



November 2023

A very warm "Welcome" to you, our Readers and Members. Summer is certainly here with a Bang.

As the year draws to a close, the final Competitions are looming, so keep an eye out for them.

The PSSA Honours AV Judges' AVs Show

Join us for a Zoom show of the
PSSA Honours AV Judges' AVs
hosted by **av makers** on Saturday 14 October at 10h00

NEW DATE

Apart from a few Zoom hiccups, the show ran smoothly and a group of around 50 could appreciate the work of South African AV judges.

If you intend applying for honours, at least now you know a lot more about the individuals involved.

IPF Third Open AV Photo Harmony Competition

Congratulations to two members who were successful in this competition.

Highly Commended **Old Bottles** by John Arseniou AV Makers South Africa

Highly Commended **Floral Fascination** by Peter Thomas Photographic Society of South Africa

The Sequences will be hosted on YouTube until Friday 24th November 2023. The sequences will play in the order they were presented on the Championship Day. Here is the link: [40th IPF AV Championships and the 3rd Open Photo Harmony Competition.](#)

40th IPF AV NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023
3RD OPEN PHOTO HARMONY AV COMPETITION

WHEN: 21, 22nd October 2023
WHERE: Virtual (Via Zoom)
CLOSING DATE: 29th September 2023
CONTACT: ipfavgroup@gmail.com
(Pat Collins, Hon Secretary IPF AV Group)

RPS International AV Festival - Results

When Time Stood Still in Kleinmond by Friso Woudstra RPS AV Group
Ribbon (Commended)

Congratulations, Friso!

27th Great Northern Festival 1st to 3rd December 2023

For the record, unless you are able to travel to the UK. Full details here: <http://www.av-group.org.uk/gnfestival/web2/index.html>

First announcement for LA COUPE LUMIERE

Dear authors and creators of audio-visual montages, immerse yourself in the captivating world of audio-visual creation at the unmissable TRIEL SUR SEINE festival: LA COUPE LUMIERE !

Get ready to experience a unique and inspiring journey on **April 6 2024** at the prestigious Octave Mirbeau Theater, nestled on Cadot Street in Triel sur Seine.

HOPE – our theme salon for 2023



Entries will have closed by the time you read this newsletter. As soon as the judges have completed their work we will be announcing a Zoom meeting to publish the results. All the entries will be showcased in that meeting.

Summary of talk on AI and AV by Mark Allen MPAGB/AV

Mark kindly sent us a summary of a talk he gave recently to UK groups. It is attached at the end of this Newsletter.



Another call for new blood

We will be holding an AGM before the end of 2023 and would welcome new committee members going forward. We really need new blood! Please contact a committee member or avmakerssouthafrica@gmail.com if you can help. As a virtual club it does not matter where you are based in South Africa. We get together with Zoom when necessary.

Cheers until next time,

Eric Thorburn APSSA (Vers) AV-APSSA

Editor

Summary of talk on AI and AV by Mark Allen MPAGB/AV

To Leeds Audio Visual Group and Wilmslow Audio Visual Group over Zoom on 20.10.2023

The talk was focused on how it is done and did not discuss the morality of it all.

It all started in 1950 with Alan Turing. However, it was the Dartmouth Conference in 1956 that is regarded as the birthplace of AI as a formal field of study.

AI has been around us for many years. In the past, it was called given different names.

'Computer Programming', 'Deep Learning', or 'Machine Learning', but what those weasel words meant, back in the day, was simply that computers could do things a million times faster than we, mere HUMANS, can.

In 1978 at the school chess club, we had three grades, which we called 'Advanced', 'Master' and 'Grand Master'. OH, the egos of teenagers. But, only 3 years later, in 1981, the world had moved on. The Sinclair ZX81 was there, with a program called 1K ZX Chess. As a school 'GrandMaster', I tried it and it beat me every time. It beat me easily, every single time.

But 1K ZX Chess was only 627 BYTES in code.

Your Mobile phone probably has 4GB

That's 4 million bytes.

Why am I mentioning this? Because this is where it all started, with computers and lines of code. As the programming languages improved, and the processors to compute the code got faster and faster, deep learning, the machine learning, just got better and better. Now known as AI, things are changing on almost a weekly basis.

Let's look at how AI can help us.

