

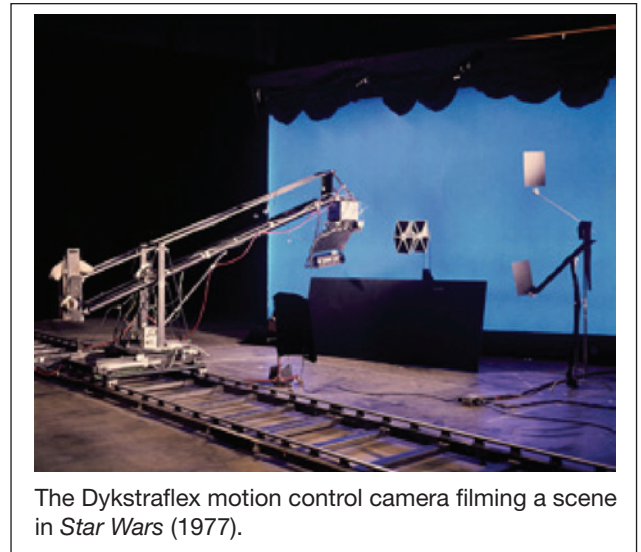


“Science of the Movies” Looks at Motion Control

New Discovery series episode featuring John Guite from Parker will air again on June 27.

From giving flight to intergalactic ships to showcasing the fighting skills of superheroes, motion control has been used for decades to create movie magic. Parker has been there from the beginning of this unique art. In fact, when filmmaker George Lucas was working on *Star Wars* in the mid-’70s, he and his creative team chose stepper motors and drives from Compumotor as part of their Dykstraflex digitally-controlled camera, which performed complex and repeatable motions around stationary spaceship models. This enabled greater complexity in the movie’s exciting battle scenes, since separately filmed elements such as ships and back-grounds could be coordinated with greatly reduced error.

Film fans can meet the inventor of this unique camera, John Dykstra, and learn about the wonders of motion control in the first episode of a new Discovery series called *Science of the Movies*, which explores the remarkable world that exists behind the screen, spotlighting the innovative technology and amazing techniques responsible for creating unforgettable, edge-of-your-seat moments in blockbuster films. The premiere episode first aired on May 26 and will be re-run on June 27.



The Dykstraflex motion control camera filming a scene in *Star Wars* (1977).



John Guite (left) in a cleanroom with show host Nar Williams.

Viewers of this episode will also meet the Electromechanical Automation Division’s John Guite, who was asked by the show’s producers to discuss the history of motion control on camera with host Nar Williams. The episode highlights the groundbreaking motion control used to take out the Death Star in *Star Wars* and brings you up to date with the cutting-edge CGI effects that wow audiences today in movies like *Spider-Man* and *The Dark Knight*.

You can also view the motion control episode online [here](#), or check the Discovery [Web site](#) for additional air dates.