

PANALUX STORY:

Paul Murphy

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PAUL MURPHY
Gaffer

ITV TELEVISION DRAMA
“JEKYLL AND HYDE”

By all accounts, iTV’s highly-anticipated action-adventure series *Jekyll and Hyde* – being dubbed a sexy superhero story – was an amusing experience for skilled Gaffer Paul Murphy. The 10-part television series filmed over six months from early spring to mid-summer 2015 in an excess of 50 locations from the UK to exotic Sri Lanka. Panalux provided lighting on all locations.

We caught up with Paul on the London set of *Jekyll and Hyde* for a chat on this project, Paul’s recommendations for young electricians, and his enthusiasm at the future prospect of partnering with Panalux again.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN INTERESTING SERIES, HOW WAS WORKING ON JEKYLL AND HYDE?

[This project] was fun. Serious but fun. It has to be fun. It can’t be all laughing and joking all the time, but we had a happy team, which goes a long way. If we’re not right, nothing [on set] will be right. We’re diligent but we have some fun.

It was a seven month job in total both location and studio, starting with three and a half weeks in Sri Lanka; we spent one month prepping and rigging stages. Typically, 10-hour shooting days from 8am to 7pm.

DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS?

Actually, I was very happy with Panalux. Your yard works very well and I was impressed with the transportation. If they say they will be there at 7am, they’re there at five minutes to seven.

Before this job, I phoned [Panalux] to say ‘*This is what I used to do*’ and ask what they had that was similar. I’ve done four or five jobs with Panalux now and I have had no problems.

ANY TENSE MOMENTS?

Not on this job. But we had a tense moment on a job just before Christmas. [Lighting] equipment had been ordered from Panalux and needed to be delivered on a Sunday. But we forgot to organise transport for one bit of kit that was critical for the job. It just got overlooked on our side.

[Panalux Account Manager] Paul Dooley gave my crew a call at 4pm on Saturday just to double-check on it. And they delivered that bit of kit for Sunday shoot.

That’s good service. Luckily, [Paul] had just been thinking and followed up. The back up I get from Panalux is very good.

“I can get just about the same light anywhere. It’s a relationship thing. It’s about loyalty”

[IMDB PROFILE](#)

BAFTA award-winning “THE LOST HONOUR”, “POLDARK”, “JANE EYRE”, “SET FIRE TO THE STARS”, “1234”, “THE SELFISH GIANT”

WHEN IT COMES TO SERVICE, WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?

Getting the truth. The truth is non-negotiable, especially where there's a problem. We can make concessions and changes, I can get a plan B together quickly but I need the [lighting] supplier to give me the truth.

As the Gaffer, you can really make things as simple or complicated as you want. But, as long as you've got someone on the other end telling you the truth about deliveries and extra material, you're ok and you'll be able to stick to a plan.

Even when there's a problem and things are going wrong, you need to have a good relationship with the office

I'm getting to know the rest of the Panalux office but I've already got a good relationship with Sinead [Moran]. There's a person who will always tell you the truth.



SPEAKING OF SINEAD, HOW LONG HAVE THE TWO OF YOU WORKED TOGETHER?

Sinead and I go way back. I've been working with electricity and lighting for 27 years, 20 of those have been with Sinead.

YOU'VE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS FOR QUITE A WHILE, WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR UPCOMING SPARKS AND GAFFERS?

Every job is a little bit different, but there are common characteristics that everyone should have when they're starting out, the most important being a real willingness to improve and learn.

Sure, Electricians need to come on set with a certain level of qualifications to start out. After that, how fast you progress has a lot to do with how you carry yourself.

IN WHAT WAY?

It's best to observe, watch and learn before jumping in. Never be afraid to ask questions, but you have to have done your time before coming to a kind of scenario like this one, for example [Jekyll and Hyde set].

Being punctual, diligent and willing to learn will get a young Spark ahead.

“I was really impressed with the [Panalux] FloBank lights having never used them before – they're dimmable and light weight. I'll use them again on production.”



ABOUT PANALUX

Panalux offers the world of film, television and media production the very best in lighting rental equipment and associated facilities.

Created specifically to cater to the exacting needs of the global entertainment industry, the Panalux service is unrivalled in its ability to provide creative solutions to the full spectrum of production types, regardless of size or genre.

Experience and innovation plus an extensive inventory of modern equipment fully supported by a team of highly skilled professionals sets Panalux apart from the competition. Utilising these extensive resources, clients continually entrust Panalux to deliver practical, effective lighting systems to projects throughout the world.

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