Basic Movie Editing

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Overview (1)

1. Why editing?

2. Set up your system

3. Capture your footage

4. Edit your video

5. Add transitions and titles

Overview (2)

6. Edit the sound

7. Review it all

8. Output to tape, dvd, internet and more

9. Archive your project

10. Demonstrations on Windows and MacOs

1. Why editing?

- Weed out unwanted footage
- Create the flow of your story, by
  - selecting the best shots,
  - re-arranging scenes,
  - adding transitions,
  - add titles, sound-effects and music
- Polish the presentation, make the movie interesting to watch
- Distribute your video to a larger audience by DVD, Web, iPod,etc.

2. Set-up your system (1)

- Check hardware and software match:
  - Camcorder: Tape or Direct Access Storage
  - Computer: PC or Mac
  - Operating System: Windows, Linux, MacOs
  - Editing software: Consumer or Professional
  - Interfaces depending on above
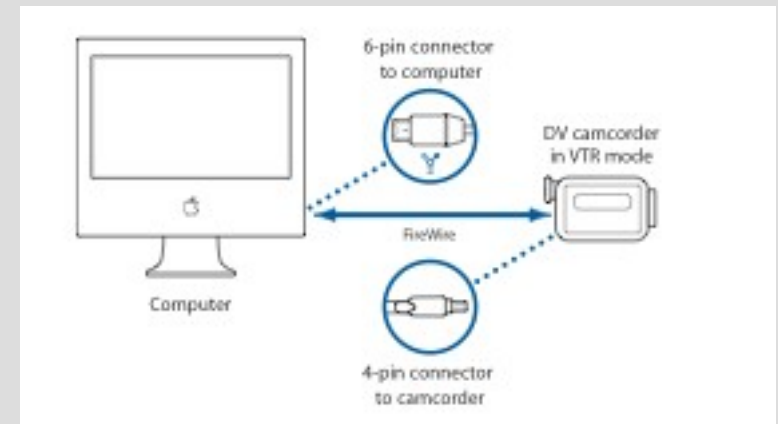
2. Set-up your system (2)

Camcorder and video storage

- Analog tape: VHS, S-VHS and Hi-8 are obsolete by now. Interface via dedicated card or device

- Digital tape (mini-DV) with Standard Definition (SD) or High Definition (HDV). Interface via Firewire (= Sony i-Link or IEEE1394).

- Solid State card, Hard Disk, 8cm-DVD: Interface is mostly USB v.2+

2. Set up your system (3)

- The set-up is crucial for the ability to capture, render and output your video smoothly.
- Spending some time on this part will pay back later!

Pre-2000

Post-2000

3. Capture your footage (1)

- Tape means sequentially playing the tape at normal speed to capture the footage.
- With direct access (SD card, Hard disk,...) you can select files to be "copied" at high speed.
- Both storage media have their pro's and cons (part of a separate talk).

3. Capture your footage (2)

Depending on your camcorder:

1. For camera's with mini-DV tape:
   - Consumer software will use start-stop on camera to generate clips per scene (or put markers per scene).
   - Pro software also use batch definition, providing scene selection up-front on camera.
   - For larger projects scene naming and "bins" for organising clips per event are handy.
   - The video data will either be stored in native format or be transcoded on the fly for more accurate editing.

3. Capture your footage (3)

2. For cameras with direct access storage:
   - Original clips are stored as files.
   - The files are "simply" copied via USB to your computer. This is called "ingesting" (instead of capturing).
   - However the format must be compatible with the editing software.
   - For High Definition (HD), the format is called AVCHD, existing in several variations and qualities.
   - You need to check compatibility before buying camera and software.

4. Edit your video (1)

Viewer or Canvas

Original clips

Timeline

4. Edit your video (2)

- Get familiar with the interface of your software.

- Make up your mind on the general order of the clips for your video.
- Two options:
  - Drag clips to timeline and edit later
  - First edit clips roughly and then insert in timeline

- On the timeline, you can use the usual selection functions and cut, copy and paste, just as you would in a text document.

4. Edit your video (3)

- Begin by eliminating all blurred and unstable shots

- If an unstable shot is otherwise static, you can make a "freeze frame", a picture of a frame, which will be a clip of any length you like.
- For the same purpose you may import photo's...

- You can remove unwanted images in the middle of a clip by splitting it and cropping one of the new sub-clips and add a transition in between.

4. Edit your video (4)

- General timing: shorten your clips as much as possible, but regularly leave some time of rest.
- Use changes in speed (faster, slower, reverse) with moderation.
- Brighten-up low contrast images (eg shot with tele-lens or during a dull day).
- Test the timing with a relative or friend

5. Add transitions and titles

- Transitions are useful for separating "chapters" or for a smooth flow of the video.
- Be cautious with "cheap" effects.
- Titles are necessary for recalling the theme of the video, for giving credits (at the end), and for explaining (in the form of subtitles).
- Set size and font, and choose your background still picture or movie clip.
- Mixed sizes and fonts in one title are not always possible inside consumer products!

6. Edit the sound

- A good soundtrack is a step towards a good movie.
- You may wish to cancel your captured sound all-together and replace it by music and voice.
- Or keep the good sound and fade out the rest (wind noise, spoken word off-scene,...).
- Overlay music and/or commentary and mix the sound.
- Avoid music too well known to the ear of the viewer.
- For publishing you should have authorisation or copyright!

7. Review your work

The most efficient way to proceed :
- Edit images and review
- Add transitions and titles
- Review thoroughly. Can the message still be more focussed and compacted?
- Edit the sound and add voiceover, effects and music.
- Review again with the help of another person
- Produce a first proof on DVD or tape which can be played on TV.

8. Output to DVD, tape, etc

• Two main categories of output
1. "Print-to-Video" means transferring your movie back to tape. The camera must be able to record from Firewire.
2. "Export" means producing a movie in one of several formats support-ed by the editing software. Examples are .mov, .avi. .mp2, h.264,...

In Standard Definition (720x576 pixels) the operation will be about real time.
In High Definition (1280x720, 1920x1080) the operation will take much longer, depending on the power of your computer, the editing format, and the output format.
For DVD, you might want to think about a theme for and the structure of the menu, as well as a background music.

9. Archive your production

• First of all archive your project file, containing all your editing steps, transitions, effects, titles, etc.
• Archive as well all assets, like photo's, music, etc.
• Archive your finished movie in the best possible quality on tape or hard-disks (Note: an hour of video in Apple's editing format needs 40 GB of disk space)
• About archiving and back-up: preference goes to redundant hard-disks, tape, CD-R, DVD+R in the order of most secure to less secure.
• Distributing your movie to relatives and friends on physical media or via the internet is a good additional measure.
• A good site for "videographers" with a little ambition is

www.vimeo.com

10. Credits

Credits are given to the following sources:

1. http://www.izzyvideo.com
2. http://www.mediacollege.com/video/

Many thanks for your attention

- www.jamendo.com
- creative commons copyright