



Pipe Village Trust Non-Profit Turns to EDIUS Pro 7 for Documentary on India's Children



CUSTOMER

Pipe Village Trust, UK
www.pipevillagetrust.org

CHALLENGE

Creating a high-end documentary film in remote parts of India on a tight budget and production schedule

SOLUTION

Grass Valley EDIUS Pro 7 multiformat nonlinear editing software

BENEFIT

A reliable multiformat, real-time editing platform with superb functionality

Background

Pipe Village Trust is a UK-based human rights charity with an important mission. Through filmmaking and television efforts, the organization aims to publicize the plight of those in modern day slavery and oppression around the world.

Recently, its team, led by veteran producer and editor Michael Lawson, headed to India to film a documentary that exposed the widespread trafficking, oppression and persecution of children in several regions across the country.

Aptly titled *India's Forgotten Children*, this compelling new documentary is the latest in a series of five films about India produced and edited by Lawson. The 58-minute film takes a close look at the plight of India's poorest and most deprived group, the Dalits, where human trafficking and persecution are widespread among children. India's 300 million-person Dalit and Tribal communities have not received formal education for centuries, but *India's Forgotten Children* explores the community's growing sense of hope and the unique value of education as a tool of transformation and the key to its liberation.

This project was no small feat for Lawson, who took a year off from paid work to plan, produce, and edit *India's Forgotten Children*. "Everyone who worked on every aspect of the project — including finance, design, marketing and web development — has worked pro bono because they truly believe in the project and the story we're telling," he said.

Challenges

Meticulously researched, the documentary was shot with a Panasonic AG-AC160EJ in early 2013 in the villages and towns surrounding India's Bangalore, Hyderabad and Lucknow regions and received its West End Premiere at the Vue Cinema in London's Leicester Square in November 2013. Aside from shooting in remote villages with poor lighting, one of the biggest challenges Lawson faced during production was getting adequate material within a tight production schedule. Following his initial research with his team at Pipe Village Trust in London, Lawson story-boarded the film in terms of themes, people, and places he wished to explore. "We filmed all day, every day, seven days a week in school's and villages. With every shot I asked myself 'how is this going to fit in with the dominant themes and tell the story of these children in a convincing way.' So the pre-planning and story-boarding was very important," Lawson said.

With a full month's intensive filming on hand, Lawson turned to the powerful editing capabilities of EDIUS Pro 7 from Grass Valley, a Belden Brand, to help make sense of all the footage and select the most pertinent and gripping images that portrayed the true plight of the children in the Dalit community.

"Even though the predicament of the children in the Dalit community is deeply distressing, we wanted the message of the film to center on hope — the hope that through education, their lives will vastly improve and they will be set free from trafficking and abuse. Editing is a very important piece in film creation because through the movement and manipulation of frames, the editing process gives you a powerful tool with which to tell your story. Grass Valley's EDIUS Pro 7 gave us that power and much, much more, since it was first introduced," he commented.



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Michael Lawson, Producer & Editor, *India's Forgotten Children*

Solution

EDIUS Pro 7 is Grass Valley's newest version of its widely used multi-format nonlinear editing software. It's ideal for professional video editors working on documentaries because it provides real-time speed, superb functionality and is compatible with all major file formats, including resolutions up to 4K. No stranger to the EDIUS platform, Pipe Village Trust has been using the software since it was first introduced.

"We're very familiar with the EDIUS platform and have used the software for several projects in the past, so it made absolute sense for us to turn to the latest version of EDIUS for *India's Forgotten Children*. Version 7 is even more intuitive and versatile than its predecessor. It lets us sort our footage into folders and subfolders, which allowed us to work more efficiently on the whole. I had an entire library of footage at my disposal that I was able to find very quickly, and it was all clearly indexed with EDIUS Pro 7. This is hugely beneficial because it sped up the process of finding the exact footage we needed for certain scenes. During the editing process, you often need to find an extra shot to complete a voiceover or a cutaway to break up the rhythm of a sequence. This is all very easy with EDIUS," he remarked.

Benefits

Another feature Lawson loves most about EDIUS Pro 7 is that it can edit in real time without rendering. "EDIUS requires very little rendering, and on the rare occasion when it does, it's extremely fast. This feature supports creativity because it allows you to edit a number of different ways until you achieve the shot you want. Other systems don't support this, but I think it's an important element in getting the best possible result.

"EDIUS Pro 7 also has an impressive range of filters. I especially like the layout filter because it makes a picture-in-picture sequence easy to achieve. I also like the flexibility of the GUI and have a number of different layouts for the two screens," Lawson commented.

Many of the people interviewed for *India's Forgotten Children* spoke in their native tongue. Lawson and his team recorded a translation immediately after each of these interviews and when it came time to edit these translations, EDIUS made it effortless, he said. "EDIUS Pro 7 has great audio filters. It lets you simply drag translations into an audio track, so all you have to do is reduce the audio on the original shot and with a little finesse, you've got a translation."

EDIUS Pro 7 gave Pipe Village Trust a solid, reliable platform with which to edit *India's Forgotten Children*. Everything from its keyboard shortcuts to its ability to manage graphics proved hugely beneficial to Lawson and his team, and Pipe Village Trust could not be more pleased with its performance.

"EDIUS enabled us to focus on creativity and hone in on the true story-telling aspect of the film, helping us to get the message out about the children of India. We are so proud of this documentary and pleased we were able to harness the powerful capabilities of EDIUS 7. *India's Forgotten Children* would not be what it is without Grass Valley's involvement, and for that we are truly grateful."

India's Forgotten Children is now available on DVD from the Pipe Village Trust website at www.pipevillagetrust.org.



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