

The Essential Home Theatre Resource™

WIDESCREEN

REVIEW® NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME!

Welcome back to the fourth edition of the *Widescreen Review* Newsletter. Last month's featured interview with Joe Kane raised so much interest that the folks at Blu-ray were given the opportunity to strike back. In the upcoming print issue, October 2006, please make sure to read "Clearing The Air With The Blu-Ray Disc Association," featuring Don Eklund of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment and Chris Walker of Pioneer Electronics USA, Inc. This interview will also be available for all subscribers on WSR's Web site on September 15th. In addition to all the new format buzz, we bring you other cool interviews and Studio Scoop. We'd like to thank you all for your support and encourage you to pass this FREE newsletter along to your friends. Lastly, our sister publication, *Ultimate Home Design*, has launched their first newsletter, and it is available for anyone to download at www.ultimatehomedesign.com. This is an excellent way to expand your knowledge of the latest in green and sustainable building design and construction. As always, please feel free to submit your comments and suggestions, and enjoy this month's edition. Congratulations to Barry Wilkinson, the winner of last month's Reader's Poll.

Gary Reber
Editor-In-Chief, *Widescreen Review*

COMING SOON TO NEWSSTANDS

Here's a sneak peek into what's coming in Issue 113, October 2006 of *Widescreen Review*:

- Danny Richelieu' review of the ADA Cinema Rhapsody Mach III Home Theatre Controller
- A review of Phase Technology dARTS System by John Katches
- Interview With Don Eklund & Chris Walker From Blu-ray Disc Association
- Interview With Nordost's Joe Reynolds
- John Bishop talks about Scope Format Cinema For The Home
- Assured Success In The Format War
- Component Video In HD Versus SD By Joe Kane
- Over 40 Blu-ray Disc, HD DVD, and DVD picture and sound quality reviews
- And more...



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Coming Soon...
To A Retailer Near You

Tricia Spears

New Video



Epson PowerLite Home Cinema 400

New from **Epson** is a high-definition front projector, the **PowerLite® Home Cinema 400**. With 720p HD native resolution in the 16:9 widescreen format, the Cinema 400 uses the latest Epson Cinema Filter and Dynamic Eye Iris to achieve a contrast ratio up to 5000:1.

Producing up to 1,500 ANSI lumens,

the Cinema 400 features three individual LCD chips to project images with smooth, rapid motion video that is said to be free of artifacts. With seven color modes for optimum viewing in various lighting conditions, vertical and horizontal optical lens shift, customized gamma, and Epson Super White technology, the projector promises little noise and excellent picture quality. The Cinema 400 is available for \$1,600. **CEDIA Booth #664**

Epson America, Inc.

800 463 7766

www.epson.com

Proton® has introduced two new premium widescreen **Puriti™** High-Definition LCD Televisions in 42-inch and 47-inch screen sizes, both with full 1080p resolution. The thin, elegant TVs deliver a contrast ratio of 1200:1, a brightness level of 500 nits, and a response time of 6.5 milliseconds. Touted as having pure blacks and whites, true-to-life flesh tones, and screens bright enough for viewing in daylight makes these televisions desirable, and the 176-degree vertical viewing angle enables viewers to sit almost anywhere and enjoy a clear picture. A 16:9 aspect ratio, anti-glare screen, NTSC and ATSC tuners, Motion Lagging Correction Engine, 3D Color Management, and 3-2 Pull Down are just some of the features that both televisions offer. The 42-inch Puriti High-Definition LCD Television sells for \$2,500 and the 47-inch sells for \$4,000, and both are available now. **CEDIA Booth #2713**



Proton 42-inch Puriti

Proton

626 855 2129

www.protonav.com



NuVision 32-inch Deep Black

NuVision® will feature its 2006 line of **23-** (\$1,200), **26-** (\$1,400), **32-** (\$1,800), and **37-inch** (\$2,800) **Deep Black™** LCD Televisions, and the new **52-inch 1080p LED DLP® HDTV** (\$4,400) with PhlatLight™ technology, at the CEDIA Expo. The LCD televisions feature several improvements over the previous generation models

and all are either currently shipping or scheduled to ship in September. The LCD models feature 1366 x 768 resolution, 1000:1 contrast ratio, and less than 8 millisecond response time. Two new larger screen 1080p LCD monitors (42-inch and 47-inch) will also be previewed at the EXPO, and shipping is scheduled for fourth quarter 2006. **CEDIA Booth #2200**

