

My Favorite Places

by David Darby, ASC

I was sitting in a favorite Hollywood restaurant recently and couldn't believe how many years I've been going there now, but the reason is simple: trust. I can go in anytime, in the middle of anything, and get the same consistent and excellent care and attention no matter what.

When it comes to rental houses and Clairmont Camera, I've been going there for as long as I've been eating in that restaurant. From my earliest experience as a PA returning gear and subsequently my transition from documentaries to Hollywood, the thing that always amazed me was the treatment I received from Clairmont. It was the "above and beyond" support that I figured was years down the road, if ever.

In the course of a long and fortunate career, I've experienced a lot of other places to both eat and work. I've seen how other rental houses do things on almost every continent, and I can easily say that none of them have the

same command of both the technical side of cinematography and equipment —be it film or digital — and the personal side at the same time.

They'll also answer plenty of what I call dumb questions; I'm happy to say I still come up with more than my share.

And it never ceases to amaze me how the experience and vision of Denny Clairmont and his staff is applied to their wares in order to make them just that bit more perfect and ready, well before we take them on the road. That alone sets Clairmont apart in a serious way.

I love the fact that these calm and professional hearts and minds are there for us, as if they were always a part of our crew, just a little farther away than the camera truck. For me, and other friends in the industry, Clairmont is very much like a lighthouse providing guidance. We can always trust that no matter what we're up against or what we're in the middle of, we'll have the best stuff and the best support no matter what.

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