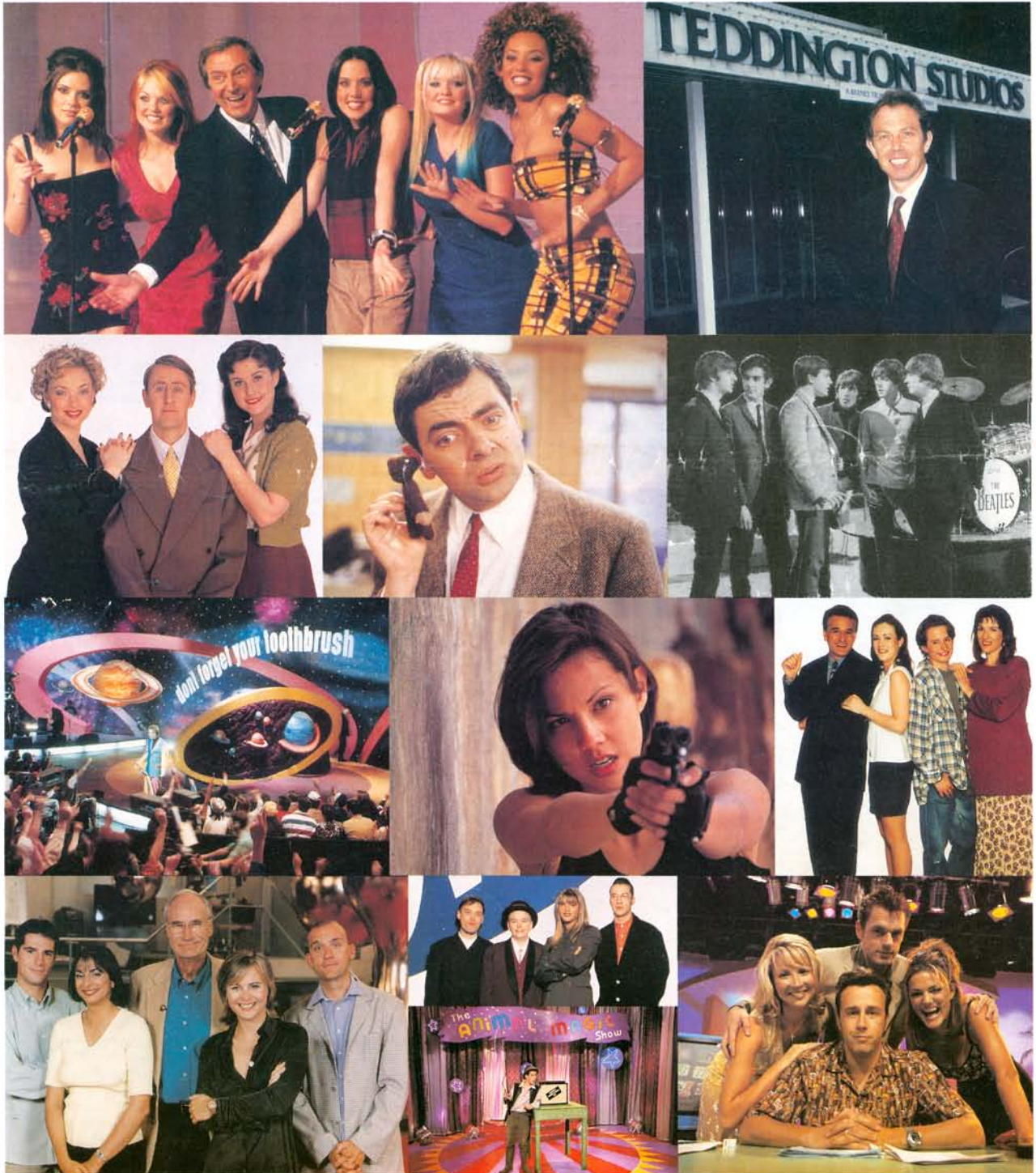


40 years of television at Teddington Studios



BARNES TRUST MEDIA would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their contribution to this Anniversary supplement.
 Pearson Television, the BBC, Channel 4, Carlton Television, London Weekend Television, Thames Television, Kilroy Television, Independent Image Film & Television, David Wickes Television, Lucky Dog Productions, Planet 24, Hartwood Films, Alomo Productions, Avalon Television, Ginger Productions, Trans World International, Tiger Aspect, Hewland International, Chrysalis and Nikki English.