NuVision

480 970 1466

www.nuvision.com

New Electronics

Calibre's new **Vantage-HD** home theatre video scaler and switcher is powered by the Silicon Optix Realta HQV™ video processing engine. Unlike other video processors, Realta HQV is also fully software-programmable and ungradeable. The processor executes its video algorithms entirely in software, and as new firmware is developed, consumers will be able to download the upgrades from the Calibre Web site. The Vantage-HD is not just an image scaler, it's also a switcher, featuring a very flexible range of inputs and outputs, and able to switch between different audio-visual sources without the need for a separate switcher. The base input configuration is 2x HDMI with support for up to eight-channel digital audio. For HD material, Realta HQV features true ten-bit processing, automatic multi-cadence detection, and four-field-per-pixel de-interlacing. The Calibre Vantage-HD home theatre video scaler and switcher retails for \$2,900 and is shipping now. **CEDIA Booth #738**



Calibre Vantage-HD

Calibre

916 961 1261

www.calibreuk.com

New Loudspeakers

Leviton Manufacturing Company and **JBL** have teamed up to bring built-in, premium quality sound to the residential construction market. The **Leviton Architectural Edition™ powered by JBL**, will bring the experience of a premium installed music and home theatre system into the mainstream of the residential construction market as a standard feature. The Leviton Architectural Edition powered by JBL program consists of: Multi-Room Music, with in-wall and ceiling loudspeakers featuring titanium-laminate low-frequency woofers and tweeters; the Home Theater modular on-the-wall or in-wall and ceiling system with five mini-monitor, high-performance loudspeakers and matched powered subwoofer; and two rugged Outdoor Speakers to deliver great JBL sound to the patio or pool-side. **CEDIA Booth #612**



Leviton Architectural Edition powered by JBL

Leviton Manufacturing Co.

718 229 4040

www.leviton.com



cinemateq natural

cinemateq

The new active subwoofer **natural** is now available from **cinemateq**. The subwoofer not only conceals extreme power ratings behind its compact design, but it also combines brute bass extension with exclusive acoustic control options. With the 12-inch long-throw driver, the integrated parametric equalizer, and different adjustment options, even the most difficult environments can be optimally filled with bass frequencies. The natural is said to set an uncompromising standard, offering up to 188 dB of sound pressure both in the bass and the subsonic bass ranges!

+49(0)89 891369 0

www.cinemateq.com



KEF KHT5005.2

The **KEF KHT5005.2** home theatre loudspeaker system incorporates substantial design enhancements to improve upon the visual styling and the audio performance of its predecessor, the KHT5005. Featuring the latest generation of Uni-Q® drivers, the result is smoother high-frequency response and wider overall dispersion.

Available in either matte silver or high-gloss black, a cleverly designed mounting system is included with each loudspeaker. KEF's new **HTB2** subwoofer is available in a radical new design housed in a ten-inch bass driver and ten-inch Auxiliary Bass Radiator. The ultra long-throw driver coupled with a compact, ultra-efficient 250-watt digital amplifier produces deep, yet well-defined bass. The complete KHT5005.2 Speaker System includes four satellite loudspeakers, one center channel loudspeaker, and the HTB2 Powered Subwoofer, and is available now for a price of \$2,000.

KEF Audio

732 683 2356

www.kef.com

Previewing at this year's CEDIA EXPO is **THIEL Audio's Coherent Source® SCS4** multichannel bookshelf loudspeakers. The 17.5-inch tall and 8.5-inch wide loudspeaker's high-output capability and 90 dB efficiency provide extremely realistic sonic reproduction. The SCS4 uses a very low distortion metal diaphragm 6.5-inch woofer that is coaxially mounted with a one-inch, high-output metal dome tweeter. Utilizing a phase correct crossover system to eliminate phase distortion, the low distortion drivers provide a very high level of clarity and realism for all types of sound reproduction. Available in Natural Cherry, Dark Cherry, and Black Ash finishes, the suggested retail price and shipping date for the SCS4 loudspeakers have not yet been announced. **CEDIA Booth #713**



