



Image courtesy Third Wave Productions

Multi-Cam for FCP5 HD

by Randy Gomez

HD performance footage from the *Black Eyed Peas* gave NAB attendees a chance to learn about Final Cut Pro's multi-camera editing features.

Final Cut Pro 5, Apple's comprehensive desktop HD editing suite, delivered much anticipated multi-camera editing features at this year's NAB. To highlight these new features, Apple wanted high-quality HD video and audio content that showcased both the depth and the simplicity of Final Cut's advanced new editing capabilities.

Apple recruited Grammy-winning producer Hank Neuberger, of Third Wave Productions, charging him with coordinating creative and technical development of powerful video and audio to illustrate simultaneous multi-camera playback for real time, on-the-fly editing. Hank enlisted the HD resources of Gary Taillon at Camera Support in Burbank, and in less than one week was shooting a live concert debuting new music from the chart-topping group Black Eyed Peas.

The project was ambitious – quick turnaround, big names and a major product launch in the balance. By quickly customizing a flight pack system that enabled location HD production, Camera Support engineered the quality and function of a production truck without its cost or additional production requirements. Camera

Support used Panasonic's AJ-HDC27F VariCam camcorders with 11x and 21x zoom lenses.

The flight pack system offered complete video control for color correcting and setting iris levels for the five cameras used (up to 16 cameras can be engineered into a single system), as well as HD match monitor, HD waveform/vector-scope, HD playback and switcher, time code generator and signal processing. A separate area was built for the director and producers with communication and HD monitoring.

An additional HD viewing station was included in the plan, so tapes could be screened onstage and preliminary editing decisions made immediately. Apple left with tapes in hand, treating NAB attendees to a beautifully edited musical feature.

By designing creative and intelligent production solutions, such as the flight pack, and leveraging the benefits of formats such as 720p, today's equipment providers are stepping into a critical advisory role. **HD**

Randy Gomez is founder and co-owner of Camera Support, Burbank. rgomez@camerasupport.com; www.camerasupport.com