

Biography by Richard Brown

Richard Tucker was a Welshman, born in Swansea on June 1st, 1930. Five years later the family moved to Didsbury in Manchester, a city with which Richard was to have close connections for the remainder of his long life. After leaving school at the age of 16, Richard worked as a draughtsman whilst studying structural engineering part-time at Manchester College of Technology.

It is not clear exactly when his interest in photography first began, but it was certainly well established by the time of his National Service in the RAF in the early 1950s. He records buying several different cameras whilst serving in Germany and the Far East, culminating with a Robot clockwork motor-drive camera, which was used to take rapid sequences of colour slides to use in lectures on Richard's other great interest - soccer refereeing.

Back in England, Richard continued to consolidate his photographic skills, and he began giving lectures to photographic clubs, the first being on September 25th, 1967. Soon after this, he embarked on a new path: that of creating audio visual programmes. Initially, this was in conjunction with his friend Eddie Roper. This co-operation was essential since they owned only one slide projector each and two were needed for the show!

Richard's abilities in this new and rapidly developing medium were soon recognised by the Royal Photographic Society and in 1971 he became only the second person to be awarded a Fellowship of the Society for a set of slide-sound sequences.

Around this time, Richard's talents as a presenter became widely known at the national level when he was appointed as the principal lecturer for the 80 Nikon School of Photography and he toured throughout the UK during the 1970s. By now, he had taken the bold step to leave his job as a sales rep. for Bostik Adhesives to become a full-time freelance photographer.

It was at one of Richard's presentations in Birmingham in 1975 that a 17-year-old schoolboy, who was interested in photography, happened to see an AV (audio-visual) show for the very first time. He was entranced by what he saw and heard, and was determined that evening that he was going to find out how to do it for himself. You will have guessed that that callow youth was me. Thus started my now fifty-one-year love affair with AV, which has made me so many wonderful friends, taken me all over the world and cost me a great deal of money! All I can say is "that Richard Tucker has got a lot to answer for!"

Through the 1980s and 90s, Richard continued to mount audio visual weekends and summer schools at numerous different venues, most memorably Dyffryn House near

Cardiff. He eventually estimated that the total number of shows and lectures he had presented was around seven hundred.

In 1982 he joined Comcen, who were based near Cirencester, as an Associate Director, becoming involved with producing video and computer graphics as well as photography.

After a two-year spell working for a video production company, Alphabet Richard returned to living and working full time at home in Sandbach as a freelance 3D animation designer.

People blessed with Richard's boundless energy never really retire and that was certainly true in his case. Even in his final years, he directed his tremendous enthusiasm towards his personal digital imaging and computer graphics interests. His first-floor workroom was something akin to mission control at NASA.

Also, in his final years he spent much of his time keeping his extensive website going, looking after his cat, Vic and following the exploits of his beloved Manchester City, of which he was a supporter for over sixty years.

Like a stick of rock, if it had been possible to cut Richard in half, he would have had the words "Richard Tucker. Photographer" written right through him. Surely, there can be no greater tribute than that.

Cheers mate. Have a restful sleep. You have earned it.

Richard Brown