

IMACCONEWS#4





Stephen Murphy, ISC, BSC, is featured in our new article on [imago.com](https://www.imago.com), where you can witness his ability to intertwine visuals and storytelling, transporting audiences into immersive worlds filled with emotion.

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STEPHEN

MURPHY, ISC, BSC

His recent work as a cinematographer on major projects like "The Tourist" and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" exemplifies his style and craftsmanship.

To Stephen, cinematography is more than just capturing images; it's about evoking emotion, atmosphere, and meaning. "For me, shadows are more important than light," he explains.

"I aim for images that evoke mood and feeling, with darkness playing a significant role in achieving that."

Drawing inspiration from his passion for illustration and comic art, Stephen infuses his work with a distinct visual style that is both evocative and immersive.





NICE MEET ING YOU

Growing up in Ireland, his childhood fascination with illustrations and comics ignited a passion for visual storytelling, laying the foundation for his future career in cinematography. His journey began in college, where he transitioned from studying make-up and special effects to delving into the technical intricacies and artistic possibilities of the camera.

Embracing a diverse range of projects, Stephen honed his craft in Ireland's rich storytelling tradition, working across various genres and formats from features to documentaries. As his career flourished, he ventured into international productions like "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "The Tourist," tackling unique challenges with resilience and creativity.

Despite the demanding nature of his profession, Stephen remains grounded, viewing cinematography "as a job", "but a great job", a fulfilling journey of growth and discovery.

For Stephen, cinematography transcends mere image capture—it's about crafting mood, emotion, and atmosphere through the interplay of light and, most important: shadow. Drawing inspiration from his love of illustration, he infuses his work with a distinctive visual style that leaves a lasting impact on audiences. Through his dedication to shaping spaces and moods, Stephen elevates cinematography to a profound and meaningful art form, leaving an indelible mark on the world of storytelling.



THIS WEEK I'M HERE

Stephen Murphy recently completed the final two episodes of a mini-series titled "Say Nothing" for FX/Disney. Following this, he took some well-deserved time off and he had the opportunity to collaborate with his ISC Vice President in organizing events for their society, enriching their shared passion for cinematography. Additionally, Stephen expressed his delight in witnessing the releases of both "The Tourist" and "Mr and Mrs Smith," relishing the culmination of their productions.



MY FA VORI TES

"All three of those films evoke a feeling in me every time I watch them". This is the reason Stephen made a very interesting choice of favorite movies. "No matter how I feel, every time I watch them, they make me feel something and I love that."

So here are the three chosen ones: Empire Strikes Back, Blade Runner and E.T.

WHAT'S GOING ON

BALKAM FESTIVAL 2024



Between the 4th and 7th of April, 2024, the Slovenian Cinematheque hosted the 4th Edition of the balkam festival, an overview of the visually most interesting and successful films from the territory of former Yugoslavia. As was the case with previous editions, the films were selected by the national associations of cinematographers: ASBH (Bosnia and Herzegovina), SAS (Serbia), MSC (North Macedonia), HFS (Croatia) and ZFS (Slovenia). Every national association suggested one feature, one documentary, one short, two student student and one newly

restored "legendary" film. This year's "Legends Section" included films such as Life of a Shock Force Worker from 1972 (d. Bata Čengić, dop. Karpo Godina), Bridge from 1969 (d. Hajrudin Šiba Krvavac, dop. Ognjen Braco Miličević), groundbreaking documentary Avstralija, Avstralija (d. Stole Popov, dop. Branko Mihajlovski) and the first Yugoslavian color feature film Pop Ćira and Pop Spira from 1957 (d. Soja Jovanović, dop. Nenad Jovičić).

This year's novelty was the pre-festival event on the 3rd of April, which honored the work of legendary cinematographer Mustafa Mustafić with the screening of his digitally restored 1989 film Kuduz (d. Ademir Kenović). The event also showcased his book Miris filmske trake (The Scent of film stock), which was recently translated to the Slovenian language within the project led by ZFS.



