

USER REPORT

Game Creek Sold On Miller Performance

by Paul J. Bonar
Vice President of Engineering
Game Creek Video LLC

HUDSON, N.H.

Game Creek Video was founded in 1993 and is a leading provider of mobile video production facilities. We purchased our first five Miller tripods back in August of 2002. Five years and 25 or so units later, we find ourselves continuing to purchase Miller EFP/ENG products. The rigors of remote broadcasting can quickly damage or destroy completely even the finest of

we'd seen, it seemed to work very nicely in the types of venues we were frequenting.

We also asked camera operators to tell us what they thought of this system. What we got was an overwhelming approval. With all the positive feedback we received, not only from our engineering staff, but also from operators, we felt that we'd made the right decision.

THE 'HASSLE' FACTOR UNDONE

As much as I can say about how well Miller tripods and pan heads are made, this is remote television, and it's not a question of if, but when,

something is going to get damaged. Of course, the next questions automatically center around how easy will it be to repair, how hard is it to get parts and how long will it be out of service? These are all things that add up to both dollars and what I like to call the "hassle" factor. Over the years, we have had our share of instances where we've needed to repair a damaged tripod. The Miller service department has been quick to respond with assistance or parts to help us get the unit back in service quickly. Without service and replacement parts being readily available, gear can sit for months and I believe we would all agree that this is

never good.

Right now, Game Creek is in the process of designing or building three new high-definition mobile units to add to our fleet. I believe that it is safe to say that with the solid performance of the Miller EFP/ENG tripods, we expect to buy many more in very near future.

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For additional information contact Miller Camera Support LLC at 973-857-8300 or visit www.millertripods.com.



Game Creek Video LLC uses Miller tripods and heads in day-to-day operations.

equipment. Inexperienced crews, new locations daily (if not hourly), rain, wind, dust, and mud—they all add up to elements that attack field gear—not to mention an occasional 280 pound football player. What we have found is that the Miller gear has proven itself to be a solid performer in the remote broadcast field.

WOULD IT TAKE THE ABUSE?

When we first purchased the Miller 925 HD tripod with the Miller Arrow 1013 pan head, some of our engineers were concerned that it would not stand up to the use and abuse that it was going to receive. The carbon fiber tripod construction was nice and light, but could it survive? It certainly had some nice features—a carrying handle that was well placed for balance, and a mid-level spreader that allowed placement of the tripod over or around stadium and arena chairs and rails. There was also a two-stage height range. Now while this wasn't the tallest tripod

USER REPORT

Thales Angenieux Lenses Stand Out in the Crowd

by Adam J. Mills
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High End TV specializes in the rental of HD equipment for music videos, concerts, electronic press kits and television commercials. In order to ensure the highest attainable image quality for our customers, we purchased two new 26 x 7.8AIF HD ENG/EFP Telephoto Zoom Lenses from Thales Angenieux.

Our decision to go with the Thales Angenieux lenses is based on our belief that quality doesn't cost—it pays. We set out to get the highest quality glass that we could obtain for our new HD cameras and found that Angenieux possessed the most exceptional performance. These new lenses complete the picture for our commitment to provide the very best HD equipment available on the market.

RELIABLE AND RUGGED

Thales Angenieux's Digital 26 X 7.8AIF High Definition Series Tele Super Zoom Lens provides an extended focal range to provide news and sports field production crews with extended coverage capabilities, along with exceptional performance and reliability. The lenses' high-quality

optics, rugged construction, and small weight are ideal for today's high-resolution cameras. Compared to similarly priced lenses from other manufacturers, the 26X HD ENG/EFP Telephoto Zoom Lens provide us with greater focal range—7.8 mm to 203 mm and 15.6 mm to 406 mm with a 2x extender. And they're fast, with an aperture of f/2.2.

LENSES STAND OUT IN A CROWD

We recently did a national TV show in HD. It was the first time we had all six of our new HD cameras in the same venue shooting the same thing at the same time. We were using two lenses each from three major manufacturers. I've always gone by specifications when assessing the quality of equipment, and I knew the specs on our Angenieux lenses were good. However, that night, when we had all the cameras and lenses together, two of the cameras stood out—those with the Angenieux lenses. They had cost slightly less than their major competitors, and their quality was unsurpassed. The ease of operation and the appearance of the images were the best I'd ever witnessed among HD video lenses—hands down.

Our newly purchased lenses will be used primarily with Varicams, as well



Adam Mills puts his company's new Thales Angenieux HD lenses to the test.

as CineAltas. What helped most in the decision-making process was that Thales Angenieux provided High End TV with the opportunity to give the lenses a workout on a trial basis with our camera systems prior to purchase.

In addition to being impressed with the pre-sales support and lens performance, I was extremely pleased with the price. The fact that the Angenieux team was so helpful and their prices were so advantageous completely sealed the deal for us. Angenieux is truly the way to go for HD.

Adam J. Mills is an Emmy Award winning short-form editor, and president of High End TV, located in Nashville, Tenn. He may be contacted at .

For more information, contact Thales Angenieux at 973-812-3858 or visit www.angenieux.com.