

A natural progression

The versatile HDW-750P came into its own for both handheld and action sequences in *Teenage Kicks*

Teenage Kicks is an 8x30-min sitcom written by Adrian Edmondson and Nigel Smith, mainly shot in front of a live studio audience. The show follows a father, played by Edmondson, who following a messy divorce tries to regain his youth by going to

live with his teenage daughter and her friends in a student flat.

DoP Martin Hawkins was responsible for the location-based inserts for the series, which were filmed over five days. Following positive feedback from fellow cameramen about the HDW-750P, Hawkins decided to use the camera on the show, teaming it up with a Canon J21 lens and a Canon wide-angle lens.

Hawkins found the transition from standard definition to high def a less than daunting prospect: "I liked the HDW-750P because it looks like a normal DigiBeta camera, which I have been brought up with. I've always used Sony cameras so was familiar with its shape and workings. Familiarity is half the battle when you are under pressure," he says.

The HDW-750P was particularly well suited to the location inserts for *Teenage Kicks* as it could be up on the camera

operator's shoulder in seconds and then straight onto the dolly. "It is very rugged too. We had it hanging off the side of a car and used it running down the street so it is lightweight enough for handheld footage," explains Hawkins.

Hawkins hires kit from AFL Television but has bought his own add-ons. The choice to hire was made because cameras change fairly regularly and Hawkins believes it's important to be on top of the latest models. "I thought owning the camera may restrict me. As AFL went down the Sony route this also affected my decision to use this brand of camera," he adds.

The Time Lapse Recording feature of the camera was found to be particularly beneficial for the title shoot of *Teenage Kicks*, which consisted of lots of time-lapse images behind the main characters. "I was quite nervous at first as I had never done time-lapse before but a friend of mine had told me how easy it was using the HDW-750P. Sure enough, within five minutes you are comfortable with it. Just press the switch on the menu and you're shooting time-lapse."

Although the HDW-750P is available with a colour viewfinder, Hawkins has opted for the black and white version. "I quite like the contrast of the black and white. Grading nowadays is so sophisticated that you can tweak in the grade. It's amazing what your eye can tell you too."

Teenage Kicks was shot at a frame rate of 50i, but Hawkins has filmed other projects that make use of switching between progressive

Martin Hawkins, DoP Why the HDW-750P?

"The crossover from DigiBeta to the HDW-750 is very easy. Once you're used to it, the menu is just brilliant"



A camera offering quality and robust build was necessary for *Teenage Kicks*