Ideas and research

How to take a mere idea or concept and use AI to produce a short story, screenplay, poem - you name it, AI can help

- Poe AI Portal <https://poe.com/>

How to take what is produced and improve it, polish it, make it more informative, more relaxed, more interesting, shorter, longer - again you name it, AI can help

- Grammarly, <https://app.grammarly.com/> there are also apps and extensions that are worth Installing.

How to use what is produced as a starting point and make the script your own

- Grammarly, <https://app.grammarly.com/>
- Word with Grammarly plug-in and Poe AI Portal

How to use AI to produce natural-sounding narration, that is so good, most folks will not realise it is not real

Script to Narration and Mastering all sound

How to get AI to read your script as a narration

- Eleven Labs <https://elevenlabs.io/speech-synthesis>

How to trick AI into pronouncing place names correctly

- Spell the incorrectly pronounced words phonetically.

<https://www.dictionary.com/e/phonetic-spelling/>

- Do it one word at a time, not within the whole script, to stop wasting credits.

Register under a new email to get more credits. <https://temp-mail.org/>

How to polish the track with a Master Track AI

- PTE | Audio | Export Soundtrack as a file, captures everything

- Submit a new sound file to <https://www.bandlab.com/mastering> (BandlabMastering) for free.
- IMHO 'Universal' is best, or play with the other styles and download.
- In PTE save as a new version
- Delete all sound and add a new sound file.

AI and Photos

How to improve your photos using AI that only adjusts the pixels, does not add anything in or takes anything out, it just adjusts

- Mark demonstrated ON1 Photo RAW Auto AI. Almost all modern post procession software will do this, Photoshop, Affinity, Elements, Topaz Photo AI, the list is endless. RAW <https://www.on1.com/products/photo-raw/>

How to improve your photos using AI that removes distractions, by analysing the pixels around the object and replacing them with pixels from the same image

- Mark demonstrated ON1 Photo RAW, Perfect Eraser

How to use AI to swap in a new sky, using your bank of sky images

- Mark demonstrated ON1 Photo RAW, Perfect Eraser

How to use AI to cut out a section from one of your images and add it to another image

- Mark mentioned how almost modern software can select the subject and extract or remove background. He mentioned even his phone can do this. He demonstrated how this can be used in PTE AV Studio to bring the subject forward, whilst moving the background backwards.

How to use AI to include moving elements from a single image

- PhotoVibrance <https://photovibrance.io/>

How to use AI to create a 3D effect from a single image

- LeiaPixConverter <https://convert.leiapix.com/animation>

How to use Generative Fill and Generative Expand

- Photoshop and PS Elements 2024

<https://blog.adobe.com/en/publish/2023/10/19/introducing-adobe-photoshopelements-premiere-elements-2024>

AI Text to image using various websites for free

- Leonardo, <https://app.leonardo.ai/ai-generations>
- Bing Image Creator, that uses the latest Dalle3
<https://www.bing.com/images/create?FORM=GDPGLP>
- Ideogram <https://ideogram.ai/t/trending>

Custom Fonts filled with grass or trees or whatever you want

- Adobe Firefly 2 beta (You need to register with Adobe) <https://firefly.adobe.com/>

- Mark mentioned the importance of using an appropriate font and one that worked with the colours on the image. He demonstrated how two example fonts could be included in PTE AV Studio

AI can help, but may I suggest that it should be considered as just another tool in your toolbox? I simply wanted to demonstrate what AI tools are out there. I wanted to divert the talk about AI from text to image, generative fill, generative expand, and all that, to include the other, perhaps more interesting aspects, that are not often discussed. Like, how to generate ideas and carry out research. How to use AI to narrate and how to use AI to create a Studio Mastering, of all the sound.

At the end of the talk, and over Zoom, both Shelia and Linda made an important point, that

I felt was lost in the discussion - as these things often are over Zoom. It was about the production. You can have wonderful script, narration, music, sound effects – but they all need to be brought together in the ‘production’. Another commented, “I have all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order”. I could not agree more.

But, IMHO, the best way to improve your audio visuals is to seek help from someone you respect. No Artificial Intelligence, a real person. Listen carefully, take it on the chin.

Mark Allen MPAGB/AV

Hon Sec Leeds Audio Visual Group