

B O O M!!!

BANG!!!

BOOF!

ZAP!!!

POW!



Home Movies

By Sedona Callahan

Art by Miles Parnell

Not What They Used to Be

Remember that scene in “Citizen Kane” — the one in a private screening room, with smoke-filled light streaming from the rear projector and film flapping around the reel at the end of the feature? Mark Singleton of Deer Crest might remember — he has a poster of Orson Welles from that film in the lobby of his home theater, right over the candy display counter, which is filled with M&Ms, Junior Mints, Snickers and Kit Kat bars. Yes, I said lobby. The TV in front of the living room sofa has moved uptown. Way uptown.

Mark also has D-Box Virtual Reality theater seats that respond to the sound and motion of the film being watched. While viewing a scene from “Mission Impossible,” my theater seat shuddered when a jet accelerated, tipped back and forth with the plane’s altitude change, and jumped when a gunshot was heard. “Imagine a chase scene, where a car careens to the left around a tight corner,” explains Singleton. “The seat jerks to the left with two ‘Gs’ of force. But only an inch.”

Virtual reality seats are only the beginning of the technical features available for the home theater buff. Ronald Scott of Designer Media in Salt Lake City explains the requirements and accoutrements available to the theater builder. “The first thing people should know is the mini-

mum size of a home theater screen is 27 inches, and can be as large as 300, but around 110 inches is typical,” explains Scott. “The theater has both visual and audio systems. For a surround audio system you need at least six speakers: three in the front — left, center and right of the screen — plus two surround speakers in the sidewalls — about two feet

above the viewers level — and a subwoofer. The transducers go into the seating and add to the feeling of the movie.” Scott goes on to say a surround receiver, which powers the speakers, is needed. “It’s a processor and amplifier for the surround process. It would be located in the equipment rack [or room] along with all the AV sources — including satellite TV, cable TV, DVD, TiVo, VCR, and CD.” The size of the theater

and number of seats depends on the number of people expected to use it at any one time. “And the room needs to be soundproofed, and acoustically treated.” The wall and ceiling surfaces should be staggered in some way to minimize sound transfer.

“Lighting control is very cool,” says Scott, “achieved with sconces or rope lighting, setting the mood of the room.” Scott adds that the remote control panel with user-friendly icons completes the theater needs. “We set up a remote, with one



DOUGLAS BURKE

that of his friend Chris Carver's. "His equipment is a step and a half lower than mine, but he's got a nice seating arrangement." Carver countered with, "But does Jacobson have a preparation center for snacks in the theater room?" Carver's theater does.

Chris Carver's Glenwild home is wired top to bottom for his home theater needs. "The audio system holds 3,000 CDs. It's like a giant MP3 player," said Carver. "We have a multi-source AMX system, so there can be different features, accessed by touch screen panels in each room." Carver's theater holds Premier theater seats, with an open area in front for kids to put on skits and puppet shows. The nine-foot screen is located an optimal 13 feet from the "money seats" (the best seats in the house) and columns in the room, as well as a false ceiling, break up the sound. "You can hook up X-Box, watch Jazz games, or hold a Super Bowl party in here." Carver's projector is attached to the ceiling at the 13-foot point. Jacobson's is located in a separate equipment room behind his theater. "Our projector would be

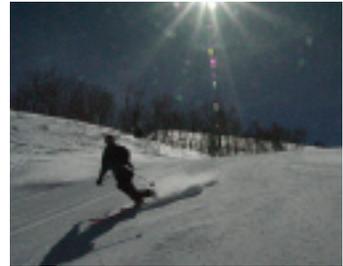
brighter than Jacobson's because of its location," Carver said, tossing back the competitive challenge.

The theater in Diane Brace and Brad Bond's home in Maple Ridge is a less-stylized, but still accommodating, space for family entertainment. The walls are covered with posters of the couple's favorite movies. "Mine is 'Fast Times at Ridgemont High' and his is 'Apocalypse Now'," said Brace. Rather than formal theater seating, a large L-shaped sofa wraps around two walls of the room, with a loveseat, several footstools and small tables for drinks and snacks furnishing the rest of the room. An equipment cabinet (equipment selected by Keith Walker, owner of High Definitions in Oakley) sits in the back of the room. "We're big movie fans, even if our tastes in films are different," said Brace. "We watch HBO movies and football games, and we had an Oscar party with about 15 people and two dogs in here!"

Now, that's entertainment! ❁

Sedona Callahan, a film aficionada, is a Park City-based writer and photographer.

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