

Press Release

STEREOTEC 3D technology for feature film »Vicky and the Treasure of the Gods«

First German feature film in 3D is supported by 3D rigs and know-how from STEREOTEC

Gilching (Germany), January 2011 – »Vicky and the Treasure of the Gods« is Germany's first live action movie in 3D, hitting the cinemas in September 2011. The sequel to Michael Bully Herbig's successful »Vicky the Viking« was intended to raise the bar to new levels for 3D creation—a task that benefits perfectly from the 10+ years of experience of Florian Maier and his team of specialists from Stereographic Technologies (STEREOTEC). Director Christian Ditter is thrilled: "We aimed very high in terms of technical excellence, particularly regarding the 3D. Florian Maier and our cameraman Christian Rein managed to create the stereographic images of »Vicky and the Treasure of the Gods« in a 3D quality hardly ever seen before."

3d rigs, stereographers and the technical crew of STEREOTEC were part of the feature film production »Vicky and the Treasure of Gods« finished in December 2010 and sequel to Michael Bully Herbig's successful first Vicky movie. Producers Rat Pack Filmproduktion and Constantin Film chose Florian Maier and his team for pulling off the 3D production parts. The two 3D carbon rigs custom fit for the ARRI Alexa digital camera system, provided by STEREOTEC, are so light and compact that they could be mounted on a remote head of a Techno or Scorpio crane.

Excellent precision and quick calibration required

Apart from the experience of the stereographer, the accuracy for the calibration is crucial to an unobtrusive yet realistic 3D effect. The mid-size rigs from STEREOTEC are exceptionally compact and robust, ensuring that neither the calibration settings of the two cameras nor the stereoscopic adjustments are lost due to transportation or crane movement. All commonly used digital film cameras (ARRI Alexa, RED, Phantom, etc.) with lenses up to 15.5 mm focal length can be mounted and adjusted with extraordinary accuracy. Thanks to the complete motorization of all parameters on the 3D rig by means of ARRI's Wireless Remote System (WRS), the crew was able to concentrate on its creative task.

As opposed to current set-ups, in which adjustments to focal length typically take up to 30 minutes, the motorized STEREOTEC 3D rig allows for complete calibration, including zoom

matching in less than 90 seconds, ensuring a smooth workflow required on the set. Director Christian Ditter: “The STEREO TEC 3D rigs provided the flexibility we needed to switch between action, dialog and comedy situations on a daily basis, each requiring their own specific 3D conditions and without extensive time for changes.” The saved time could then be invested in creative work with the young actors.

The complete motorization of all parameters, including stereo basis and convergence, allowed the 3D adjustments to be made during rehearsals, unnoticed by the rest of the team. This helped keep the number of days on location almost as low as in traditional 2D productions. The flexible operation of the rigs as top or bottom shooter, on a stand, a dolly, a jib or a crane, enabled both A and B units to work with their 3D set-ups without major re-adjustments.

Cameraman Christian Rein was equally pleased: “The STEREO TEC mid-size rig is unique in terms of compactness and stability. The motorized set-up of all axes allows for an exceptionally quick calibration, ensuring a flawless filming. Florian Maier and his crew from STEREO TEC contributed their know-how and passion, helping to finish »Vicky and the Treasure of the Gods« without any delays or problems. Furthermore, Florian Maier creates the most stunning and persuasive 3D I have ever seen.”

The advantages of STEREO TEC’s 3D rigs also persuaded ARRI Rental, leading to the purchase of a 3D live rig, two mid-size rigs and a side-by-side MAXI, with potential for more STEREO TEC products.

Over 10 years of 3D experience

STEREO TEC paid special attention to the viewer’s perception, providing a natural and pleasing 3D experience. As family entertainment, »Vicky and the Treasures of the Gods« is appropriate for viewers of all ages, making it especially important to deliver a pleasing experience to young viewers, taking them right into Vicky’s magical adventures. Florian Maier explains his standards: “Our goal is to use the depth of field, but not intrusive nor marginal to support the storytelling and emphasize the experience.”

STEREO TEC’s basic principle is to reduce strain on the eyes when viewing. The movie experience has to remain natural and pleasing, especially for a young audience. Stereographer and STEREO TEC’s founder Florian Maier continues: “The 3D effect should be rather conservative and must not draw the viewer’s attention from the fictional layer. Still we try to stereoscopically highlight certain parts, placing the audience right in the middle of the movie. We’re happy to support such a popular and loved story with our technology and our knowledge, transforming Vicky’s adventures into a pleasurable and visually remarkable experience.”

About »Vicky and the Treasures of the Gods«

Title: "Wickie and the treasure of the Gods" (original German title: "Wickie auf großer Fahrt")

Director: Christian Ditter

Camera: Christian Rein

Stereography: Florian Maier

Production: Rat Pack Filmproduktion GmbH in Co-Produktion mit B.A. Produktion GmbH, BKWT GmbH & Co und Constantin Film Produktion GmbH

Producer: Christian Becker

Executive Producer: Martin Moszkowicz

Distribution: Constantin Film

Start: 29 September 2011

About Stereoscopic Technologies GmbH (STEREOTEC)

As a result of his overwhelming success in the field of 3D technology and its ever-increasing demand, Dipl.-Ing. Florian Maier completely devoted his company to 3D technology in 2007. His major aim was the development of precise and reliable 3D technology for the best 3D experience, since these tools were not available then. He was motivated by his own desire for better 3D tools, which he wanted to share with fellow stereographers.

The first STEREOTEC side-by-side rig was already equipped with several STEREOTEC trademark features which incorporated the company's aim for reliable, high-quality stereoscopic equipment and gave the stereographer complete control of all stereo parameters. This could be achieved only by means of a scrupulous construction process to assure accurate manual or motorized operation of the 3D rigs; sturdy and carefully crafted components to guarantee smooth operation, even under extreme conditions; digital counter displays to ensure the highest possible precision and reproducibility of each stereo setting; the use of durable materials to assure the longevity of a STEREOTEC rig "Made in Germany".

All of this guarantees that STEREOTEC's products will be a lasting asset for its users and owners. Besides being headed by a passionate stereographer and engineer, Stereoscopic Technologies is in direct contact with stereographers, filmmakers and event managers from all over the world through workshops, introducing them to 3D technology. In addition, STEREOTEC offers 2D filmmakers full-service 3D consultation and support, adding that extra dimension to their work with products, experience and manpower. As a company, STEREOTEC continuously incorporates the requests and suggestions of its customers and clients into its products, staying true to Florian Maier's aim: precision, reliability and optimal usability in the field.

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Please provide us with a notice on publication. Images from the film set and other media are available upon request.