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Audio Engineering Society – New York Section

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.

Please come to the “Meet and Greet” at 6:30 P.M.

Jazz Performance Space

The New School University

55 West 13th Street (bet. 5th & 6th Avenues), 5th floor, New York City

Restoring and Archiving Audio: Old, New, Borrowed and Blu-ray

Producer: **James Williamson**, WNYC
Presenters: **Andy Lanset**, WNYC Archivist
Art Shifrin, Restoration Engineer
Vincent Pelote, New York Public Library

This gathering will shed some light and sound (*but no sticky tape!*) on the process of restoring and archiving audio. Our esteemed panel for discussing and demonstrating the techniques involved in these processes includes Andy Lanset, Archivist of The WNYC Archives and Art Shifrin, renowned restorer of audio. Also, Vincent Pelote of The Rutgers Jazz Archive and Daniel Sbardella of the New York Public Library’s Rogers and Hammerstein Archive will be offering contributions to the meeting.

Mr. Lanset has been responsible for archiving over 70 years of radio broadcasts, including countless historical recordings, ranging from news and politics to the music world.

Mr. Shifrin has been involved in the restoration of audio for over 30 years and has been credited with saving early talking pictures (Kinetophone and Vitaphone) from extinction as well as the restoration of much audio, including the recently released "Woody Guthrie: "The Live Wire".

Examples we will explore include audio restored from the turn of the century (not this one, but 1900), recorded on cylinders at The Metropolitan Opera, and wire recordings of Woody Guthrie, Frank Sinatra in Central Park in 1943, as well as numerous historical radio broadcasts.

Our discussions will run from how to find how to handle and play fragile, cherished or rare recordings, on to how to various and best ways to archive these for generations to come. We may even get into a 0 gauge train or two. Please join us for a rare opportunity to view this special documentary.

The AES NY Section wishes to thank **NHT Loudspeakers** and **Studio Consultants, Inc.** for their valued support.

We also appreciate the continuing support and assistance of the **New School University**.

**Remember to check our web site for the latest updates and information - <http://www.aes.org/sections/ny/>
PLEASE POST ... This is an open meeting ... EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND**

September 11th, 2007

Sound Man: From WWII to MP3

Host: **Noah Simon**, NYU

Our 2007-2008 season opened with the first New York showing of *Sound Man: From WWII to MP3* - a documentary film by Scott Budman and Don Hardy, Jr. eulogizing tape pioneer Jack Mullin. Jack, a successful "sound man" in private life, joined the military during WW II. Stationed in Paris, he was sent to a Bavarian mountaintop (Hitler's abandoned Berchtesgaden) to look for a secret anti-aircraft device. All he found was the harp from a savaged piano, but as he was about to turn back toward Paris he decided to check out a lead of a different kind. This other "secret weapon" was called a "Magnetophon." Its tapes accounted for the high quality of the off-hours broadcasts of symphonic concerts and Hitler's speeches that had long puzzled the Allies. Jack disemboweled two of the machines and sent the parts home in mail bags as "war souvenirs," later to be reassembled in his basement. When the result was demonstrated at an IEEE meeting in San Francisco, Bing Crosby heard about it, had Jack demo it for *him*, and the rest is history for all of us. Ampex commercialized the Magnetophon as their Model 200, and the "tape recorder" was quickly adopted by musicians and broadcasters. Ampex later adapted a multi-track recorder into a "sel-sync" eight-track "octopus" which put Les Paul and Mary Ford on the musical map, and music hasn't been the same since. Meanwhile, Jack experimented with new ways to expand the uses of magnetic tape. One of his innovations, which he later regretted, was the "laugh track," to perk up lethargic live audiences for the radio listener. His other work, much of it done at 3M, is incorporated into today's sound recorders.

Jack gave us much of this early history in person, coming across as a quietly charming gentleman "of the old school," whose warmth, honesty and dedication were everywhere apparent. This is obvious in the reminiscences of the family he raised after the death of his wife, and of his colleagues and associates. He never capitalized on his part in bringing tape recording to public acceptance. Instead, he seemed content to live as though he knew what his grave marker would eventually say of him: "He was an extraordinary gentleman."

Preceding the showing of *Sound Man*, Irv Joel had assembled a montage drawn from an earlier video tape of Jack Mullin and from Irv Joel's Fiftieth Anniversary Video that he produced for the AES.

Review By **Jerry Bruck**

Upcoming AES events:

November 13th: **WOR-Radio Facility Tour** with Thomas R. Ray of WOR-Radio and Jim Armstrong of Telos/Omnia/Axia