

# Restoration man

Premier's machine room is the beating heart of the company's restoration, delivery and content management division. Head of digital delivery **Simon Penny** explains all

## IN THE ROOM

This room contains encoding and ingest machines as well as kit that services most of our post-production operation. This includes 10 edit suites, four DVD QC rooms, three digital QC rooms, two Final Cut Pro encoding stations, two broadcast QAR rooms and two Pro Tools suites.

## DIGITAL DELIVERY

We are involved in a lot of DVD work and tape servicing projects, but an increasing amount of our work involves digital delivery to new platforms and we need a lot of this kit to provide our file delivery services. Some of the Macs are used for delivery to services such as iTunes and Google. They feed a selection of QC rooms and encoding stations. We have three dedicated iTunes QC rooms and two more broadcast QC rooms that run Final Cut Pro, Episode, Compressor and subtitling software such as Annotation Edit. The Mac encoders are a key bit of kit for our project with the BFI to get some of its back catalogue onto iTunes. We also have some PC encoding machines that run Digital Rapids software, Cinema Craft and Rovi TotalCode for DVD and Blu-ray encoding. The Snell Alchemist OD is an important part of our conversion service and is used for repurposing content and DVD releases.

## STORAGE

This room offers 500TB of online and nearline storage split between Editshare and other RAID systems. We have a Snell router that feeds the 10 edit suites, capture suites and QR booths, and controls the decks.

## LEGACY FORMATS

We deliver file-based formats to broadcasters but despite the recent file-delivery deadline, our HD Cam SR tape decks are still an important piece of kit. HD Cam SR will become a legacy format but some clients still want a tape copy of their content to keep as a master copy. These decks also feed into the QAR rooms for broadcast QC, and we use Tektronix scopes for monitoring.

## SONY TAPE MACHINE

The Sony one-inch tape machine is an important part of our video restoration and archiving offering. Alongside our various other VTR machines, it gives us the capability to support all types of legacy formats. It is used in conjunction with our Snell Archangel HD and Goldeneye scanning machines for film scanning and restoration. We try not to move it around much, look after it with kid gloves and clean the heads regularly. We have two working models and two that can't play any more but are useful for spare parts. For a project such as the Blu Ray restoration of ITV's 1973 *The World At War* series, it was important to be able to ingest the best possible content, regardless of format. As catalogues of content come to an end, they stretch further back in time, and some assets get lost so you have to go right back to the source. You never know what you will come up against.