



Clive and Keith giving a presentation of the Midland Salon accepted slides, early 1980s.

With Richard, Clive's final lecture. Worcester 2018.



Clive Michael Atkins FBIPP FRPS FIPF EFIAP 1933-2023

"A Sound Life"

Our dear friend Clive Atkins died suddenly but peacefully on 14th October 2023 at his care home at the age of 90. Sadly, he had been suffering from dementia for a number of years.

Clive started his career as a television repair apprentice. But after National Service in the RAF he joined the fledgling ATV company in Birmingham as a sound trainee in 1957, at the suggestion of his lifelong friend and colleague Peter Rubery. He was at ATV and Central Television, eventually as a sound supervisor until his retirement, working on shows as varied as Crossroads, New Faces and Spitting Image.

Clive was interested in Standard-8 cine production from the early 60s. Working alongside Pete and with their wives Diane and Rita operating multiple tape recorders, they produced a number of documentary films with complex mixed soundtracks.

Clive's involvement in slide-tape was sparked by Keith Brown. He remembers "I joined Aston and Erdington P.S., in 1975 and after seeing an AV show by Ray Dowding I started to try and produce AVs. Soon, the MCPF

asked me to make an AV to accompany their traveling slide portfolio, but I had never recorded a voice before. However, I decided to have a go and asked Diane Atkins to do the voiceover - she had also joined A&E at the same time as me. When Diane heard the recording she wasn't very impressed and tactfully suggested that she should introduce me to her husband and he would teach me how to make a better job of it. I jumped at the chance and the first time I saw Clive he was kneeling over a two track tape recorder doing some tape editing for a home movie film. That image of Clive has stayed in my mind and he was always seen kneeling on the floor over the tape deck to do his editing."

Clive joined A&E himself and started to make AV productions. One of his earliest and best known sequences was 'Eight Hours on the Whistle' the story of Welsh slate mining, with a voiceover by Stan Stennett who was then appearing in Crossroads. Keith and Clive started doing shows and lectures together and Clive quickly established his reputation as the Midlands' own "Mr. Sound". Hundreds of AV workers benefited from Clive's expertise and advice at a time when more

sophisticated soundtracks were becoming the norm. They were both leading members of the A&E AV Group, many of whom enjoyed great success in the annual MidPhot AV competition. It was at MidPhot in the early 80s that Richard got to know Keith and Clive and he became a regular member of the small gang who used to assemble at Clive's house on Sunday evenings, where everyone would have an AV at some stage of completion.

The three of us soon became a team and acquired the informal title of 'The Boys from Brum'. We did hundreds of shows and workshops for clubs and federations. These would often be tours of several different venues around a region, which resulted in tremendous camaraderie, endless laughter and a huge store of memories and anecdotes. The most enjoyable and certainly the funniest was our visit to Ireland in 1987 to do presentations for both the IPF and NIPA. This was officially titled 'Three Fellows on Tour' but we christened it the '9 O'Clock Sharp Tour' since none of the shows in the South started at anything close to the advertised time of "9 O'Clock Sharp"!

Clive was a keen member of the RPS and the AV Group. After gaining his FRPS in 1986 he was soon invited to become an assessor himself and his experience in sound production was invaluable to the panel. Later, he was also an assessor for the PAGB Awards in AV.

In the late 90s Clive's interest turned back to movies, which had now of course become video. He established another successful amateur career in this field as a leading member of Lichfield Movie Makers.

Clive was involved continuously in one AV activity or another for nearly sixty years. Through the endless generosity of his advice and practical help he influenced countless other enthusiasts. But most of all, to us he was our mate Clive. Always there, always cheerful. We miss him so much.

Keith Brown and Richard Brown.