Ikegami is proud
of its long
association with
Teddington Studios
and congratulates
them on their
many achievements
over the past
40 years

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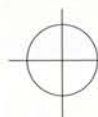
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Hartwood Films
congratulate
Teddington Studios
on 40 memorable years –
long may it continue!

*MEN BEHAVING
BAPLY*

Is It Legal?



ZOOMING in on Teddington Studios
with our congratulations

Yes, congratulations on your 40th anniversary – and on becoming one of the most prestigious production studios in the UK, with a fine track record of making television programmes. And we're proud of the contribution our products have made in helping to keep such excellence in sharp focus.

We wish you continued success in the new Digital Era.

40th



Canon
FOCUSING ON THE DIGITAL ERA

The home of television

For generations of British television viewers, Teddington Studios, Broom Road, Middlesex is the most famous address in broadcasting. Today, it is still a booming production centre.

For 40 years, since 1958, Teddington Studios has been home to the most memorable milestones in British television.

Between 1968 and 1991, as the headquarters of Thames Television, Teddington was the jewel in the crown of the ITV network. Legendary stars like Morecambe & Wise, Dick Emery, Des O' Connor, Benny Hill and Eamon Andrews have all been regular features at Teddington. So have ground-breaking shows such as *The Word* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* for Channel 4.

More recently, under the ownership of Barnes Trust Media, Teddington has blossomed as a major independent studio complex. With its superb facilities open to all

headquarters and Jack Warner himself laid a foundation stone. This was the era of talkies and the company introduced its Vitaphone sound system to Teddington.

Between 1931 and 1944, Warner made a total of 152 movies.

Activity at Teddington ended abruptly in 1944 when a World War II flying bomb destroyed the site, killing the studio manager in the process. That disaster stopped production for 4 years but not before the likes of Errol Flynn, Margaret Lockwood, David Niven, Rex Harrison, John Gielgud and Googie Withers had worked there.

When the war was over, the rebuilding began. Teddington reopened in 1948, amid spectacular scenes, with Warner boss Arthur

colour television. This provided the platform for Teddington to enter a glorious production era. Among its many comedy hits were *For the Love of Ada*, *Bless This House* and *Man About The House*. Drama and kids were well represented with series such as *Van Der Valk*, *Edward and Mrs Simpson*, *Rock Follies* and *Maggie*. Plaques on the front wall of Teddington celebrate star names such as Tony Hancock, Sid James, Tommy Cooper, Harry Worth, Morecambe & Wise, Norman Wisdom and Kenny Everett.

Teddington has always kept up-to-date with the latest television technology which included studio lighting which allowed overnight rigs to increase production on the stages. The ITV Association established a



Clockwise from left :
Warners' pioneering Vitaphone sound system, ABC's popular drama *Armchair Theatre*, comedy greats: Benny Hill, Morecambe & Wise and Tommy Cooper.



independent television and broadcast companies, it is home to hit series like Alamo's *Birds of a Feather*, Lucky Dog's *Babes in the Wood* and Hartswood Films' *Men Behaving Badly*. Today, Teddington is host to 50% of top sitcoms on the BBC and ITV and has introduced widescreen digital facilities.

Teddington, which is situated at the far reaches of the tidal Thames between Kingston and Richmond, is best known as a television studio. But the story of the riverbank complex actually stretches back to 1912 when Bill Kellino founded a feature film company called Ec-Ko. It was Kellino who created one of the most significant prewar spectacles at Teddington – a glass-roofed studio on train tracks which was moved around to catch the best sunlight.

Independent film production continued until 1931 when Warner Brothers identified Teddington as the ideal location for its European

Abeles and Hollywood star Danny Kaye present to cut the ribbon.

