

**By Dan Greenberg**  
special writer

It's often been said that metro Detroit is a major filmmaking center, and the recent "Update 91" proved

Co-sponsored by Detroit Producers Association and Detroit Area Film and Television and Educational Association, Update brings together filmmakers, students, teachers and film buffs of every sort for a day-long exposure to all aspects of film and video production.

Held for the second consecutive year at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, Update 91 hosted 150-plus registrants who were treated to presentations by, among others, DPA president Shannon Hammed and her partner, Ron Senkowski, a 1981 North Farmington High School graduate.

Their company, Lighten Up Films, currently is completing its first feature film, "Let's Kill All the Lawyers," which is also the first movie to be edited via a new electronic system, the Avid MediaComposer. The partners leave early next month for the Cannes Film Festival's second selection round, in New York.

**THEIR PRESENTATION** included clips from the work-in-progress, a description of the electronic editing system and considerable insight into the trials, tribulations and rewards of independent film production.

Len Radjewski, president of the co-sponsoring DAFT organization, said, "Update is a fine, continuing tradition, which improves each year. It's a terrific opportunity for filmmakers and film aficionados to learn what's going on in the film and video media."

Other presentations were "The Art of the Film" by Dearborn film historian Jim Limbacher, who screened videotapes from his television course, "The Screening Room," which ran for many years on local television.

"Independent and student filmmakers seem drawn to animation techniques," said Vic Spicer who, with art director David Messing, currently is working on a feature-length animation, "Christmas Pirates," which will premiere during the holiday season, 1993.

"Animation is the great equalizer," Speer continued, "where everybody can find something of interest. Cinema is the marriage of the arts."

and animation draws all the crafts together.

**ANIMATION ALSO** appeals to young filmmakers because it is a medium where time, creativity and patience can replace big budgets and reliance on large numbers of person-

Continuing Update 91's emphasis on animation techniques, Gloria Joseph of Postique, a post-production facility in Southfield, presented clips and an update on her work-in-progress, "Boundaries," a visual poem based on footage she shot in Poland in October 1989.

Jeff Bloomer, an independent filmmaker and film instructor at Ford Vocational Technical Center in Westland, screened and discussed his latest film "Laxme Departure," a stop-motion animation, dream-like vision created from discarded objects he found near his Detroit studio.

### The "22nd Tournee of Animation"

highlighted film screenings available for Update '91 participants. These 18 animated shorts were complemented by other film presentations, "Boat Cut Slacks and Other Shorts" by Tom Megahis, films by winners of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Film Oscars, Michigan Student Film and Video Festival films, and numerous other independent productions.

Local cinematographer Lon Stratton of Millet-Stratton discussed how camera work makes a film look good.

Update 91's day at Orchard Ridge concluded by a screening of "Chu winners," award-winning commercials, and a presentation of "Shades of Black Cinema," some of the more than 400 films produced by black filmmakers and collected by Detroit James Wheeler who has archived black film artists for some 35 years.

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