



Richard Thomas Hart

(1943-2024)

Richard began his career in the early sixties at MGM. He started at the very bottom in the lighting department, learning his craft very well. He went from the rigging crew to set work and learned from the perms down to the floor to keep your eye on the head man by the camera, and give him whatever was needed. It was not too long after he began that he would get opportunities to be in charge.

His big break came with a television series called Bronson. It was a traveling show so it gave him lots of different types of lighting challenges. And that led to his movie career working on projects like Vanishing Point, Harold and Maude, Sounder, Lady Sings the Blues, Breakheart Pass, Cutter's Way, Blade Runner, Best Friends, and many others.

When challenged, he was a problem solver, creating inventive solutions to problems. He made a battery cart that could be pulled behind a car, without being seen to power lights on a car mount. When he was then asked to do Blade Runner, Ridley Scott wanted a new kind of lighting effect. Richard found a helicopter light and that was the first use of a Xenon light on a movie.

Sound didn't like it and so, in his garage with his Dad, and an engineer, and one other helper, he developed the Xenon light that became very popular not only in movies but in architecture. The beam at the Luxor holds seventeen lamps and can be seen from outer space. Treasure Island is another successful location of the lamps.

Richard tried his hand at cinematography becoming the second unit Director of Photography on Romancing the Stone. In addition he did a couple of small projects as Cinematographer. But his company, Xenotech, took off and went from a garage to a building with 22 employees, and he ran that business full time.

He loved the motion picture business and always said what a miracle it was to give a crew so many days to do a project and they would get it done!! That contrasted with schedules in business that seemed less structured.

Richard was a loving husband, father, step father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. Fix it man, great neighbor, great cook and an OK golfer. He is leaving wonderful memories for us and all. We will miss his smile and sense of humor and his love.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date.