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](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
OUR THIRD WEBINAR

Light Stages and Light Fields for Socially Distant Filmmaking

Paul Debevec
Google AR/VR & USC Institute for Creative Technologies

Google
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- Socially Distant Filmmaking
- Tech talk format
- Streamed on Facebook
- Few trolls
- 3.3K views
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
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
• 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 another 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