THIEL SCS4

THIEL Audio

859 254 9427

www.thielaudio.com



ATC Studio Control Monitor Series

ATC has launched a new series of hand-built two- and three-way active and passive loudspeakers. The **Studio Control Monitor 20** Super Linear 2-Way Active Tower and **SCM 50, SCM 100, and SCM 150** Super Linear 3-Way Active Towers are fully compatible with ATC subwoofers and center channel loudspeakers and are available in five standard real wood veneers, as well as custom-designed finishes. The SCM 20 includes an in-house, hand-wound precision flat wire coil, active filters, overload protection, and a 250-watt class A bi-amplifier. The SCM 50, SCM 100, and SCM 150 all include massive ATC motor assembly, the company's "Soft Dome" technology, and a 350-watt class A tri-amplifier. **CEDIA Booth #713**

ATC

01285 760561

www.atc.gb.net



Meridian Audio 350

Meridian Audio boasts that its new **200 Series** in-ceiling speakers and **300 Series** in-wall/flush mount and on-walls offer comparable audio power and quality to its freestanding loudspeakers, but in a compact, easy-to-install form. The 200 Series are two-way designs with an eight-inch bass driver, pivoting tweeter, and optional crossover for either surface grill or flush mounting. The 300 Series consists of three ultra-slimline systems for in-wall, flush-mount, and on-wall applications and offer 6.5-inch bass drivers and a wide-dispersion ribbon tweeter. The 200 Series are priced at \$400 each and the 300 Series speakers are priced at \$400 each and the 300 Series speakers are

available now. **CEDIA Booth #264**

Meridian Audio

404 344 7111

www.meridian-audio.com

Other New Products

Sencore has added the **SP495 Audio Consultant** to its SoundPro portable, handheld audio analyzer family. The powerful acoustic analyzer provides acoustic/audio analysis for analyzing distributed sound, sound reinforcement systems, live sound applications, and industrial sound analysis.



Sencore SP495

The handheld, battery-operated instrument features Noise Curves, Multi-Band Decay analysis, Time Delay Analysis, TerraLink software for 3D graph analysis, Speech Intelligibility, electrical audio tests, and digital output to S/PDIF, TosLink, and USB ports. The SP495 features a high-resolution, color LCD display, dual phantom-powered high-gain/low-distortion microphone inputs, and independent analog monitoring. **CEDIA Booth #111**

Sencore, Inc.

800 736 2673

www.sencore.com

CinemaTech™ has added three new home theatre incliners to its premium Act I line of theatre seating—the **Espada** uses CinemaTech's legendary steel frame in a soft contemporary style, the **Vantage's** profile is that of a soft Cubic Classic, and the **Azzurro** is an Italian-style incliner. All three chairs include CinemaTech's advanced technology, which uses a seating platform produced from rolled steel and constructed with two offset tiers of sinuous, hand-assembled heavy steel wire springs. Each coil is hand-tied to the others during manufacturing. The seats boast a wide standard width of 24 inches, and the curved backboard is equal to arm height. All seats feature the company's adjustable design Articulating Headrest and are available as stand-alone single chairs, loveseats, and three-seat sofas. **CEDIA Booth #242**



CinemaTech Espada

The seats are available as stand-alone single chairs, loveseats, and three-seat sofas. **CEDIA Booth #242**

CinemaTech

800 688 6680

www.mycinamatech.com



VizionWare Hi-Wirez

VizionWare's first products, which incorporate a complete package of breakthrough technologies, are a family of active digital HDMI interconnects labeled the **Hi-Wirez™**. The technology is said to deliver numerous unique advances leading to improvements to HDMI digital cables and adapters. Some of the key elements include: Image Enhancing Circuitry, Signal Balancing, DSP and Innovative Manufacturing Techniques, Enhanced Transmission Technology, and Optimal Spectral Diffusion. The Hi-Wirez will be available in one-meter, five-meter, seven-meter, and ten-meter lengths and will be introduced at the CEDIA Expo. A complete line of DVI interconnects and HDMI and DVI adapters will be available by the end of 2006. **CEDIA Booth #2802**

VizionWare

512 493 9660

www.vizionware.com



RTI T2-C

Remote Technologies Incorporated (RTI) has added the compact full-color LCD touchscreen **T2-C** wireless universal controller to its lineup. One-handed operation is easy with the slim ergonomic design, which features a powerful 32-bit, 200 MHz XScale® processor with non-volatile 16 Megabytes of Flash memory. The full color TFT LCD displays custom buttons, text, graphics, and animations and the 35 assignable/programmable keypad buttons make operation easy. The T2-C will showcase at CEDIA Expo and will retail for \$800.

CEDIA Booth #314

Remote Technologies Inc.

