

India's Digital Film School Fills Gap in DI Skills with SCRATCH

Mumbai's Digital Film School, the media training division of renowned processing and post facility QLab, has deployed SCRATCH as its key tool for students to learn the art and craft of DI color grading.

There are more SCRATCH systems in India than any other competing technology. SCRATCH is central to this first-ever DI and Colorist Training Course, and is also the front-line DI system at QLab. Students get hands-on experience on major imagery projects, so they can emerge with real skills to take on real jobs in the filmmaking and broadcast markets.

Amit Shetty, director, chief colorist and head of DI at QLab, and a course director at the Digital Film School, explains how SCRATCH is helping to fill the DI skills gap.

Gap in the market: VFX, CG and editing are covered well in terms of training at our Digital Film School, but there was really nothing for DI, which is an emerging market in India. Using SCRATCH, we have established a comprehensive nine-month DI and Colorist Training Course, focused on giving students immediate employment opportunities when they leave. We'll train 35 people a year, providing the practical understanding of processes that take place before, during and after DI.

School: Our training facility is housed in QLab's 25,000sq/ft, front-end facility at the heart of the film and television industry in Andheri, Mumbai. We handle every aspect of post - from the shoot to final 35mm prints - for major Hollywood and Bollywood films. Students will get the invaluable experience of working on real commercial projects.

Why SCRATCH? Quite simply SCRATCH is a top DI system, and ideal for those choosing DI as their career path. It's easy to learn, has a great toolset for grading, bridges the photochemical and digital realms, and there are plenty of SCRATCH systems in use throughout India.

Learning SCRATCH: Our DI course covers lab processing, scanning, reverse telecine, EDL conforming, color grading, finishing and deliverables, as well as workflows

to-and-from SCRATCH into editorial and VFX. Students get in-depth training for SCRATCH's various tools - Conform, CONstruct, Player, Edit, LUTs, Scaffolds, Matrix, Guides, Process, and Settings. They also learn best practices of primary and secondary color grading, LUTs, working with different color spaces, and how to use SCRATCH for SD and HD format conversion and transcoding.

Real-world experience: Students will leave us with the skills to optimize SCRATCH for modern DI workflows. They get the unique opportunity to work alongside the highly-experienced professionals at QLab - colorists, editors, VFX artists, lab supervisors and IT technicians, as well as clients - directors, producers and cinematographers. And, they will get their names on around five feature films before they complete the course.

RED 4K ahead: While SCRATCH is the center of a scanned DPX workflow at QLab, we're seeing more RED 4K footage coming in, and SCRATCH is ideal for this. Students will be fully conversant in how to ingest and work with native RED R3D files.

Platform: Our SCRATCH systems run on SuperMicro and Z800 Systems. We use the Nvidia Quadra FX 5800/ 3800 SDI graphics card, RED Rocket and Bluefish for video I/O. Students learn SCRATCH with the Tangent Wave control surface, as well as Wacom tablets.

About QLab: Mumbai-based QLab has provided services to filmmakers for nearly 40 years. It's the only company in Mumbai to offer a total shoot-to-screen package - lab, data, editorial, DI, VFX, CG, audio and film post . QLab has processed and printed over 250 Hollywood motion pictures, including *2012*, *This Is It*, *Red Cliff*, *James Bond 007 Quantum of Solace* and *Casino Royale*, *Harry Potter* and *Iron Man*, as well as servicing top Hindi films such as *Teen Patti*, *Striker*, *Taare Zameen Pe*, *What's Your Rashee?* and *No Smoking*.

[www.qlab.in](http://www qlab.in) www.digitalfilmschool.in



Digital Film School in Mumbai; SCRATCH at heart of DI curriculum