

## The BRIT School

### Flexible and reliable shared storage

The BRIT School wanted to enhance the facilities it offered to its students by installing a new video editing suite with added storage. We provided all the equipment they needed, including a number of Mac Pros and a shared storage system, giving them the flexibility and reliability they needed.

As the UK's only free Performing Arts and Technology school, the BRIT (British Record Label Industry Trust) School trains 14-19 year olds in performing arts, media and art and design. Former students of the school include successful musicians Kate Nash and Adele. As well as being devoted to the arts, the BRIT School is known for its formidable technology resources. These resources offer its students a sophisticated learning environment featuring professional equipment that is typically found only in advanced creative workplaces.

#### Creating a professional editing environment

Video production is an increasingly popular element of the BRIT School's curriculum. In order to maintain its reputation for investing in state of the art technology, the school recently revamped its edit centre and purchased a multi-user Final Cut Pro (FCP) editing suite. They also needed a solid and reliable storage solution to satisfy an increasing demand for content and sharing.

Alison Pemberton, part of the BRIT School's Broadcast and Digital Communication Department, explains "Our needs were demanding: we wanted a shared storage system that would allow any student or group to simultaneously access, edit and share media files from any of the seven available FCP workstations in the editing suite".

#### A cutting-edge shared storage system

Jigsaw24 provided the BRIT School with seven Mac Pro machines and a cutting-edge shared storage system. The system used iSCSI technology to connect over Gigabit Ethernet cabling, rather than fibre optic cabling, which proved to be beneficial in terms of both cost and resilience.

“Our new edit suite is fantastic. Our students now have access to the same technology as the leading universities and post-production businesses. The system is working like a dream, providing us with the freedom and security we have desperately needed.”

Alison Pemberton, **BRIT School**.

The school opted for a dedicated Ethernet network. This was separate from the existing school network system, which allowed it to run faster than it normally would without costing much more. The addition of the system meant that students would be able to access their projects from any of the seven suites.

The installation took place in October 2007, from which time the equipment has been in constant use. Since then, the new complex system has been running perfectly and has already made a vast improvement within the Broadcast and Digital Communication Department.

#### How is the system being used?

With the help of the new suite, BTEC National Diploma Media Production students in year 12 have been able to complete the editing of television adverts. The year 13s use it to edit their own film trailers. The school's AS Media Studies group has been producing and completing practical coursework projects comprising of the opening two minutes of a thriller film. The A2 Media Studies group will soon be embarking upon new projects, including editing their own music videos.



### In a nutshell...

#### Who are the BRIT School??

As the UK's only free Performing Arts and Technology school, the BRIT (British Record Label Industry Trust) School trains 14-19 year olds in performing arts, media and art and design. Former students of the school include successful musicians Kate Nash and Adele.

#### What did they need?

As video editing became more popular among students, the school wanted to ensure that the facilities they offered for post-production matched the high standard of their other, more established courses.

#### How did Jigsaw24 help?

We provided seven Mac Pro-based edit suites with Final Cut Pro, and set them up on a dedicated Ethernet network. We also provided an iSCSI-driven shared storage system that allowed students to access and share their files from any of the suite's workstations.

#### What were the benefits?

- The BRIT School can now offer up-to-date editing facilities to its students, and be sure it is teaching industry-applicable skills.
- Students can use the workstations to produce and share a wide range of multimedia work.
- As the workstations run on a dedicated network, staff don't have to worry that working with and transferring large media files will slow down or be slowed down by other computer users in school.