952 253 3100

www.rticorp.com

An Interview With Multi-Grammy® Winning Superstars George Benson And Al Jarreau

On Their First Collaboration, "Givin' It Up," A Joint Venture Between Monster Music And The Concord Music Group

GARY REBER

On October 24th, the music world will be dazzled by a harmonic convergence of superstars when singer/guitarist/songwriter George Benson teams with vocalist extraordinaire/songwriter Al Jarreau for *Givin' It Up*. Friends and label-mates for over three decades, this outing marks the first time that the two artists, both multiple Grammy® winners with Gold and Platinum selling albums, have recorded together as equal partners.

Givin' It Up will be released as a joint venture between the Concord Music Group, one of the largest independent record companies in the world, and Monster Music, the newly created record division of Monster® Cable Products, the world's leading manufacturer of high-performance cables and power for home theatres, cars, and Apple iPods. The collaboration will leverage the strengths of companies, creating a sales and marketing alliance reminiscent of Concord's groundbreaking and highly successful partnership with Starbucks Coffee Company for the release of the multi-platinum Ray Charles swansong *Genius Loves Company*. Monster will leverage its distribution channel of over 20,000 electronics retail outlets worldwide, including home theatre departments of Best Buy®, Circuit City®, and RadioShack®. Monster will also utilize its marketing program and training of over 125,000 sales associates in electronic retail stores to promote the release of this album. The CD will also be available in all traditional retail outlets.

This much-anticipated 13-track recording features each of the stars on a new arrangement of one of the other's biggest

hits—Jarreau adding lyrics to, and singing Benson's signature instrumental smash "Breezin'," while the legendary jazz guitarist delivers a moving instrumental version of the singer's sunny hit "Mornin'." *Givin' It Up* also includes covers of Seals & Crofts' "Summer Breeze" and Hall & Oates' (and Paul Young smash) "Every Time You Go Away," as well as new jazz vocal versions of the Miles Davis classics "Four" and "Long Come Tutu."

Givin' It Up was recorded between April and June 2006. Serendipitously, pop legend, Paul McCartney, happened to be in the studio next door during one session and dropped in to join Benson and Jarreau on an impromptu romp through Sam Cooke's "Bring It On Home To Me." Neo soul diva, Jill Scott, performs Billie Holiday's timeless "God Bless The Child." Rounding out the album is an instrumental take on John Legend's Grammy Award-winning soul smash, "Ordinary People" and four new compositions, including a new Jarreau and Barry Eastmond composition, "Let It Rain," which features Patti Austin and trumpeter Chris Botti.

Benson and Jarreau first met in the mid-1970s at the Coconut Grove Ballroom in the landmark Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Benson recalls, "Al sang lyrics to 'Take Five,' which I'd never heard before. I'd recorded an instrumental version of the track on my album *Bad Benson*, so I was really checking this cat out. His style of improvising was quite interesting." Of Benson, Jarreau adds, "George and I share something of the same age, but George can describe things he was doing as a pro-

fessional at the age of eight! He was an idol within the jazz community, one that I aspired to, but I didn't arrive on the scene with my first record until 17 years later in 1975. George was a hero to me." "He's a prolific cat," finishes the guitarist. "I've always loved Al, but I have a different respect for him now."

An A-list of musicians appear on *Givin' It Up*: keyboardists Patrice Rushen, Rex Rideout, and Herbie Hancock; bassists Marcus Miller, Abraham Laboriel, and Stanley Clarke; guitarists Dean Parks, Ray Fuller, and Michael Thompson; saxophonist Marion Meadows; and drummers Vinnie Colaiuta and Michael White.

Monster Music will make *Givin' It Up* available in High-Definition Surround (HDS). Monster SuperDiscs will include two discs. The first features a stereo mix that plays on any CD player, the other, which plays in any DVD player, features "High-Definition Surround Sound" in Dolby® Digital and DTS® 96/24, as well as High-Definition Stereo, which sound promises to sound closer to the studio master file. In addition, Monster SuperDiscs feature multiple mixes that allow listeners with a home theatre and/or surround music system to select their own "Surround Experience," choosing, for example, to be "in the band" of a live concert or "in the room" sitting next to the band.

