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**Chicago Based Screen Time Images Inc. Contributes To Oscar Presentation To Peter O'Toole, With Restoration of 1964 Film, "Becket"**

Shaumburg, IL – In the glitzy and glamorous world of Hollywood, a small Midwestern company is making itself known this year at the Oscars. Screen Time Images is a unique company in the Chicago suburbs that focuses its efforts on the restoration and preservation of classic feature films, television shows, and historical archive films. Last year, Screen Time Images was hired to restore the 1964 film, "Becket", starring Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton. The film was nominated for 12 Academy awards, including Best Actor for Peter O'Toole, and Best Picture, and won an award for Best Adapted Screenplay. In 1962, another of O'Toole's films, "Lawrence of Arabia", was awarded an Oscar for Best Picture. Both these films and many others had O'Toole receiving an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, but the award eluded him for his entire career.

In January, the Academy announced it was presenting O'Toole with an honorary Oscar award. As part of the presentation, a retrospective video will be shown, containing clips from all of the movies O'Toole was nominated for. Most of the clips from the movie "Becket" will be from the restoration in progress, provided by Screen Time Images.

When "Becket's" current rights holders, Orland Park, IL-based MPI Media Group, hired Screen Time Images to restore the film for DVD release, they were unaware of the long journey about to begin, with the end result being a pristine restored new master. Screen Time's owner Sean McKee explains: "MPI had a vault in Los Angeles of many different film elements of the movie, but very few were usable, due to deterioration of the film, differing aspect ratios and other issues. We even had a studio ask us to remove the film we brought to transfer to video, because it smelled like vinegar, which they believed to be nitrate film, which in its furthest stages of decomposition, is explosive."

It was decided that all of the film elements would be shipped back to Illinois, to allow Screen Time easy access to any elements they required. Says McKee, "The main film elements we ended up using in our telecine suite here were severely warped, so the result of the film transfer was a very soft focus on the left side of the picture. Digital enhancement did not look natural, so we had a modification custom engineered for our telecine that basically forced the depth of field in the lens, which ended up giving us a perfectly focused film. We were amazed with the beautiful, sharp image we now had as a source for our restoration".

Once the film was scanned and converted to digital files, Screen Time began the restoration using advanced digital software and techniques. "We use a combination of tools for our work, including proprietary software, and systems like Revival Digital, from da Vinci", says McKee. The work being performed on the film include color corrections to repair faded dyes in the film, grain and noise reduction, stabilizing shaky images, remove flicker, and remove scratches and clean dirt and debris from the film.

Mr. McKee and Screen Time Images have been involved in a number of other large restorations, including several Orson Welles movies, including “Othello”, “The Trial” and “The Stranger”. The list of restored television shows reads like a Who’s Who of classic TV, including The Beverly Hillbillies, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Superman cartoons, Dragnet, George Burns & Gracie Allen Show, The Jack Benny Show, The Andy Griffith Show, The Lone Ranger, Our Town, The Three Stooges, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and many, many more.

Screen Time Images is a boutique facility that caters to all facets of a restored film product, from film transfer and restoration, to DVD authoring, menu/graphics design and packaging. They are the only company performing this type of work in the Midwest. The company is also seeking investors to help expand services and be able to take on larger bulk jobs from studios and film libraries, companies that are only now realizing that their original film elements are rapidly deteriorating, to be lost forever someday if not restored now.

McKee sums it all up, “Film restoration is a personal crusade of mine, and we need to make content owners aware that their films will not survive forever. Their current condition will probably not pass broadcast network QC standards, and every effort should be made to preserve and restore our world’s film heritage.” He closes with a smile, “I love what I do and what our company does for the public with these films, we’re bringing back everybody’s childhood.”

Screen Time Images is located at 974 Estes Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193. They can be reached at 847-534-9000, or online at [www.screentimeimages.com](http://www.screentimeimages.com).

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