

CAPLES PRODUCTIONS

Delivering Knock-out Events With Grass Valley Indigo AV Mixer

CUSTOMER:

Caples Productions
Las Vegas, Nev.
www.caplesproductions.com

APPLICATION:

Production of live, PPV boxing for
national distribution.

CLIENT:

Crown Boxing (Event Promoter)
Las Vegas, Nev.
www.crown-boxing-inc.com



At the heart of Caples Productions is a sophisticated switcher that is small, quick to set up, and with all the power and speed needed.

Little Switcher TKOs Big Productions

Boxing fans watching *The Legend Returns* pay-per-view (PPV) fight between Evander “The Real Deal” Holyfield and Francois “The White Buffalo” Botha—along with several undercard fights—on Saturday, April 10, 2010 were treated to a captivating high-quality, multicamera production that captured the action of Holyfield’s 8th round decision from virtually every angle. Little did they know that the production team that night on site at the Thomas & Mack Center, in Las Vegas, included a small crew, six standard-definition (SD) cameras, and a single, compact Grass Valley™ Indigo™ AV Mixer.

The production company responsible for that evening’s entertainment—and a variety of other Mixed Martial Arts fights which occur every other weekend—was Caples Productions, led by its owner Craig Caples. Caples started the company in 1984, producing commercials for broadcast television, and has now developed it into one of the leading full-service independent production companies in the region.

Caples Productions supplied all of the production services, using six Sony cameras and the Grass Valley Indigo AV Mixer to switch between camera angles and mix the audio levels coming from numerous sources throughout the arena. The equipment complement is part of a fly-pack solution that Caples has put together to support space-constrained locations. With it the company can produce a live event with the same quality as a large video production truck (which Caples also owns)—with set-up and take-down going a lot faster.

For *The Legend Returns* PPV event, the Caples crew positioned one camera in Holyfield’s locker room, two in the stands, two on the ring apron and another roaming around ringside capturing celebrity interviews. KU- and C-Band trucks uplinked the event live for distribution across the country.

“The heart of the system is the Grass Valley Indigo because it has all of the features we need, so we just roll in our cases]and are ready within a few hours to produce live television events.”

Craig Caples,
Caples Productions



“The Grass Valley Indigo is a very versatile system that allows me to use it for various types of events. I can pre-set any number of effects, which saves time during the production. When it comes to doing these types of run-and-gun shows, I go with the Indigo because it has more inputs than any other compact switcher on the market and it is made by Grass Valley, so I know it will be reliable and perform the way I need it to every time.”

Craig Caples, Caples Productions

Small, But Wiry

As a niche company that has made a name for itself by producing smaller events, Caples Productions is often called upon to produce PPV fights, rodeos, high school and college sports, and a variety of other live events in and around Las Vegas. They did the Holyfield fight because Caples has been working with Crown Boxing, the event’s promoter since 2005. And they have been using the Indigo for such shows every month for the past two years.

Caples covered nine fights on April 10th, with most of the production consisting of straight cuts and dissolves performed with the Indigo. The switcher can control multiple analog or digital video and audio sources, and features video up/downconversion, the ability to mix in high-resolution PC graphics from any DVI-I source, advanced audio mixing, and automated device playback and control via industry-standard connections.

To Caples, the advantage of this setup is that they can produce high-quality results in spaces where trucks can’t go. Caples usually directs each show and personally operates the Indigo AV Mixer.

The Indigo also features a joystick, a slider transition bar, auto take button, audio faders, and mix/effects buttons for broadcast-style operation. With a high-resolution card installed, the mixer can also simultaneously process multiple sources: 12 SD sources, one scaled from SD to high-definition (HD), and two selected from HD video or computer inputs.

Caples ordered the Indigo with its Expansion Option I/O box, which can add up to eight HD cameras to Indigo. He said he loves the built-in touchscreen menu on the Indigo switcher’s control panel and it’s very easy to use.



“I use both large and small switchers, so I have some experience, but I was able to sit down and use the Indigo in less than an hour after it arrived in my office. There aren’t too many pieces of production gear that I can say that about.”

Craig Caples,
Caples Productions

SALES

Local and regional sales contacts can be found by visiting
www.grassvalley.com/sales

SUPPORT

Local and regional support contacts can be found by visiting
www.grassvalley.com/support