

TEAM SOUND & VISION BRINGS AUDIO ALIVE FOR INDIE CONCERT HD PRODUCTION ‘ABSOLUTELY IRISH!’ FROM PAUL WAGNER FILMS

Absolutely Expert 5.1 Audio Post Group Brings Out the Best in Virtuoso Performances of Traditional Irish Music in New Concert Movie

WASHINGTON, DC: The vivid sounds of traditional Irish folk music are about to receive a welcome re-introduction to television viewers everywhere, courtesy of the new HD concert show “Absolutely Irish!”. The independent production received feature film treatment at Team Sound & Vision (www.teamgroup.tv), where their highly experienced audio post group brought out the best in the audio for a high-intensity 5.1 Surround Sound experience.

Team Sound & Vision’s Skip SoRelle applied his deep expertise to the new concert movie with the energy to match the inspiration displayed by production company Paul Wagner Films. “Being independent usually means that the crew has a passion and vision for a subject that interests them,” SoRelle says of working with Director Paul Wagner, and Directors of Photography JoJo Pennebaker and Nick Doob. “That passion tends to rub off on others that they involve in the process. At TEAM Sound & Vision, we form a collaborative group that tries to not only support the director’s vision, but bring something of our own into the mix.”

“Absolutely Irish!” shows a highly spontaneous, yet intimate concert at NYC’s tiny Irish Arts Center theater by Irish folk superstars such as piper Jerry O’Sullivan, concertina player Tim Collins, accordionist Billy McComiskey, fiddler Eileen Ivers, and reel players Seamus Egan and John Doyle, plus dancers including Darrah Carr and Niall O’Leary. SoRelle brought his technical know-how and attention to detail into the “Absolutely Irish!” mix, ensuring that the power of the live performances was perfectly in synch with the onscreen action.

“The primary challenge for a live concert production is synchronizing all of the sources through the editing process,” explains SoRelle, whose indie production credits also include the Academy Award-winning *The Johnstown Flood* and *Paperclips*, among others. “For ‘Absolutely Irish’, there were four cameras recording a live mix onto the camera tapes that were fed matching timecode.”

Following the show, the live multi-track music recording was sent to Nashville’s Compass Recording for mixing both a companion CD and the show’s stereo audio track. Making things interesting for SoRelle was the fact that the audio remote truck was not recorded with the sync reference. In addition, the decision was made to add in the audience tracks to enhance the surround experience. “Bringing in the two stereo audience tracks involved importing the mixed file and the audience tracks into the timeline,” SoRelle says, “then grouping them together and matching the edit from the camera audio that had been imported into the ProTools timeline from the Avid OMF of the show.

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“Some of the performances were used in their entirety, so syncing was just a matter of lining up the first part of the song’s waveform,” he continues. “About half of the performances were edited, though, which required me to mirror the camera edits by lining up the waveforms on each edit. These edits had to be precise to keep the phase relationships between the mix track and the audience – which served as the surround tracks -- constant.”

SoRelle’s extensive knowledge of mixing for the 5.1 format helped him to make sure that the Surround Sound enhancements didn’t venture into unnatural territory. “Extreme panning in a film or television show gives you the ‘exit sign’ effect,” he notes. “That refers to a sound that is panned so far over that it makes you look at the red exit signs in the theatre! I wound up narrowing the stereo width for the front three speakers to make the audio appear to come from the screen, instead of outside of its boundaries.”

The result is an independent HD concert production that builds steadily to a blazing music and dance climax, aided throughout by the audio post talents of TEAM Sound & Vision. “I think that the audio choices we made actually helped to ground ‘Absolutely Irish!’, telling the concert’s ‘story’ in a way that supported the music,” Skip SoRelle says. “I definitely enjoy bringing my experience and creativity to a project like this, pushing it in a direction that the director may not have thought of, but that is still compatible with their vision.”

“Absolutely Irish” begins airing on public television in March, 2008. Contact your local PBS station to find out when it will be aired locally.

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ABOUT TEAM:

TEAM, based in Washington, DC, stands as one of the most comprehensive production and post-production companies on the East Coast. It applies its “Create, Make and Manage” philosophy to its expertise in traditional television production to new media, emerging technologies and beyond. Its Creations division is a full service television production, distribution and rights management company. Its Sound & Vision division encompasses Post Production, the Spirit Creative design boutique, Field Production, Sound Design/Mixing, and Engineering. The unique People division offers people management and staffing solutions to the broadcast, cable and corporate communications industries. For more information, please visit www.teamgroup.tv, or call 202-363-1000.

Media contact: Kevin Fetterplace – Mojo Working International
Kevin@Mojoworking.com
(001) 646 359 3961

