



Special Articles:

- Jamie Morris heading back to Japan
- "Speed Tribes" receives private funding.
- New equipment changes our vision



"Speed Tribes" on location in Japan

Welcome to the October edition of our monthly *Newsletter*. After months of searching for financial support from third parties, Figure 8 Productions is proud to announce that private funding has been obtained for the completion of "Speed Tribes". Jamie Morris, the documentary's director, will be leaving for Japan on October 12.

He will initially travel throughout the Chubu region to meet with Figure 8's Japanese staff members, in an effort to coordinate pre-production. Once the crew and translation team are ready to start actual shooting

on location, Jamie will head to Tokyo to complete the production schedule.

So, what can you expect in the next few months?

As new footage is digitally transferred from our new Sony camera and edited, we will post "teaser trailers" for all our regular website visitors.

Figure 8 Productions is currently designing a "Blog" to keep everyone informed of Jamie's movements in the land of the rising sun.

Many thanks to all the people who have shown an interest in the project!

Figure 8 Productions gets financial boost

After months of negotiations and meetings, we are pleased to announce that private sources have agreed to sponsor the completion of "Speed Tribes".

A list will be published before the end of 2004 to thank the individuals, companies and organizations who have agreed to assist Figure 8 Productions in this project.

Thanks to immediate funding by some of our generous sponsors, we have purchased a new digital camera, which should make filming from the back of motorcycles a little easier on our cameramen.

Much of the pledged funding will be

directed towards our Japanese staff members, who have very patiently handled public relations in Nagoya and Tokyo.

Some of the financial support has been assigned to website services, including a complete renovation of our homepage, as well as a Blog and new video pages.

The rest of our budget will be invested in a short film, tentatively titled "The Razor", which will be shot on location in Furukawa, Japan in 2005.

For more information about sponsoring "Speed Tribes", please contact Jean-Marc Moorghen, (Tel): (714) 767-0562, E-mail: jm@figure8productions.com



Canon XL2

© Canon Inc.



Sony VX-2000

© Sony Corporation

New Equipment ... New Formats

As mentioned on p.1, Figure 8 Productions has recently acquired some new equipment, including the latest Canon XL2.

Without going into too many technical details, this will dramatically alter what you will see in the finished version of "Speed Tribes" next year.

Last year we were working exclusively with the Sony VX-2000 model, which lends itself perfectly to documentary and especially low-light shooting i.e shooting bosozoku runs at night. However it is not suited to shoot

features and lacks zoom power.

The Canon XL2 solves the problem neatly, as it performs beautifully with 24 frames per second, giving a cinematic look plus a 20x zoom, allowing us to get close to our subjects.

Both cameras will be taken to Japan this month when Jamie Morris resumes filming the *bosozoku* motorcycle gangs. "The old Sony will allow me to carry out *guerilla* filming tactics, and the new Canon still takes great cinematic shots: I'll have the best of both worlds", he commented recently.

"Current business opportunities (in Nevada) exceeded our expectations."

Figure 8 Productions does Vegas

Our production team has been very busy since the last Newsletter. In last month's issue, we mentioned a possible project taking place in Las Vegas before long.

During two trips into Nevada, current business opportunities exceeded our expectations: on both occasions, we were asked to complete promotional videos.

The first project is the brainchild of Ken Monreal: he commissioned us to

produce a 30-minute television pilot for a show called "Drinks in Vegas." The highlight of the footage was an interview with a Frank Sinatra impersonator, dispensing wisdom and whiskey to all who listened.

The second project is a video portfolio promoting a troupe of local professional dancers, Arlan Productions.

As always, we are at your disposal for video projects, promotions and media relations.

Good Luck, Jamie-san!

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All of us here at Figure 8 Productions would like to extend our best wishes to Jamie Morris, who will travel to Japan this month to complete his documentary, "Speed Tribes".

We hope your journey will be productive, successful and fun. Don't drink too much sake and don't get lost in translation! You will still be able to reach Jamie by e-mail: jamie@figure8productions.com

In Jamie's absence, our Public Relations Manager, Jean-Marc Moorghen, will be glad to answer your questions.

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