

KEEPING THE DUCKS IN A ROW By Mike Dilley

Script supervisors are the foundation of believability. Nothing destroys the emotional impact of a scene like having props disappear and reappear, or change hands, as a scene is cut together.

"The Big Sleep," starring Humphry Bogart and Lauren Bacall, began shooting in October of 1944. Completed in March of 1945, its release was delayed for marketing reasons. In the meantime another film with Lauren Bacall had been released to disastrous reviews.

educational programs shot over extended periods of time and/or out of sequence, the squiggles and notes placed on a script by the supervisor are indispensable.

"Continuity" is a plug-in that works with Adobe Acrobat. In addition to traditional squiggly and un-squiggly lines, "Continuity" sports a slew of advanced features. All the features combined culminate in production notes and reports for many departments.

"Lunch reports" for assistant directors are easily compiled. Esti-

the relevant scene.

With sufficient hard drive space, video clips can also be embedded in the digital script as production progresses. Camera logs keep track of lens, lens height,

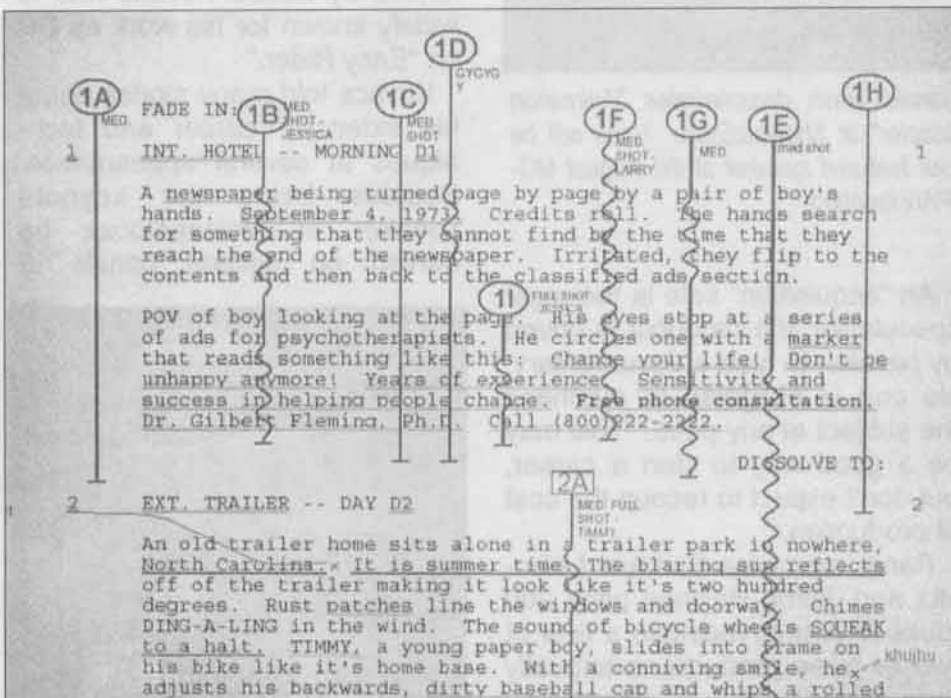


Jessica Jordan, script supervisor and President of We Win Studios, exhibits her "Continuity" software at ShowBiz Expo in June. Jordan served as script supervisor on the Chambers Productions short film "Red."

distance, tilt, Dutch, focus, stop, filters key light and time of day on a shot by shot basis for later replication. Wild lines and other sound reports are also archived scene by scene.

Props and their usage are easily noted. Wardrobe, makeup and hair, every aspect of an actor's appearance is logged and sorted by scene number and the story's time line. In short, all of the script values, including setups, screen time, shot logging for the editors, and many other items, are immediately available to production personnel. Pre-production breakdowns can also be generated.

"Continuity" is a bargain. One continuity error can cost many times more than the investment in this software. It is so easy to use that low budget productions with first time script supervisors can achieve higher production values. www.scriptsupervisor.biz



Straight lines indicate dialogue caught on camera. Squiggly lines indicate dialogue not captured on camera. These coverage lines, with take number headers, serve as a quick and efficient reference for the editor.

Jack L. Warner ordered new scenes strengthening Bacall's character in "The Big Sleep". They were shot a year after the film's initial completion, just before its release in the fall of 1946. It is a tribute to the script supervisor that the new scenes fit seamlessly into the final release.

Script supervision makes continuity possible. With feature films, industrials, commercials and edu-

mated and actual running times, as well as end of day reports, are immediately available. Other shooting units can have nearly simultaneous access to continuity notes via fax or Internet.

With a microphone attached to a laptop, the continuity supervisor can record audio notes that are attached to specific points in the script. Actual set dialogue can also be captured and attached to