

## Close encounters *Critical's* probe lens

What links *Star Wars*, a *Toilet Duck* commercial and new drama *Critical*? Answer: a probe lens, which is seen here capturing some particularly gory shots for the Sky 1 series.

*Critical* DoP Tim Palmer was inspired to use the lens after seeing one in periscope mode in behind-the-scenes pictures of the visual effects used for *Star Wars'* attack on

the Death Star scene. He last used a similar set-up to dive into a toilet bowl for a Toilet Duck commercial, and this time the Take 2-supplied Optex Excellence glass proved equally adept at capturing some close-up nastiness.

"It wouldn't work on a show like *Critical* to be back away from the action on a long lens," says Palmer. "With the probe, you can

focus within a centimetre of the front element of the lens, which enables you to access every bit of the prosthetic in close-up and takes viewers right into the middle of the action."

Visit [broadcastnow.co.uk/techfacils](http://broadcastnow.co.uk/techfacils) for more about Palmer's use of the probe lens. The 13-part *Critical* TXs on Sky 1 at 9pm from Tuesday 24 February.