

House M.D. makes the leap from 35mm to the Canon 5D Mark ii

There is a war brewing within the film community, not to sound too dramatic. The old school seems to be reluctant to embrace the new wave of DSLR cameras, which many filmmakers (young and old) have speedily started to use, shooting events, music videos, commercials, independent films and now full length television episodes. Last season's finale of House, M.D. made the switch from 35mm film to the impressive, compact Canon 5D Mark ii. At first glance, the 5D looks like a photography camera, which it doubles as, however it is also capable of high quality, film-like digital footage. Some of the perks of the 5D include film-like quality of the images with a shallow depth of field, the ability to interchange lenses, a full-frame sensor and an ISO range of 100-6400. The shallow depth of field along with interchanging lenses is what really makes the 5D worth its price tag, for many handheld cameras are capable of shooting HD footage. Also, the full-frame sensor simply means when looking through the camera the image is not cropped, something you'll find in the Canon 7D, and it has the extraordinary ability to shoot in low light. The size of the 5D, along with its accessories, make it ideal for shooting in confined settings, allowing unique shots never before possible. To film experts the transition from film to digital is evident, however the House episode and its usual dark, brooding lighting made the usage of digital appear to be a match made in heaven. The director of the episode enjoyed the experience, calling the 5D "the future," which many people agree with, for work shot on the 5D is rapidly becoming more available. The 5D will be the brave new face of independent film, for its quality conjoined with its accessibility is unmatched. For an example of DSLRs shooting at their highest capacity check out the work of Philip Bloom, who is a highly skilled DP, filmmaker and teacher of DSLRs. All in all, the House episode was truly a giant leap for both the show and the camera, and perhaps even for mankind.