



Richard Williams at his London studio.

ENVIRON FOR ANIMATION

by Nigel Pounder

One of the more unusual applications for Environ dimmers came to light recently when, in conversation with the Editor, I was told that an 8kW Tungsten Environ 2 system has just been installed in an animation

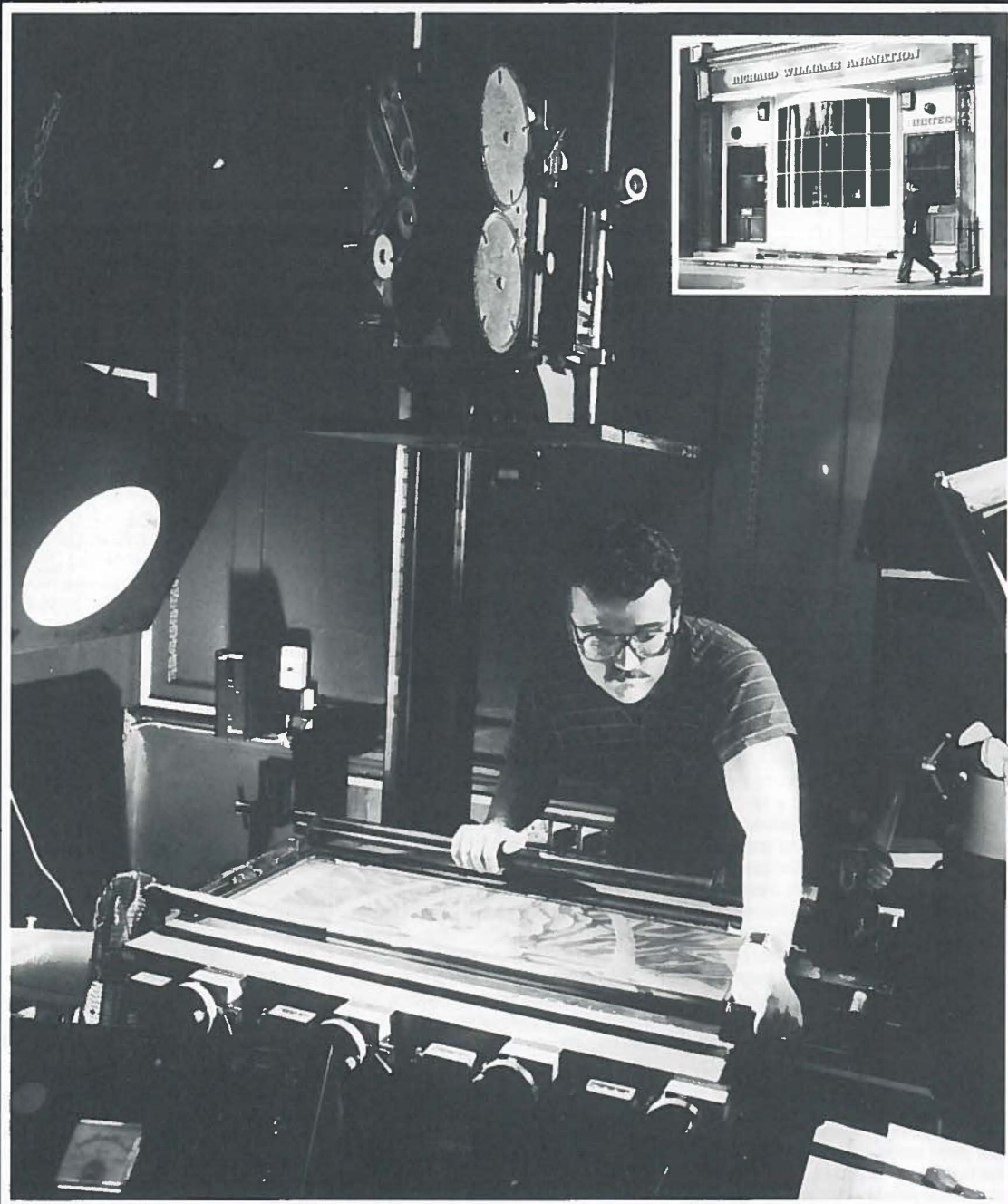
studio in London's West End. The studio is Richard Williams Animation Limited of Soho Square and the Environ is in conjunction with the lighting on their rostrum camera.

Richard Williams is probably best

known for his studio's outstanding work on such "classics" as "The Return of the Pink Panther", "The Charge of the Light Brigade", the Oscar-winning "A Christmas Carol" and the award-winning "Tempest" commercial for Shell.

The studio's lighting set up consists of two elderly but efficient Patt 252 2kW lanterns situated either side of the rostrum and the camera's integral tungsten lamps beneath the copy board. This presented something of a problem because, due to the nature of rostrum camera work – the constant switching from on to off of the light source – the lamps were not lasting too long. And replacement was becoming expensive!

It's an accepted fact that by gradually increasing and decreasing light levels, rather than switching from on to off, lamp life is greatly extended, so the animators duly consulted Rank Strand, and Environ 2 was prescribed. The cure was quickly taken and has been highly effective – it even produced some welcome side effects: whilst their camera's lamps have been given a new lease of life, the animators have discovered some fascinating opportunities for special effects lighting. Future productions from the studio should be very interesting, for another string to their already magnificent bow will produce some outstanding results ■



Above: Rostrum Camera with Environ controlled lighting. Inset: Richard Williams Animation Ltd, Soho Square, London.



The Panther as Fred Astaire, in a scene from the title sequence of Blake Edwards' "The Return of the Pink Panther" (1975), in which Williams and veteran animator Ken Harris spoofed a host of movie stars just by changing the way the Panther walks.