

digital studio

TV & FILM PRODUCTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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**CANON'S
EOS C300
LAUNCHES**

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Al Jazeera Sports' 3G studio
upgrade continues apace

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Picture Dept on the ground
with escaping Libyan migrants

REALITY BITES

Dubai-based Real Image seeks global success with its latest animated adventure

BACK TO SCHOOL

Icon Art Production has launched a season of free camera workshops for aspiring camera users in Dubai.

Icon Art Production last month hosted the first of what should become a regular free camera workshop, offering individuals hands-on training with the latest cameras and equipment alongside an experienced team of professionals to guide them and demonstrate techniques and methods to make short films and documentaries.

The workshop covered a total of six popular cameras, which may seem a lot in one day, but organizer Zakir Hussain explains the reasoning: "There's a tendency for camera operators to only work with one model. They get a job at an organization, and invariably that organization has its preferred camera, so that's what they end up using," he explains. "By looking at a range, we hope to show the possibilities with the range of cameras out there, and the different results they can achieve."

The workshop's aim, says Hussain, is to give attendees a grounding in film making styles including features, shorts and documentaries. Perhaps most strikingly, Hussain and Icon Art are offering them with no funding from sponsors or government. Hussain explains: "It isn't about making money, but giving back to the community. We may charge a small amount in future, but we want to keep it free. The people that attended were saying 'you can't do this free. There's all this equipment, three people here from morning till evening teaching and setting it all up – nobody does anything like this!'"

"That made me so happy – I wish someone had done this when I was starting out. I'd have had to spend 15 thousand Dirhams to get this, but I love to share my experience and meet new people. It's been a learning experi-

ence for me too, and since the first workshop we've been fine tuning and deciding what can be done differently next time. It's a two way thing – they learn from our knowledge, and we learn about what they need, as well as all sharing ideas."

Hussain sounds like an old-fashioned philanthropist, and his passion for film and desire to develop the film making community seems to be his sole motivation. It's refreshing from a private individual with no obligation to build a local industry, share his skills or train local talent, and Hussain has plenty more ideas that you'll be hearing more about in the coming months. ■

KIT LIST

The workshops gave a grounding in:

- Sony DSR 450
- Canon 5D
- Canon 7D
- Sony PMW F3
- Sony PMW 350
- P+S Technik S12K
- Arri Lighting
- Kino-Flo lighting
- Dedo lighting





HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

What the workshop's attendees thought of the experience:

🔴 The workshop itself, even though there was a lot of technical stuff, was presented in such a way that it was easy for to understand regardless of our education, exposure or experience. It was really very easy for all of us. 🔴

Anca Condra, consultant.

🔴 I learnt a lot - I learnt to work with my camera crew more and understand what shots I needed. After this I will have a much greater understanding with my cameraman and crew of how to take different shots, the use of different cameras, and better understanding of the different shots used in films which are very interesting. 🔴

Beverlee Asunclon, production manager, DMI.

🔴 I came with no knowledge of technology and was daunted by the whole aspect of technology and cameras, but it has been helpful as now I have a basic idea of cameras and now I know they're not such scary things. If I have an idea, even if I have to hire a cameraman I will have an idea what he's doing and how to guide him. 🔴

Tanya Shakil Daud, freelance journalist.