

Serendipity played a role, too. A carnival midway is a central locale in *Ace Lightning*, the place where most of the fantastical interactions between the escapees from the Sixth Dimension and our human characters occur. During my research for the show, PBS was airing a series on the history of the circus, with emphasis on the barkers, the freak shows and the sundry attractions of the midway. In watching this series, I got a sense of the historical reasons for some of the colour choices and designs — the bright reds of the striped tents, the faded yellows of the canvas, the electric pinks and blues of the candy floss and the brightly coloured costumes, the rich blue-blacks of iron cages, and the muted tones of the faded painted banners and midway booths.

These are the tones we strove to emulate in the carnival scenes and hint at in the scenes that took place in other locales. In my research to build a colour palette, I pored over the swatch books of all the colour media manufacturers. After considerable testing with all of the colours I was familiar with, I was disappointed that none of them suited what I needed — until I remembered a colour palette that had been shown to me by a Rosco rep. The Calcolor palette proved to be exactly what I was looking for. They blended well with white light, gave consistent, quantifiable results and even more important were predictable. The four densities, 15, 30, 60 and 90, provide the cinematographer with a palette that is almost infinitely variable and can be mixed on the fly in pressure situations.

(Bentley Miller is a CSC associate member. He was one of the early members of STLD Canada, which has now ceased active operations. He was a past editor of the STLD Canada newsletter and wrote a regular column for Broadcast and Technology. He has been a director of photography for five years, working on a range of projects in video and film. He particularly enjoys the challenge that matte work presents, but his first love is telling stories whatever the medium. His latest project is *Second Time Around*, a reality drama for the W Network.) ●

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