For consumers who listen to music through their computer and portable music players, Monster SuperDiscs also include High-Definition Digital Music files encoded directly from the master recordings. These files are ready to drag and drop into any music program, including iTunes and an

Apple iPod. Special for Apple iPod users are the Dolby Headphone-encoded music files, which will give your iPod a "surround sound" music experience through any pair of headphones. Monster Music SuperDiscs are also the first music releases to be certified by THX® for high-quality sound and picture, multiple surround experiences, and digital music file quality.

The pairing of George Benson and Al Jarreau is also a coup for Monster and Concord. Kevin Lee, Director of Product Development and Marketing (a.k.a. "Little Monster") states, "It's extremely exciting for us to be associated with artists of their caliber. And we have recorded them better than they have ever been captured before." John Burk, Executive Vice President and Head of A&R, Concord Music Group, concludes: "Both artists have had unprecedented success across jazz, pop, and soul. Such musical depth and versatility made for a truly dynamic collaboration and pure magic in the studio. We're extremely proud to present them together for the very first time."

At the concert, performed on August 25 at the Palomar Starlight Theater in Pala, California, I was extended an invitation to interview both George and Al prior to their taking the stage. What a wonderful treat for someone who has been a jazz saxophonist and jazz fan since the age of nine years old. I hope you enjoy the On Screen interview as well as the forth-coming musical experience.

Gary Reber, *Widescreen Review*: I'm really happy to see this collaboration you've done with Al Jarreau. I wanted you to start off by telling me about your long relationship with the "Head Monster" Noel Lee. How did that develop and how do you feel about that?

George Benson: Well, I've known Noel for many years. I'd forgotten just how we met until we spoke a few days ago. He told me it was further back than I even imagined. We've been friends a long time, even before we became majorly successful. He was always a very nice fellow with a high IQ, and we had a lot of things in common. He loved my music—he always let me know that he was one of my biggest fans—and

he liked electronics. He always talked about future events and things that normal people don't talk about. He's always been an interesting character. But I didn't know how successful he was until he invited me to his factory.

WSR Gary: I remember back in the 80s when Noel and I went to your home in New Jersey. I always laugh when I reminisce about the experience we had there. Remember the "Help" button? "Whatever you do, don't touch the help button!" you told us when we tried to help you figure out what was wrong with your projector. Noel's a great, creative guy, as you know, and he is very passionate about everything he does. What do you think about Noel's new creation—High-Definition Surround and Monster Music label?

George: At first I thought it was just another gimmick. But you know, like everything else, things have to move on. We're not going to stay at any one level in anything we do as humans here on this earth. We're going to keep progressing until we get to a form of utopia. At least, that's the desired effect anyway. Noel's one of those guys who's going to help us, in the field of electronics, to get to those places we have not been before. He's determined to do so, and he has the credentials to make things happen. Now he's got a research and development team together, and he's got a company of dedicated people who know how to get things done. So, he's going to succeed greatly.

WSR Gary: All right, Al's joining us now. Al, what do you think about this whole thing with Noel and his High-Definition Surround and the Monster Music label?

Al Jarreau: Genius. Pure genius. But we've known he's a genius for a long time. I mean, Monster Cable itself is the cable to buy. Even all the outlets, when they're approached, say, "Well, if you want the best, this is what you get." But he's taken it further, the whole sales approach, the whole marketing approach, that thing of educating salespeople from various outlets, independent outlets, and educating them on what the specs are of their products, old and new. Maybe it's no surprise that they've come up with this brilliant genius kind-of-thing for the home system. You can listen to music and

stuff in a way that's going to change your listening experience. We've gotten away from that thing of getting together with friends and a glass of wine at 8:30 in the evening. "I just got the new so-and-so record." And you sit down and you listen, and your eyes roll back in your head, and you plug in and you're having a good time. There are so many other distractions these days, and I think that this [High-Definition Surround] kind of new experience could re-excite people about listening to music at home again.

WSR Gary: I agree with you totally. Now, George, you and Al are actually the first major artists that Noel has signed for this new label. So, how does it feel to be an artist working with Noel?

George: At first, it sounded a little adventurous, you know?

Al: I love that, "adventurous."

