

Panasonic Lumix GH2

When William Wages, ASC was shooting a TV movie, he chose an unusual still camera for several shots. "The Panasonic Lumix GH2 was easier to use than many other digital cameras I've worked with," Wages recalls. "The images were astounding. We did a comparison to the ARRI Alexa, including a difficult green-screen shot with hair, and it keyed with no problem. The chip is similar in size to a 35-mm Academy frame, so the depth of field is shallow enough to intercut with a super 35 sensor."

Wages first used the GH2 as a crash camera, but because of its tiny size, he turned to it for a scene inside a car, and then used it for following the actor as he exited and walked into a house.

The GH2 is uniquely suited for cinematography. It has an eye-level electronic viewfinder, eliminating the need for attachments. There is also an HDMI out allowing a monitor and the viewfinder to be used simultaneously. It records in full HD 1920 × 1080 in smooth 60i, doubling the sensor output from 25p/24p to 50p/60p. The camera also supports 1080/24p at 24 Mbps. A three-inch rotatable LCD on the back facilitates low- or high-angle shots.

The camera also has no mirror, resulting in a

shallow flange focal depth. This allows virtually any lens to be used with an adaptor. "I've used it with PL mount lenses and with a \$60 adaptor, my old Éclair mount Kinoptiks," Wages adds. "Straight out of the box you can shoot beautiful video that intercuts with a full-size production camera, which really makes this little gem an invaluable tool."

LUMIX GH2 is available in three kit options: \$899.95 (body only), \$999.95 (body with lens LUMIX G VARIO 14-42 mm/F3.5-5.6 ASPH./MEGA O.I.S.), \$1499.95 (body with lens LUMIX G VARIO HD 14-140 mm/F4.0-5.8 ASPH./MEGA O.I.S.).

www.panasonic.net/avc/lumix/

