

New York State Council on the Arts
Electronic Media and Film Program
In collaboration with
Cinema Arts Centre, Jacob Burns Film Center, Milestone Film & Video, Wave Farm

Digital Conversion

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 from 1-4pm

Elinor Bunin Monroe Film Center
144 W. 65th Street New York, New York, Film Society Lincoln Center

Welcome to this first in a series of discussions on Digital Conversion and independent media, film and technology as an art form. Whether you are engaged in cinema or new media and technology, production, exhibition, distribution or preservation, conversion will change the way we think and work.

Our focus today is the impact of digital conversion on independent cinemas. What is Digital Conversion? How does it affect programming? Who has to transition and who can afford to wait? We will also look at requirements for conversion, cost and the future of 35mm film.

In addition, we will present a new funding opportunity, the Digital Film Projector Conversion Program supported by New York State Council on the Arts through the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) initiative. For more information on the REDC NYSCA Digital Projector Conversion Program, see www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov, CFA Resource Manual.

Special thanks to the Elinor Bunin Monroe Film Center and Film Society of Lincoln Center for hosting this event.

Audio from this event will be streamed live online at <http://transmissionarts.org/event/y5cvcn>
Following the event, an archive recording will be available at the same URL.

Welcome & Introduction

Karen Helmerson, NYSCA Electronic Media & Film Program Director
Lesli Klainberg, Managing Director, Film Society of Lincoln Center; Producer of the New York Film Festival

What is Digital Conversion?

Part I

Moderator

Dylan Skolnick, Co-director, Cinema Arts Centre

Panelists

John Mhiripiri, General Director, Anthology Film Archives

Adam Birnbaum, Nova Theatre Circuit Founder/President and Director of Film Programming, Avon Theatre Film Center

Emily Russo, Co-President, Zeitgeist Films

Michael Tuckman, Founder, mTuckman media

Discussion

- How does conversion affect programming
- Who has to transition and who can afford to wait
- The future of 35mm film

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Archival Implications and Distribution

Part II

Moderator

Dennis Doros, Co-Founder, Milestone Film & Video and Director of the Board, Association of Moving Image Archivists

Panelists

John Mhiripiri, General Director, Anthology Film Archives

Adam Birnbaum, Nova Theatre Circuit Founder/President and Director of Film Programming, Avon Theatre Film Center

Emily Russo, Co-President, Zeitgeist Films

Michael Tuckman, Founder, mTuckman media

Discussion

- The lifespan of digital media
- Digital obsolescence and digital cinema
- Industry standards and digital film archiving and preservation

Film: IN THE LAND OF THE HEAD HUNTERS (BluRay 5min)

Break (10 minutes)

Practical Issues around Digital Conversion Packages (DCP)

Moderator

Dominick Balledda, Managing Director, Jacob Burns Film Center

Panelists

Griffith Iffith, Director of Operations, IFC Center

Michael Dostaler, Digital Cinema Partners

Discussion

- Organizational ability to invest in this new technology - *money, money, money*
- Facility capacity and technology management - *HVAC, electricity, projection booth*
- Staff ability and DCP / server infrastructure management
- Changing role of the Projectionist – *work flow, ingestion, tech screening, unlocking prints*
- Alternatives to DCP – *when, how and who?*