During the 1950s, the post-war movie boom subsided and Warner scaled down its operations in the UK. However, the arrival of commercial television provided the next great opportunity for Teddington Studios.

ABC Television, the new ITV contractor, acquired the Teddington Studios in November 1958 and converted the Teddington film stages into television stages. In 1959 the famous *Armchair Theatre* series started production there.

Although ABC ceased to exist in 1968, when it was merged with Rediffusion to form Thames Television, its legacy included hit series *Police Surgeon* and *The Avengers* which were shot at Teddington. ABC also developed new standards for colour television and tape formats.

Thames Television launched in 1968 just as the UK switched to

laboratory at Teddington to explore digital television – leading to one of the first digital widescreen studios.

In 1991, Thames lost its franchise to Carlton Television and stopped broadcasting in 1992. Teddington's importance as a production centre continued as Thames then became the largest independent programme-maker for ITV. At the end of 1993, Pearson bought Thames Television and became owner of Teddington. In 1997, Pearson sold the studios and its facilities to Barnes Trust Media which took on a number of dedicated staff from the existing team whose expertise is unsurpassed.

Barnes Trust Media has brought a new commercial ethic to Teddington by making the studios more suitable for the needs of today's market. As a broadly-based group, offering studios, post-production, transmission and film services, it is also focusing on the digital multi-channel environment.

timeline

1912: The first company to make films on the Teddington site is Bill Kellino's Ec-Ko Films which open for business in 1912. Ec-Ko specialises in low budget comedy and cowboy films which are sold at 4d a foot to exhibitors.

1929: Due to the use of carbon arc lighting, early film-makers have a habit of setting Teddington on fire.

1931: Teddington relaunches into the talkie era with the latest RCA Vitaphone sound system and new lighting equipment. It is leased to Warner Brothers which acquires the studio in 1934.

1931-1944: Teddington experiences its most prolific period of film-making. Stars such as Errol Flynn, Margaret Lockwood and Rex Harrison all make films there. Production is ended abruptly when a German flying bomb destroys the site.

1946: Rebuilding begins. Warner brothers and Danny Kaye officially reopen the studio in 1948.

1958: Teddington is reborn as a television studio when ITV contractor ABC Television acquires the site. Within a year it is making the prestigious *Armchair Theatre* series.

1968: ABC is merged with Rediffusion to form Thames Television – the new ITV contractor for London weekdays. Throughout ABC and Thames' existence, Teddington is a hub of technological development and production. Colour cameras are installed at Teddington in 1968, ITV switches to colour in 1969. Teddington leads the way.

1970s: The heyday of great Thames comedy. Hits included *Man About the House* and *Bless this House*.

1982: Thames regains its ITV franchise and further invests in production and facilities at Teddington.

1985: Thames introduces new technology and working practices at Teddington which are used to great effect on police drama *The Bill* and significantly reduce production costs.

1991: Thames loses its ITV licence to Carlton Television. In 1992, it is the UK's leading independent producer with Teddington as a major studio base.

1993: Pearson buys Thames Television.

1997: Barnes Trust Television acquires Teddington Studios from Pearson in early 1997.

1998: Teddington becomes a premier widescreen digital studio complex and re-introduces post-production and film services to the studio site.

The Greatest S

Teddington is home to some of the most exciting shows on television

Kenton Allen is the producer of Lucky Dog's new hit sitcom for Carlton – *Babes in the Wood*. He says: "It was a key requirement for *Babes* that it be shot in 16 by 9 as a way of future-proofing it. Teddington was fantastically co-operative on that."

He also found the Teddington team willing to be flexible. "They were very efficient in getting everything ready for a technical rehearsal on Friday in advance of the recording of the show on Saturday," he says. "Not only that, but we made a late decision to go with a Christmas special. It was a quick turnaround but they changed the schedule for us at really short notice."

Allen reiterates the view that "Teddington's team listened to what we wanted and came up with the goods. There is very little time to establish a platform with a new sitcom so that support really helps."

