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THE ALEX SCHLOESSER COLUMN

Teaching and Training, and the Never-Ending Learning Curve



I fear this is becoming more of an opinion column than a tech column. On the other hand I don't think I can address complex matters and ideas in a very limited word count and space. However, since there is no absolute and objective opinion about the arts and the things that we do for a living, I think it is fair to have a good dispute and discussion amongst ourselves. Since we are in the entertainment industry, I also

like for this column to be entertaining so here is another little anecdote from my deep vault of memories.

In the early days of my career and when I had gained a little experience and know how, I remember that I was very opinionated and whether I was at a event or a concert, I had very clear opinions and views about things and gear and also about people, whether it might be colleagues or artists. It was clear to be that the FOH guy "was an idiot" and did not know his job and that the system tech "had no ears", when things did not sound that way they should or the way I had expected them to be sounding. Sadly my clear worldview was not going to stay as clear and clean as it was right then.

As I grew older and learned more, all this became much less defined and the opinion blurred a lot. That of course is very weird, that when you learn and know more, your view gets more blurred. My understanding is today, that simple opinions result from simple understanding, but then again over the years, I have come to

understand that nothing is ever as simple as it seems, because if it was, then somebody else would have seen it and done the appropriate thing already.

This has also caused my alarm bells to go off when people claim to have found the ultimate answer to all the difficult questions (no. it's not 42, or maybe it is). I find this the biggest challenge and the biggest blessing of working in our industry. The more you learn, the more you are hungry to understand more and for you to go deeper in your understanding and your appreciation. In my case I found that my learning is driven by hunger for input and not by pressure to do or learn something new.

One of the things that our industry has recently adopted, is immersive audio and Wave field synthesis and other 3D Audio formats and approaches have been explored a lot better and deeper. I was lucky and blessed to be working with colleagues and artists who are also curious about those things and I participated in shows where those technologies were applied as good as possible under real world conditions.

And again, it is easy to be opinionated at the beginning and the more I learn and have read about the topic, the more I understand, that this is a extremely complex and also complicated topic and much research is still required to come to decent conclusions.

I did read on one recent publication that someone said that "stereo is dead", after experiencing one of those immersive technologies in a demo room setup. Now with all due respect and after I have read four books on the topic and I had a chance to use this even in large scale applications, I must say that this is still stupid. Good stereo is as fantastic today as it was at its invention and I challenge you to convince me otherwise. Cheers.

"One of the things that our industry has recently adopted, is immersive audio and Wave field synthesis and other 3D Audio formats and approaches have been explored a lot better and deeper."

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