George: Because of the business he's in, it wasn't the record business. I've been with major companies. I started off with RCA Victor in New Orleans in the early 50s. Then I went to CBS Records. Then I ended up on Warner Records. So, I've been with the biggies. Even the biggest independent record companies, A&M Records, I'd been with them for a few years. So, I'm used to doing things in a big way with people who were really deeply entrenched in the record world. This is a new adventure for Noel, so I'm wondering, "At this part of my career, do I really want to do that?" No question about his commitment to me as a friend and one of the biggest fans in the world of my music. That I know. Can we turn what he does and what I do into something that the world can enjoy by reaching on a shelf to get a Benson record? That's what I want them to be able to do. Come in the store, and see all the big ads, and see our face, and go to our bin, and see the disc—great! Those are the things that I looked at. But as I talked to him, I realized he was really committed to doing just that and taking it a step further if need be. Then one day I was at a convention, and he sat me down in a hotel room and played for me a video, which featured the High-Definition Surround sound. I'd never heard anything like that before. It was a brand new, wonderful way of seeing

things you had seen before but with a new vibe. As AI said, “a new experience.” So, it’s nice to be at the beginning of something that you know is going to be enjoyed by millions.

AI: Are we just talking about Noel’s genius? And it extends to his understanding that this is a new adventure and deciding to partner with some people that are hugely successful in the record business. So, it’s not Noel totally on his own off doing Ted and Noel’s Great Adventure.

George: There’s only one AI Jarreau.

AI: It takes one to know one, George! He’s partnered with some other geniuses in the music-selling, record-selling business who are enormously successful, and they’re coming together to do this project. One of the fabulous things is to understand that our music will be used to demonstrate this high-def sound, and it will be there for purchase at that point where people are looking and listening to this new sound experience. They can buy this record that we’ve done. So, it’s very exciting to us. And that means thousands of locations around the country, and internationally, and it’s a wonderful thing.

WSR Gary: Concord Records, I think, was the reference to the joint venture you talked about. Well, you know, George and AI, and of course George has known *Widescreen Review* pretty intimately over the years, our readership is an enthusiast home theatre and surround music audience. Many of our readers have state-of-the-art audiophile home theatre and surround music sound systems with videophile video reproduction as well. How do you think they’re going to experience your music through Monster Music’s High-Definition Surround as opposed to stereo reproduction?

George: Originally, they just had—just to compare it to something—found that high-definition television causes the makeup people big headaches because now you can see the color of the makeup, you can see the streaks, you can see the fault in the makeup. Where, before, it was very hard to tell. Now, if you’re a good artist, you’re going to be a better artist with a high-definition setup because there’s going to be a lot more detail, and people are going to experi-

ence things pretty much the way we do in the studio when we’re making those records. Anything that helps that along is going to be big. Because everybody wants to be there when something great is being invented. It gives you the chance to be there. So, that’s a step in the right direction.

AI: Yes. That experience of being able to be in your own living room, and a lot of people see DVDs in this experience, but just listening and being able to reach out and touch the drum because it’s four-dimensional. I just think it changes how you experience music. Maybe it brings you closer to the music. I, as a singer, and George, as a singer/player, hear ourselves in a different way and begin to do things in a different way because of how we hear ourselves in this new experience. We’ll hear things we never heard before. Qualities in the voice, qualities in the instrument that go “Woaaaaah! I’m going to work with that, that’s something new!” I walk into a hall or concert venue, I go, “Hmm!” I hear a sound that makes me know if—I do a lot of percussive stuff—if I hear a “Hooo” sound there, that’s perfect for the “Hoo bak too hoo bak a too.” [AI starts beat boxing.]

George: Write that down, man! Write that down!

AI: And it’s because of what I heard in the situation. Didn’t mean to sidetrack us, but that’s the kind of thing it will do for us as player-listeners. If we can take back what we hear and use it to go farther with the heart...hey, shoot!

WSR Gary: What this new medium does for us is it expands on the nuances of the recording and the fidelity, like you’re saying, in the studio. It’s like you’ll be able to deliver the studio quality in the home. But there’s another aspect of this, and it’s the meaning of the word “surround.” This means that we now have the ability to put you into the fifth dimension; a three-dimensional holosonic soundfield that we can’t deliver in just two-channel stereo. How do you feel about that, in terms of creating music in this new dimension that you never had to work with before?

George: It’s unheard of. You never had that before. Maybe the closest thing you’ve gotten to it was to be in a theatre where

you’ve got the sound coming at you from various loudspeakers, and maybe you only get that if you’re down front. It’s a new experience. I think that just changes how you think about and how you feel about listening to music.