The artists were also apparently happy with the riverside location. "Samantha Janus and the other girls found a secret sunbathing spot," jokes Allen. Unfortunately, "no one else managed to discover it."



David Wickes is the producer of the nineties version of *The Professionals* – a high budget series which boasts new scripts, new cast and exotic locations.

Throughout the production, he has used Teddington as a base – although his actual use of studio facilities has not been great. "The bottom line for us has been that they have the right attitude for us. If we want to shoot in the carpark or the canteen we shoot there and they help us. They are not hidebound like some of the more traditional studios. They understand our position and bend over backwards to help."

Wickes was already familiar with Teddington having made a lot of shows for Thames Television during his career. However, he is impressed with the way the new management has taken over the running of the complex. "We have a whole floor here with accountants and editing facilities. It is good to see them investing in updating their equipment."

Wickes also welcomes the fact that Soho-based post-production facility *The House* is within Barnes Trust family. "The House has the sort of up-to-date technology that productions like *The Professionals* need if we are going to compete with shows such as *The X Files* or *ER*."



Rick Thomas:
Producer of TWI's *Oddballs* for ITV and TWI's *The Greatest* for C4

"The crews at Teddington always work really hard to get the sets ready in time for our shows. Sometimes we might be starting at 3am or 4am in the morning and going right through to 11.30 at night. They knew what we wanted to do and were as accommodating as possible. They also tried very hard to keep us as a client. For us Teddington is convenient and good for bringing an audience."



Graham Walters is head of production for Independent Image Film and Television Ltd. He says: "We are coming up to five years of *Kilroy* at Teddington. Apart from being a pleasant environment, it offers exactly the facilities we need. There aren't many places that can offer open plan office space and studios on one site."

There are 220 *Kilroy* shows a year. They are produced in batches of 2-3 a day in studio 2. "We bring large numbers of the public to them," says Walters, "and Teddington is fairly easy to get to. We don't get snarled up in traffic and the car parking is good."

Walters admits that the drawn out takeover period between 1996 and 1997 concerned him "but the situation has stabilised and we get on well with the new owners."

Like the other producers at Teddington, he singles out the staff for credit. "Teddington provides us with a regular crew and it has worked out very well for us."



Show on Earth

on. Below, producers explain why they like working by the river.



Charlie Hanson will be back at Teddington's Studio 1 next month to produce a new series of Avalon's hit comedy *Harry Hill* (pictured top right in montage). He started his career there in 1972 as a floor assistant and still holds great affection for the place. "I love Studio 1. Everyone is very supportive and the artists love it. Working by the river provides a very peaceful environment. It's great in summer." Prior to *Harry Hill*, Hanson has produced *Bird of a Feather* and *Chef!* at Teddington. In each case, he says the artists have enjoyed the ambience of the Teddington complex. "There is a line of star photos on the corridor from the reception to the canteen which is like a television hall of fame," he recalls. "I know that the artists I have worked with have been very pleased when their own pictures have gone up there alongside the greats."

Hanson particularly cherishes Teddington's independence from broadcasters. "You really feel as though you own the place. Sometimes at the broadcasters' studios you only feel like a very small part of what is going on. At Teddington, you quickly get to know everybody from the barman to the doorman."



Beryl Vertue: MD of Hartwood Films and producer of *Men Behaving Badly* and *Is It Legal?*

"We've done all our comedy at Teddington

since 1990 when we started *Men Behaving*

Badly. It's a very easy place to work and the artists like being by the river at lunchtime. The team are very caring and you get the feeling they are looking out for you. It is run on a very efficient and personal basis. We also get to work with the same freelance cameramen which helps give us continuity."



David Mason is associate producer on the Pearson-produced *Des O' Connor Tonight*. He started as a production trainee at Thames in 1976 and has worked on the likes of *Magpie* and *This is Your Life* during his career. He says "Teddington is home for me. There's an atmosphere you don't get anywhere else. When you walk in you know you are in a TV complex. I'm still finding nooks and crannies I never knew existed."

