Television is getting bigger and brighter as 8K comes to Cannes

Chris Forrester previews some of the 4K and 8K presentations that are taking place at MIPTV this year

Overs the past five years or so, 4K High Dynamic Range transmission has become commonplace in many parts of the world. Consumers are increasingly buying high-end — and ever-larger — 4K displays, and MIPTV’s annual showcase of 4K programming has never been stronger or more diverse. The likes of OTT giants Netflix and Amazon Prime are also busy ramping up their 4K commissions. But technology moves on and this year for the first time, MIPTV is presenting half a day of 8K programming, on Tuesday, April 9. Japan is at the forefront of 8K production with NHK having started its regular daily transmissions of ‘Super Hi-Vision’ on December 1 last year. MIPTV delegates can view some of this output on Sony’s very latest 98” Bravia Master display at the Sony UHD Theatre in the Palais des Festivals. NHK will screen segments from its Two Hour Tour series of city visits — two hours being the average time Japanese tourists spend at attractions around the world. The Palais Of Versailles, a co-production between NHK and the Chateau of Versailles, will be showcased. NHK has also looked closely at its archive and MIPTV delegates will see a digitally re-mastered 8K version of Hollywood’s perennial musical favourite My Fair Lady, captured from the original 70mm master. Also being screened in 8K is musique content from France’s Paramax Films including a musical tribute to the late Michel Legrand; spectacular 8K footage of the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Canova from Italy’s Magnitudo Film; Volcanoes and Rocky Mountain Express from K2 Studios in the US; and Japanese broadcaster Wowow will show clips from a locally-produced version of US police procedural drama Cold Case. Director and cinematographer Peter Chang (Golden Gate 3D) will showcase his latest UHD 8K output including Cuba, shot for BBC Earth and Giant Screen Films, and San Francisco Flow; France’s Saint Thomas Productions, which regularly uses 8K for its factual and documentary output, will show footage of the spectacular eruption of Anak Krakatau; and NASA TV will screen impressive footage taken from the International Space Station in 8K.

Kansai-TV will screen 8K drama To Make, which has won a number of awards including in the short-film category at the New York Film Festival. But 4K is not forgotten. France Televisions will showcase Tracks Through China; and the first 4K animation to be shown at MIPTV will be Moominvalley, a Finnish-UK co-production from Gutsy Animations.

ZDF Enterprises will screen The Crimson Rivers, from Storia Television in co-production with Maza Pictures for France TV and ZDF with ZDFE, a thriller set in the macabre world of gruesome crimes and harrowing rituals. ZDFE will also show The Greatest Race, produced by Lion TV in co-operation with Smithsonian Networks, C4, ARTE, ZDF and ZDFE, which tells the story of Scopetus, a slave in ancient Rome who becomes one of the period’s most successful charioteers at the Circus Maximus.

There are special 4K panels from India’s Travelsp 4K HD, Russia’s Tricolor TV, Spain’s Movistar+, MediaPro, Wild Stories/TVE, France’s MyZen TV and Canada’s Stingray and Paramax Films.

Photos: Metropolitan, Gutsy Animationen