



Streaming straight from the studio

» Songwriter and music producer, Boe Larsen – who runs MillFactory Studios recording facility in Copenhagen, Denmark – has noticed a rising demand from musicians wanting video material direct from the studio that they can use for promotion.

In response to regular requests to film sessions a full live workflow has been installed in the recording rooms. Featuring Blackmagic Design kit, the set-up allows bands to produce multi-camera recordings or stream live studio sessions for fans. Multiview monitors provide band members, management and fans with a full view of every band member's performance, even from different areas of the studio.

For Larsen it's also important that equipment makes the recording process transparent, meaning the artist can focus on being creative rather than on the kit. The aim of the video installation was the same, he says: "Audio is our core activity, but we knew that there would be a rising need for video material from the artists to satisfy their social media activities, both for later editing and live-stream. We needed the installation to not interfere with the process and at the same time have a very fast workflow as we deal with new clients daily."

Quality and flexibility

A flexible eight-camera solution was developed with the assistance of video supplier and installation company, Stjernholm & Co, who can gain access

Promoting your musical creations in visual form is becoming a necessity for artists. Zoe Mutter looks at how a Danish recording studio is incorporating a live video workflow into its facility to help musicians showcase their work.

KIT LIST

- » Apple Mac Pro
- » Dual AMD FirePro D700 GPUs
- » 256GB PCIe-based flash storage
- » MacBook Pro 17in OWC RAM+SSD for encoding
- » LG 34in 21:9 monitor med Thunderbolt, connected via optical Thunderbolt cable
- » Softron M-80 ingest solution
- » CalDigit Thunderbolt T3 Raid system 15TB
- » Softron Movie Recorder 3 software, Multilogger software and Ontheair Express
- » Adobe Premiere
- » Final Cut Pro X
- » Davinci Resolve
- » Blackmagic 40x40 smart videohub 4K
- » Blackmagic ATEM 1 M/E Production studio 4K
- » Blackmagic Multiview 16 with UHD output in main room and HDSDI to the infrastructure
- » Blackmagic UltraStudio Express
- » Blackmagic UltraStudio mini recorder
- » Control room – Samsung 23in
- » Skaarhoj C10 remote, mobile switch control for the ATEM
- » Panasonic AW-RP50 camera control
- » 3x Panasonic HE-40SK robot main cameras
- » 5x Panasonic HE2EJ secondary robot cameras
- » 5x AJA HA5 plus for connecting HE2 cams to the SDI infrastructure
- » AJA LUT-Box for realtime applying of colour profiles from resolve
- » 2x AJA HD10AM for embedding multiple channels of audio into the SDI signals
- » 6 x Atlona HD2 SDI to HDMI converters
- » Hall – Samsung 75in (+AppleTV)
- » Recording room – Samsung 75in (+AppleTV)
- » Control room – Samsung UHD 65in (+AppleTV)
- » Drum room – Samsung 40in
- » Vocal booth – Samsung 23in
- » Atlona HD2 SDI to HDMI converters connecting TVs to the infrastructure



Audio is the core activity of the studio but there was also a need for video material from the artists to satisfy their social media activities, for later editing and live-streaming »



It was important that the space didn't look like a television studio

to the studio computers at any time should software support be needed.

"It had to be discreet because the studios are renowned for their amazing atmosphere and production and we did not want them to suddenly take on the appearance of a television studio," adds Larsen.

To help achieve this each recording area features a compact camera mounted on a stand that can be positioned in a similar way to a microphone and controlled remotely. Quality, ease of use, flexibility and maximum up-time were other key components in the original brief. The final solution was simple: cameras and screens in every room – all connected

to the Blackmagic smart videohub. From there any signal can go anywhere.

Client approval

The installation also needed to allow for client approval of camera positions, visual connection between the rooms of the 400m² studio, live streaming, multiviewers and the possibility to follow or even control the broadcast process from anywhere in the studio or from the couch in the foyer.

"All eight cameras had to be capable of recording uninterrupted for at least 15 hours straight in HD and with the possibility to deliver any file for-

mat the customer requires with the most efficient workflow possible. This was solved using Softron software which has proven extremely reliable to us," Larsen says.

The central hub for video signals throughout the studios is Blackmagic's Smart Videohub 40x40 router. This takes eight camera feeds and routes them to an ATEM 1 M/E Production Studio 4K where a live programme mix was produced. The feeds were also directed to a MultiView 16, used to monitor and allowing artists and managers to review and approve footage. The 3x3 view offers a clear representation of activity throughout the studio. MillFactory Studios also makes use of the Ultra HD output with a 65in screen in the control room.

"Blackmagic gear is renowned to be of good quality at a reasonable price, easy to control and integrate via IP plus Blackmagic software," says Larsen. "It was important to be able route signals or switch something from any computer in the facility and the BMD software allows us to do that from any seat."

As ease of use is paramount remote control capabilities have been added to

equipment and enhanced program production with time saving applications including a multicam logger to output a complete XML file with all video files synched as a multicam clip which allows a live edit of a performance to be optimised.

All displays are connected to the infrastructure via Atlona HD2 SDI to HDMI converters, chosen for long term reliability and built-in signal indicators. Lighting needed to be optimised too while maintaining the unique studio atmosphere so cutting edge 40 x 40cm LED panels were supplied by Lyngsaa, creating an even and warm 3,000 Kelvin light throughout the rooms.

The entire audio and video recording session can be set up in 90 minutes by one technician and customise the equipment to suit an artist's set-up. The finished product - recorded sessions - can be then be provided to the artist on a hard drive or encoded and streamed to fans around the world. ■

CONTACTS

» www.blackmagicdesign.com

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