Des O' Connor Tonight is shot in Studio 1 which Mason describes as "a brilliant flagship studio." However, he has also produced two series for UK Gold in the smaller studios and been just as impressed. "We broke the productivity record by shooting 56 shows in 8 studio days," he says. Being able to achieve that is a great credit to the Teddington crew, he says. "Everyone pulls their weight because they want to achieve the same goal as you. All the core people here work their socks off. There is a sort of telepathy between them."

Mason stresses it is also a fun place to be. "Teddington is a great location for entertaining people and you are always likely to meet stars. I remember on my first day seeing Tommy Cooper in the canteen. And you could always see Benny Hill's co-star Bob Todd in Studio 4," (known to most outsiders as *The Angler's Pub!*)

Recent and current productions at Teddington (Clockwise from top left): *Babes in the Wood*, *Harry Hill*, *Men Behaving Badly*, *The Professionals*, *Des O' Connor Tonight*, *Unfinished Business*, *Oddballs*, *Kilroy*, *This is Your Life* and *Birds of a Feather*.



In 1993, Teddington launched a scheme called **TAPS (Television Arts Performance Showcase)** which was designed to promote new writing talent.

Today, that scheme is run as an independent charity. Drawing on the experience of respected directors, producers and commissioners, promising new writers are able to see their dramas and comedies performed live before an audience of TV professionals at Teddington.

The aim of the scheme is to give writers a chance to break into the tough world of television. To date it has had remarkable success. 83% of those who have had their work performed at Teddington as part of TAPS have gone on to win commissions.

Forward Thinking

Barnes Trust Media's management have invested wisely in building the UK's first digital widescreen superstudio at Teddington.

In March 1997, Barnes Trust Media completed the £10 million purchase of Teddington Studios from media group Pearson. In the process, it beat off 40 rivals to secure its future as a state-of-the-art digital widescreen studio complex.

At that time, Barnes Trust Media was a fast-growing facility company which had been built from scratch by Simon Bowen. It owned two post-production businesses, The House and DSP, and had recently acquired the transmission house CAST and the video dubbing operation Klones, both founded by Roger Morris.

Bowen, his management team and a city investor, immediately began the process of reorganisation at Teddington. Bowen says the deal "allowed us to become a one-stop facilities group, capable of meeting almost all the needs of our clients here and in central London. We saw a real benefit in owning a facilities complex while most broadcasting groups were concentrating on their intellectual property rights and hiring facilities as required."

In Teddington, Bowen had acquired a state-of-the-art digital studio complex. "We spent £1.6 million putting in additional facilities. That was important to keep the business growing."

Bowen put in place a talented senior management team. A key figure is Roger Morris, who is group managing director across all of Bowen's television interests including Teddington Studios, DSP, CAST and Klones. The other main players are: David Carr, formerly managing director of Capital Studios, who was invited to take up the post of group commercial director; Ewart Needham, formerly managing director of Teddington Studios under Thames and Pearson, who is now chairman of the complex and Nicola Brooks, who is group financial director. Sir Paul Fox, former managing director of BBC Television, is a non-executive director.

The strength of Barnes Trust Media is its ability to offer producers a full range of services. It is the largest independently-owned production facility in the country offering studios, post-production both in Teddington and Soho, duplication and transmission. It also has 100,000 sq. ft. of office space across the group which is offered to producers, television companies and news bureaux.

The aim of providing such a range of services has been to nurture a production village at Teddington. Series such as *Kilroy*, *Des O'Connor Tonight*, *This is Your Life*, *Get Real*, *Hearburn Hotel*, *Unfinished Business*, *Men Behaving Badly* and the BBC's *Tomorrow's World* are all in production at Teddington.

In addition, Barnes Trust Media has



The Barnes Trust Media management team: Top Left - chief executive, Simon Bowen; Top Right - group managing director, Roger Morris; Bottom Left - Teddington chairman Ewart Needham; Bottom Right - group commercial director David Carr.

recently launched DSP Film Care which looks after film operations for productions such as *Roger*, *Roger*, *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Jonathan Creek* and *The Professionals*. The Film Care service includes telecine, post-production, sound dubbing, neg cutting and library services.

