

Peter Claridge, "The Castle"

1. Technical description of "The Castle"

The opening sequence of "The Castle" was shot on 35mm in front of the Bavaria VideoCenter with a "big city skyscrapers" paintbox skyline. The new background and the animations on the TV monitor were matted in during digital postproduction.

All 2D backgrounds and animations were produced on Paintbox and Harry.

The 3D animations were created by Scanline using their own software on a "Silicon Graphics Power 4 Series" computer.

All live action scenes were shot in Studio 10 at Bavaria Film. Ultimatte 5 was used to combine this shoot with the backgrounds coming off Harry. It was then recorded onto D1 with a separate key signal recorded onto a separate machine.

The postproduction effects were created frame-by-frame in the Digital Editing Center of Bavaria VideoCenter with Harry and Paintbox. Kaleidoscope provided the moves: the soldiers falling down, the ghost floating up and down etc. Paintbox was used for the rotoscoping laser zaps, the lightning and for matting the old man's head etc.

Harry/Paintbox operators: Simone Kolling, Nico Strehl

2. Director's Statement

Bavaria VideoCenter asked me to produce a special demo-tape which would exploit the facilities of the VideoCenter to the fullest: 35mm live action shoot, digital editing, 3D animations. I then wrote "The Castle" as an example of what can be done, and to show how producing on film and video can be blended together by using Harry.

"The Castle" has a great deal of layering which the viewer is not aware of. This is exactly why digital post production is so powerful. It allows the filmmaker to subtly add layer onto layer without any generation loss and therefore without the human eye noticing it.

Finally, I wanted to achieve a moody, eerie atmosphere of an old, haunted castle. Scanline's software enabled me to generate 3D animations which have this very "drawn" Disney style, rather than the normal and often sterile computer graphic look.



Peter Claridge, 19.06.1991