WSR Gary: Thank you, George and AI. I know you have to go onstage now. It was a blast hanging out with you. ■

The Studio Scoop

Rumors, Reports, & Ramblings

Jack Kelley

Welcome to The Studio Scoop (again), formerly Inside DVD. But times are changing, and the DVD is no longer the sole format. Instead of just providing you with information concerning product release dates—which can be conveniently and easily found on our Web site (widescreenreview.com)—this monthly blurog (blurb + blog) is to give you behind-the-curtain information from an Insider's (or Not-So-Insider's, as the case may be) point of view.

Buena Vista

Gentlemen, start your engines! *Cars* is racing full-throttle to a retailer near you on November 7, 2006. With the voice talents of Owen Wilson, Paul Newman, Bonnie Hunt, Larry The Cable Guy, Cheech Marin, and many more (and with Pixar animation), this DVD is sure to please kids of all ages.



Lionsgate

Get ready for Halloween, Lionsgate style, as they release five titles just in time for October's spookiest holiday (Columbus Day is not that scary). *House Of Blood* gushes on October 3, *Ulli Lommel's Black Dahlia* strikes on October 10, *Blackwater Valley Exorcism* is cast out on October 17, and *Saw II* (SE) and *An American Haunting* appears on October 24.

New Line

Not too much new on the New Line front, but when you receive Issue 113, you will

see a review of a digitally remastered *A Nightmare On Elm Street*, infinifilm™ Special Edition. And when's the last time you saw a good infinifilm? And this two-disc collector's edition has special features to die for, including a *Freddy's Coming After You* featurette.

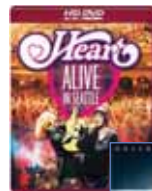


Paramount

Quite possibly the biggest thing to come out of Paramount is the wrestling-themed comedy *Nacho Libre*, starring spandex-clad Jack Black. Directed by *Napoleon Dynamite's* Jared Hess, it throws down the smack down on October 24, 2006, and for a list price of \$29.98. And a week later (October 31, 2006), according to our sources, it debuts on HD DVD and Blu-ray Disc for a suggested retail price of \$39.99.

Sony Pictures

Well, here's a mystery for you. As some of you may know, the much-hyped *The Da Vinci Code*, from Director Ron Howard, and based on Dan Brown's best-selling novel, streets next month, November 14, 2006. Yet there has been no announcement that it will be released in the 50-GB dual-layer Blu-ray Disc format. Hmm. Don't worry, though, it will be released in both the widescreen and full-frame formats.



20th Century Fox



Have a myspace account? Yeah, me neither. But Fox may help you to change your mind, set up an account, and join the bandwagon. They recently announced that they will be selling TV and movie downloads in the coming year, around October. It was reported that *X-Men: The Last Stand*, with a street date of October 3, 2006, will be one of the first titles to be downloadable. The guesstimated price for movies is \$19.99, and \$1.99 for each TV episode. We will be reviewing *X-Men: The Last Stand* in Issue 114 (November 2006).

Universal Studios

If you have been patiently waiting for *Bring It On 2* to hit the big screen, your wait is over...well, sort of. *Bring It On: All Or Nothing* (the sequel to the original Kirsten Dunst rah-rah fest) actually hit mats last month, on August 8th. And get this—it sold 75,000 units in its first week, accounting for \$12 million in revenue. And this is sure to put a cheery face on studio heads and a little something in their wallets. So, *The Fast and The Furious 4: Sydney Speed* (a logical locale for the third sequel of the franchise, if they actually decide to make a third sequel...) may just be available at your local Target® showroom and not at your local cinema.

Warner Home Video

Warner Home Video has recently acquired long-term worldwide rights to Ridley Scott's 1982 *Blade Runner*. A restored and remastered DVD version of the 1992 Director's Cut has been available

since September 5, 2006 with an MSRP of \$19.97.

Independents

Tartan Films, always on the forefront of radical, cutting-edge cinema (or so their press release states) brings seven films to The Toronto International Film Festival. And they are: *Red Road*, *12:08 East Of Bucharest*, *Princess*, *Election*, *Election 2*, *The Page Turner*, and *Sheitan* (careful how you say that one). So, if you're in Canada the second week in September...

Image Entertainment will join the HD DVD arena with their November 7, 2006 release of *Heart: Alive In Seattle*, a 2002 concert, which will run approximately 102 minutes and includes 19 songs. And all for \$24.99. Make your evening a little better with Ann and Nancy in high-definition. ■

Contrary to popular opinion, Research/Production Editor Jack Kelley is not responsible for any release date changes, price changes, or any other perceived errors contained within. He can be reached at jack@widescreenreview.com.



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