Teddington, and its sister company CAST in central London, are home to more than 30 production and production service companies. Prestigious commercials have also been made for companies such as James Garrett. More recently, the company has opened its doors to pop promos, corporate television and corporate events.

Looking ahead, the next

opportunity for Barnes Trust Media lies in digital. Coupled with the group's transmission resources, the future is in allowing clients to fully exploit the UK's first digital superstudio. Bowen says: "We are well-placed for the explosion in new channels. Studio-based programmes are one of the most efficient ways of providing content - particularly for niche digital operators."

The launch of new channels is already reaping benefits for Teddington. Companies such as Sky, Carlton and the BBC are coming to Teddington with projects destined for the digital distribution. Barnes Trust Media is home to the UK's first digital cable pay-per-view channel

Front Row.

Bowen also believes Teddington will play a key role in the complex services likely to emerge from digital. "We will expand into areas involved in transactional and interactive television."

There are four studios at Teddington, three of which are fully-digital. The largest is Studio 1, a fully digital space with a three section control gallery and 6 Ikegami CCD cameras. This 8000 sq ft. studio is mostly used for major entertainment productions and is useful for audience-based spectacles. The other studios are Teddington 2, which is 4000 sq ft, and Teddington 3 and 4, which are 1300 sq. ft. and 800 sq. ft. respectively.

Barnes Trust Media's emphasis is on providing clients with a high quality service at the best possible value. This is reinforced by the group's commitment to training and retraining both new talent and the existing technical staff. Barnes Trust Media has recently taken on a number of young people and made key internal promotions to strengthen its managerial team and customer service. Teddington has also started to work alongside independent producers such as Transmedia, Farnham Productions and Granite Productions as studio co-production partners.

The client base has expanded considerably since Barnes Trust Media took over last year and Teddington Studios is now one of the most popular production sites in the UK. Bowen is bullish. "The technical spec is good, the operational team is second to none, its reputation is known worldwide and the history of the place is incredible. Things are going to be very lively from now on."

BARNES TRUST MEDIA: THE GROUP PERSPECTIVE

Barnes Trust Media is one of the majors forces in independent production facilities. The following is a brief summary of the group's operations.

CAST (Cable and Satellite Transmissions) is a crucial element of BTM. Situated close to BT Telecom Tower, and housing the central London digital hub for NTL, CAST is London's leading transmissions house. It transmits news, studio presentations and 13 television channels 24 hours-a-day. These include Front Row PPV, The Chinese Channel, Quantum Home Shopping, The Travel Channel, Zee TV and FT-TV. CAST also provides Text and internet services and is home to TF1, FR3, NTV, TV Tokyo, Korean Broadcasting, ORF, RTL, Pro 7. It is also a news facility providing feeds from Reuters, APTV, WTN and the BBC. The facility also has studios, digital edit suites, voiceover suites, ENG units and graphics. The NTL hub now based at CAST is another opportunity for CAST to expand its services. CAST is also linked to Teddington Studios by fibre optics circuits meaning that clients can link the two facilities to meet their requirements.

BTM is also the parent of Klones Video Transfer, the Soho-based company which offers competitively-priced and high quality video transfer and standards conversion. Klones can handle all broadcast formats including D1, D2, D3, D5, Digital Betacam, Beta SP, DVC Pro, 2" Quad, 1" C format, Hi8, BVU, U-matic, SVHS and VHS. It also offers on-site library facilities.

BTM owns top-end post-production company The House which is based in Soho. The House boasts kit such as Ursa Gold telecine with DaVinci, Flame, Henry, Hal Express and two fully digital edit suites. It has a design team which specialises in broadcast title sequences and programme graphics. It has another post-production business called DSP at Teddington. The location of DSP provides the company's studio clients with the editing support they require. In addition to digital edit suites there are Avid non-linear suites, two digital sound dubbing suites and a videotape area which handles any format. DSP Film Care looks after the film production needs of its clients.



CAXTON

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Looking forward to the next
40 years at Teddington.

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