



ProHD for filmmakers

JVC camcorders and monitors out on location

Founder of Proximity Pictures Ltd, writer-director and editor, Safeena Chaudhry has been using ProHD cameras since the inception of her company. This year, she discovered the benefits of working with JVC's DT-V9L1D monitor out in the field.

The ProHD camera series from JVC has always been a favourite choice among independent filmmakers – due to its affordability, flexibility, compact design, the ability to shoot in 24p, and to record both on DV tape and hard disk – so was the camera of choice for Safeena. However, it was the addition of the portable 9" DT-V9L1D HD monitor that really helped during the filming of her latest documentary.

The ProHD cameras and equipment were the chosen tools for all of Safeena's work. "I bought a GY-HD101E a few years back which I absolutely adored," Safeena explained. "The camera had the edge over other cameras; not only did it have the specifications, such as interchangeable lenses and the ability to shoot in interlaced and progressive formats that gave my work the much desired 'film look', it also had the essential aspect of being a lightweight, fully shoulder mounted camera. I was very excited about the capabilities of the latest models of the ProHD family too; the HD/SDI output, the option to film uncompressed HD and the ability to work with the PL mount system which allows the use of film lenses."

One of the films Safeena worked on this year was a short documentary called *An Introduction to Black Magic*, shot in the Asian community, where she was the camera operator and editor. Safeena also had the opportunity to shoot with a 9" JVC DT-V9L1D monitor, which she explains was very beneficial. "Having the monitor meant that the producer could view the shots without peering obtrusively over my shoulder", commented Safeena. "It also meant that I had an accurate picture as far as the colours and focus were concerned."

Safeena first used the monitor on the night of the lunar eclipse. "It was far too cloudy to

capture the actual eclipse," Safeena said, "but we did manage to get some evocative shots of the elusive moon, thanks to the larger canvas provided by the monitor." The addition of a monitor also allowed Safeena to delegate camera work to other crew. For her other project, *Dealing with the Dead*, Safeena explains, "The monitor came most in handy when I wanted to direct my assistant to shoot a jib shot. Letting someone else take the shot is something I hardly ever do, so that was quite liberating."

The monitor also allowed Safeena to instantly view the film in HD and saved her from what could have been a costly mistake "I wanted to film a graveyard scene at night, but after much research and deliberation, I opted for the Day for Night look. My tests with the Tiffen screw-on filter resulted in a decision to use a Day for Night filter in postproduction instead and film the sequence with a cool white balance and ND on. Had I not had a true HD monitor, I may have ended up with an inferior picture and the need for a reshoot. The JVC 9" monitor runs on IDX batteries or mains power so I could take it out in the field without worrying about running cables for metres on end. It was also lightweight and discreet."

"It's easy to overlook how useful an external monitor is when shooting"

Being an independent filmmaker can be a pressurised job and the need to be time efficient is very important. For Safeena Chaudhry, having a monitor has changed the way she shoots her films, "It's easy to overlook how useful an external monitor is when shooting and how absolutely essential it is. It makes less work to do in post production. Never in my career as a filmmaker have I had the pleasure of working with such amazing pieces of kit." ■

