters and D&I

THE ROLES

- Copy Writer *(good writing skills)*
  - prepares promotional text, bios and event description
- MC *(good presenting skills)*
  - On screen
  - Introduces the presenters
  - Reads the rules of engagement
  - Thanks the presenters
- Comment Moderator *(quick training on Be.Live)*
  - removes trolls and their comments
  - prepares questions for the MC
- Director *(deep training on Be.Live)*
  - Runs Be.Live

HOW DO WE RECRUIT?

- Directors are in short supply! Just 6 for now.

- We are training ex SVs on Be.Live as Comment moderators and Directors

- We expect to have several teams available by end of 2020

- Most members of Toronto Chapter leadership are already trained

- Be.Live offers a free two week trial to get you started. Try it out!

- If any of your chapter leadership wish to be trained, contact Alain

- We are documenting what we have learned

LESSONS LEARNED

- Speakers can and do drop out with little forewarning

- Trolls exist: the Comment Moderator Role is essential

- Practise with your speakers well in advance

- Don't use mobile devices. Computers only.

- Shut down any apps that won't be used in the live session before you start

- The backend team should have an extra channel to communicate on like mobile FB Messenger

- Don't have large files downloading in the background (turn off automatic OS updates before you go live)

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- COVID-19 is with us for at least an other year

- We need to be able to serve our members

- One chapter's webinar can interest many people

- Great promotional material to attract new members

- Serves the larger SIGGRAPH community year round

- Our goal is to be able to publish one webinar every week

QUESTIONS?

- You can propose a webinar at this link: https://bit.ly/SIGGRAPHWebinarProposal

- A web version of this presentation will be shared with PSCC