

MEDIA RELEASE

2 December 2020

SAE Melbourne leads industry in merging audio and VR

SAE Creative Media Institute audio lecturer, Nick Harrison has been educating students using the cutting edge VR spatial music mixing software, 'Dear VR Spatial Connect' - offering a full 360 degree immersive mixing experience for students.

Through Nick's teaching of the undergraduate and postgraduate audio programs at SAE Melbourne, he shares his passion for immersive and interactive sound. It is in the postgraduate program however, where Nick is able to apply the virtual reality (VR) technology to the Immersive Audio module in the Master of Creative Industries.

"As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, SAE's flexible blended learning model gives me the opportunity to introduce students to immersive audio production - the future of audio. I use this to help demonstrate new immersive mixing tech. The learning is centred around immersive sound design for linear VR, and the students complete 360 degree binaural sound design that can be experienced in VR," Nick said.

Spatial mixing in VR is an exciting technology, helping to augment the traditional methods used for panning sound in 360 degrees in audio production software like Pro Tools Dolby Atmos and Ambisonics mixing. The technology gives users the opportunity to have 360 degree control of the audio sources alongside levelling, acoustics and automation.

A recent demo Nick produced tracked binaural ambisonic mixing, and merged sound production skills with cutting edge technology - all through VR. "In the demo I've used a virtual theatre and played an SAE promotional video on the 2D theatre screen. An interesting benefit of VR is that the speakers can be positioned anywhere - even under the floor!"

Deputy General Manager of SAE Australia, Dr Luke McMillan, said Nick's work highlighted the talent at SAE teachers. "Faculty like Nick are pioneering the future of creative industries through emerging technology. By studying at SAE, students not only get access to the latest in cutting edge tech, but our expert faculty too," Luke said.

Nick has also developed audio-based applications via the Unity and Unreal game engine. "My current project is tracking turntablist scratching techniques - using low latency IMUs (inertial measurement units) on records - into Unity for a side-scrolling space shooter. I hope to encourage students to develop their audio endeavours through using new tools like the Unity game engine and offer up my research as inspiration."

SAE is the place for the creators and innovators. We are the leaders in creative media education across six disciplines – animation, audio, design, film, games, web and mobile. Learn about our internationally recognised [audio production courses](#) and emerging tech programs including the [Master of Creative Industries](#). FEE HELP is available. To enrol or find out more, chat with an SAE Course Advisor today on 1800 723 338.

For more information:

Barry de Silva, National Communications Manager

Phone: 0498 004 023

Email: b.desilva@sae.edu

Imagery



Video

[SAE VR Mixing Demo with Dear Reality Spatial Connect](#)

About SAE

Established in 1976, SAE Creative Media Institute provides niche creative media programs to about 10,000 students at more than 50 campuses around the world. SAE is recognised for providing students with access to the best industry equipment and facilities, employing teaching staff with strong industry experience and delivering hands on teaching and learning in small class environments. The Institute engages with industry to develop curriculum that is relevant to local and global workforce needs. Work placements and internships are embedded in SAE programs are pathways to employment. Globally, SAE offers an extensive suite of creative media programs, from short courses and professional training through to bachelor and postgraduate degrees. SAE is a part of Navitas Pty Ltd. Further information about SAE is available at www.sae.edu.au.

About Navitas

Navitas is a proud Australian company that pioneered an innovative university partnership model of education in Perth in 1994. Its entities have delivered education programs across the country since 1976. Further information about Navitas Pty Ltd is available at www.navitas.com.