

14 Sep 2012

To whomsoever this is of concern

It gives me great pleasure to report that Ojas Dileep Sawant has served our company Post BlackBox Services as an intern during the production of two features in India and the US. My report on his activities with us during his internship between May and Aug 2012 is as follows.

Ojas Sawant came on board as an Intern on 10th May 2012. Over about four months in India and a couple of weeks in Chicago, Ojas has completed his internship with Post BlackBox Services LLP, a digital movie post-production and digital data service facilitation Company.

As soon as he came on board, Ojas got associated with a movie called 'Mere Dad ki Maruti'. The title of the movie roughly means 'My Dad's new car'. It's a fun young movie slated for release in Q1 2013. The movie is being produced by Y Films, a division of Yash Raj Films, one of India's largest movie production houses. Ojas worked as a technical resource and got opportunity to handle all shoot data and run through post-production as well. Ojas's strong desire to jump right into the action was noticeable. Through the next few weeks he worked on this movie quickly picking up the job and then assisting the senior data wrangler.

This film has been shot on two Red MX cameras with a Red Epic used for slow motion scenes. On the sets, Ojas got exposure and hands on setting up a workflow and best practices for safely saving data & making verified multiple backups. Off set, Post BlackBox supervised the conversions to Quicktime for editing and deployed variety of gear and software, both on set and at editing base. Ojas showed keen interest in learning technologies involved and executed each and every assigned task successfully.

Between the shoot of this movie and the next, there were few non-shoot days. Ojas visited the studios of Yash Raj Films (YRF) during the prep of the next movie we would work on. Like any large studio, YRF too is usually involved in many productions simultaneously. So Ojas got a chance to interact with many professionals involved in different stages of production - from the sound mixing software of the next large release of YRF, to working with the 'making of' teams who document the production of all YRF productions, to spending time with the team that manages Red India. Here, Ojas got a close look at Red's current and forthcoming cameras and learnt about the camera's features and capabilities.

Then, towards the middle of June we began the shooting of 'Dhoom 3'. This full length feature is the third in a hugely popular series of movies that YRF have produced. Dhoom 3 was shot on location and set on a large sound stage at YRF. On this shoot, Ojas would interact freely with the Director, Vijay Krishna Acharya (Victor), who is also a renowned script writer, the DoP, Sudeep Chatterjee, who is critically acclaimed for his innovative lighting, and the rest of the direction team. Of course, Ojas, also got a chance of being up close with two of India's biggest film stars.

Post BlackBox Services is providing data services for Dhoom 3. Besides, on a personal level I am consultant for VFX and post-production. So this was a great opportunity for Ojas to participate on a big budget major motion picture which is VFX heavy for stunts, fire, and some 'real' shooting' as well. Ojas also got to interact with Joel Hynek, Visual Effects Supervisor for Hollywood films like Die Hard Series and The Italian Job.

My impressions of Ojas Sawant have been extremely positive. He is a quiet yet very intelligent young man. He has a pleasant disposition and carries himself with confidence and ability. His presence on set is a calming influence on the rest of the team. Tasks given to him are completed with accuracy and within the provided time frame. In a word, he is dependable. In the brave new world of digital movie-making in India, we could find these qualities very useful.

Warm regards



Neil B Sadwelkar