



Company 3 Performs DI for ‘DREAMGIRLS’ DI Colorist Stefan Sonnenfeld Collaborates with Director Bill Condon on Acclaimed Musical

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—(January 18, 2007) Continuing its work with the world’s top filmmakers, Company 3 provided Digital Intermediate services for DREAMGIRLS, the new, critically-acclaimed film from DreamWorks SKG. Stefan Sonnenfeld served as Digital Intermediate Colorist on the film, collaborating with [Director](#) Bill Condon, [Cinematographer](#) Tobias A. Schliessler and Editor Virginia Katz in finalizing the film’s spectacular look.

Sonnenfeld performed the work in one of two Digital Intermediate Theaters at Company 3’s facility in Santa Monica. He used a Spirit 2K Datacine and a Da Vinci 2K Plus color corrector to, respectively, transfer film elements to data files and set color values. Sonnenfeld and the filmmakers were able to monitor the progress of the work on the room’s theatrical-size projection screen and immediately see the impact of color decisions.

As with such classic movie musicals as SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN, color plays a crucial role in DREAMGIRLS helping not only to set the mood but also to tell the story. In fact, the color scheme throughout suggests a heightened sense of reality that supports the film’s seamless blending of stage performance and reality.

“DREAMGIRLS is one of the most beautiful films that I’ve worked on,” observed Sonnenfeld. “It is a very rich, colorful film. I don’t often work on films in this genre and it was wonderful to have an opportunity to craft a classic look. It was very fulfilling.”

Although it was the first time Sonnenfeld had worked with Condon and Katz, he had collaborated with Schliessler on many occasions in the past, primarily commercials. Their rapport helped the work proceed swiftly and ensured outstanding results. “When I learned that Tobias was on the film, I knew it was going to be fantastic—and it was,” Sonnenfeld said. “Aesthetically, we were very much on the same page. We’re also friends and that always helps.”

“Bill and Virginia were fantastic too,” Sonnenfeld added. “They were inquisitive and collaborative, and very receptive to the process.”

The many musical scenes in DREAMGIRLS posed special challenges. The extreme variations in lighting during musical numbers made it difficult to maintain consistency, particularly regarding the skin tones of the film’s mostly African-American cast.

Sonnenfeld approached the problem by using the Windows feature of the da Vinci color corrector to isolate aspects of images for individualized treatment.

“That’s where the DI was most helpful,” noted Schliessler. “We were integrating material that was shot from different angles or came from different takes, and any variation in the lighting would show up first in the skin tones. In the DI we were able to make those skin tones consistent. A lot of people have since commented on how the skin tones look consistently good.”

On the whole, however, DREAMGIRLS proved remarkably free of color and lighting issues. “There was not a problem shot in the whole movie, which is very unusual,” Sonnenfeld observed. “It was a fun experience—which is not atypical—and all the cards fell into place. Every time we watched a reel, our response was, ‘Wow. It’s beautiful.’”

Company 3 Santa Monica, is located at 1661 Lincoln Blvd. Ste. 400 Santa Monica, California 90404. For more information, call Stefan Sonnenfeld or Luis Ribeiro at (310) 255-6600.

Company 3 New York, is located at 545 Fifth Avenue, 5th floor, New York, New York 10017. For more information, call Marcelo Gandola or Luis Riberio at (310) 255-6600.