The 4th edition of the balkam festival confirmed that there is a large interest in the connection of cinematographers in the territory of former Yugoslavia. Every association sent a delegation of cinematographers and students consisting of 17 accredited guests. This year's highlight was the introduction of balkam Student Prize, which was awarded to Serbian student Filip Stojanović for his student film Tetka (d. Milica Spasojević). The international jury consisted of Mustafa Mustafić, ASBH, Dušan Kardalovski, MSC, Predrag Bambić, SAS and Sašo Štih, ZFS

The total number of spectators was nearly 500. They attended 13 screenings during which 27 films were shown. This is a significant number for such a small festival.

The accompanying events of the festival and international socializing among participating cinematographers confirmed the need for such a festival in this part of Europe. It showed that balkam has established itself as a place for the exchange of films, opinions, and knowledge about cinematography, and despite national borders that separate the sovereign countries, the balkam brotherhood of once united country is still alive.

Rok Kajzer Nagode, ZFS Vice-President
Simon Tanšek, ZFS Secretary

COMMITTEE NEWS

IMAGO FIGHTS INTERNATIONALLY FOR A BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Sales in the audiovisual sector worldwide are at breathtaking heights. In Europe alone, these sales are higher than in the auto industry. It is incomprehensible that those who generate these enormous sales with their professional skills and their hard work are being put under pressure. In many IMAGO member countries, working conditions are seriously deteriorating, 14-15hr days is more the rule than the exception, and the problem is increasing in many places. We think it is also IMAGO's responsibility to contribute to stopping this negative trend.

The IMAGO WORKING CONDITIONS COMMITTEE (WCC) is a highly functional committee with members of a specific expertise. WCC has been working for years researching this negative trend. This has resulted in a practicable questionnaire elaborated mainly by our legal advisor Cristina Busch accorded also with the IMAGO Committee of Diversity and Inclusion and in cooperation with FORBA Working Life Research Centre, Vienna, which has high international reputation. FORBA will scientifically process the answers and use them to create an international study.

The questionnaire will be soon ready to be sent out!

The aims are the following:

1. Contribute to European policy development on quality of work and employment in the audiovisual sector (acceptable working hours, fair payment, social protection, etc.)
2. Inform and influence the film production environment to implement satisfactory working conditions.
3. Encourage all IMAGO members worldwide to stand for better working conditions using the study as an example and reflection of their own working world.

To achieve the desired result, we need relevant data to present the European Parliament, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and UNESCO. It is therefore extremely important that as many international colleagues as possible take part in the survey. Only if we provide politicians with reliable figures and data can we achieve a sustainable improvement in our working conditions!

We have significant political support by the EU authorities and by UNESCO for doing this important survey and research and it will make the foundation for how IMAGO will plan to combat unfair working conditions for cinematographers. EU authorities and UNESCO are eagerly awaiting the results of the study. Based on this, the IMAGO Working Conditions Committee has set itself the goal of closely monitoring the world of work in the audiovisual sector and of providing solidarity support to all colleagues internationally to enforce their rights.

It is high time for film workers, wherever they work, to take the improvement of their working environment politically into their own hands. The IMAGO Working Conditions Committee would like to take a decisive step in this direction, because IMAGO is, finally, a global community of solidarity.

Kurt Brazda (AAC)
Chair, **IMAGO Working Conditions Committee**



The IMAGO ELECTION COMMITTEE (IEC) invites nominations for various positions on the IMAGO Board, including Vice President, General Secretary, and Controller, to be elected during the online IMAGO Extraordinary General Assembly (IEGA) on May 25th, 2024. Interested members are encouraged to submit their candidacy by April 25th, 2024, accompanied by a letter from their member society confirming approval, signed by two board members of their national society. Verifiable voting email addresses and designated voting delegates must be provided by May 20th, 2024, for smooth voting procedures during the IEGA.

Only full members in good standing are eligible to participate, as per IMAGO Statutes. The Election Committee will verify eligibility, prepare a candidate list, and provide further instructions for the voting process.