

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

TC-Audio for Cinema Committee Meeting

July 28, 2021 | 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (GMT)

Attendees

- Julian Pinn (Chair)
- Brian Long (Skywalker)
- David Murphy (Krix Loudspeakers)
- Doug Greenfield
- Gunter Oehme
- Lon Neumann
- Mel Lambert (Content Creators)
- Scott Norcross (Dolby)
- Nuno Fonseca (Sound Particles)
- MK Ramakrishnan
- Steve LLamb (Deluxe)
- Brian Vessa (Sony Pictures)
- Charles Robinson (Dolby)

Agenda

- **Covid perspectives and misc. member updates over past 12 months**
 - Mel: wanted to skip this agenda item
 - Brian Long: focus on content is changing. Volume of content. More high quality streaming over the big budget. Day and date releases not only the world's cinemas but also directly on line too. There's also other work being done in other AES committees such as the m-noise – put forward by Mayer Sound – for B-chain calibration but there are other calibration applications as well.
 - Steve LLamb: in addition to Brian, for the delivery side of things, how audio is being delivered and expected to be delivered, the same thing is happening with image/picture as well. Let's get everything done up front. It doesn't affect this committee but there may be some workflow / delivery changes that might.
 - Brian Long: agree with Steve; the time compression to produce deliverables (foreign languages etc.) is quite a challenge. The automated QC checking, ML-based QC (such as checking for dialogue in M&E), statistical checking; all of this could be of interest to the committee. Brian thinks this has a bearing on the educational output of the committee if not standards too.
 - Scott Norcross: AES 71 (from the Broadcast and Online streaming technical committee a couple of years ago) exists already. (AES71 - Recommended Practice Loudness Guidelines for Over the Top Television and Online Video Distribution, it is based on ITU-R BS.1770 and regional broadcast recommendations A/85, R128,...).
 - Steve, since the delivery windows are compressed, then so much is being done concurrently. We must therefore liaise with other committees in AES (and SMPTE).
 - Brian Vessa: loudness as a topic came about for this committee because of movies, trailers, and cinemas turning it down. Doing the cinema work first and then the broadcast is not necessarily true these days. We should be aware of streaming loudness but the nuances of loudness in the cinema are different and we still need the discussion of how this should be shaped for cinema.
 - Julian: I guess it's a balance of finding a suitable cinema solution that is not providing an unnecessary burden for studios' delivery workflows.
 - Brian Vessa: for example, in broadcast, you're looking for consistency. Cinema is very different; there's a single programme. Yes, there are trailers, and preshow but the programme is the

programme. And different movies should not be the same loudness. At home, there is a volume control, not at the cinema.

- Gunter: Brian is correct and we should be focused on cinema.
- David Murphy: also agrees with Brian.
- Charles Robinson: cinema and streaming have different requirements.
- Summary: we agree that we should focus on the technical/standardisational needs of the medium (cinema) over any harmonisation with other channels (streaming for example).

- **Current work of committee**

- **Education**

- Outreach to other organisation to organise workshops and seminars at AES conventions.
 - Brian Long: we have a lot of new mixers and editors and being thrust into the loudness standards / stream world, they know they have to hit target numbers, but they don't know what it means. As part of our educational thrust into the industry, perhaps we can focus on that.
 - Mel: what outlets? Webinars, physical? AES TC-AC could be the nexus. What is dial-norm, what is ... etc. etc. etc? Might be obvious to us, but not to those new to the industry. Mel would be happy to work with Brian (L) on putting together a syllabus.
 - Brian: it's not just for the young.
 - Brian and Mel would be happy to bring together an Educational and Outreach Committee but would be in a better position to help towards the end of this calendar year once his SMPTE Chairing comes to an end.
 - Nuno is happy to help.
 - David Murphy also interested to join.
 - Steve LLamb would suggest getting Intersociety, ISDCF and EDCF to join too.
 - Mel has very kindly offered to Chair this subcommittee.

- **Loudness project**

- We have a bunch of external organisation keen to work together
 - Julian to double check PPT he presented at the last meeting and minutes made by Brian Long indeed went out.
 - Let's keep this in the main committee.
 - We should certainly keep to 4 meetings per year and potentially ad hoc interim if necessary based on the topic.
 - Lon: let's use Zoom rather than Teams. Teams brings no advantage.
 - David: Zoom is much better.
 - We agreed to meet with Zoom next time and Scott pointed out that AES has a couple of accounts. For Zoom.
 - Mel kindly offered to reach out to HQ. Brian Vessa thinks it's just a note to Rich Cabot. Thanks Mel.
 - We agreed on holding our next meeting at the beginning of September 8th – same time.
 - The committee should please put forward topics / agenda items / questions for the 8th Sep meeting and perhaps some other committee members can present to those if necessary.
 - Anything else as it comes up.
 - Liaison to other cinema organisations and other media channels (streaming and broadcast)

- **Future work of committee**

- The role of immersive audio in non-cinema markets (music and live). What can we learn in this committee and how might those learnings inform us as to how we might form an AES Project Task Group that figures out what we might be able to do with this information.
 - Brian Long: are you referring to a particular brand or the generic term.
 - Mel: generic
 - Brian: immersive audio has been used for decades in live sound (Cirque de Soleil for example). It's new in cinema.
 - Julian: why? What's the objective of these learnings? Educational, technical work, standards work maybe. Monitoring also.
 - Action item: please if everyone could bring some thoughts on this topic of immersive audio investigations to the next meeting for its own discussion item (circa 20% of the time).
- **Structure of committee and roles (Chair, Co-Chair(s), Secretary)**
 - Julian offered to step down if the committee felt it would be better served with a new Chair.
 - Mel supported Julian to stay as Chair. Is against co-chairs. Committee agreed.
 - Mel is very happy to step up as secretary and help with the admin.
 - Mel and Julian should get together to go through the reflector portal for the committee members etc. in the next seven days.
 - Committee agrees and thanks Mel.
 - **Any other business**
 - None

Next Meeting

Scheduled for 8th September, 2021, at same time.

Minutes by Julian Pinn (edited/formatted by Mel Lambert); action items highlighted.