Video Editing Basics - My Way
U3A – Digital Photography Group
Friday 16th September 2022

After finishing a video shooting session, it is time to produce a film.

There are several video editing software available for all devices (computers, smartphone or tablets)

The most popular are:
- o Adobe Premiere Pro (Apple & PC)
- o Final Cut Pro X (Apple)
- o DaVinci Resolve (Apple & PC) with a Free Version
- o iMovie (Apple OS & IOS) or Lumafusion (Apple IOS)
- o Pinnacle 25 Studio (Easy)
- o Movavi Unlimited (Easy)
- o Vegs Pro 19 (Complex)
- o And many more for desktop and mobile devices.

As a dedicated Mac user, Final Cut Pro X is the software I use with the following workflow.

A – ORGANISING THE WORKFLOW PROCESS

1) Upload all the relevant video clips to the hard disk, and back them up on a separate support.

2) Organise the files in folders, including folders with photos and music.

3) I watch all relevant clips with the software QuickTime Player (Apple & PC), starting to trim my footage to shorten and rename (+ numbering) my clips.

   a) Trimming = Remove the beginning of a clip and/or the end, but I also trim to cut part of the video into separate new clips.
   b) I also use QuickTime player to save the sound track of some of my videos that I may need during editing. If a recording has disturbing background noise, there is specific software to clean the sound before reinserting it into its video clip.
   c) Sometimes, I transfer some of my shortened clips to my iPhone or tablet to make the following final adjustments (I find it easier and quicker than doing it with FCPX):
      i) Cropping = removing the unwanted part of a clip by reducing its dimensions.
      ii) Rotating = changing the angle of the video to fix the orientation.
      iii) Flipping = Horizontal or Vertical flip to change the aspect of the clip.

B – COMPILING THE CLIPS INTO A MOVIE

4) Open Final Cut Pro software, create a New Library and Project, import the media files (video, photos and music).

5) Once the clips are imported, I start editing further by selecting specific scenes, doing more trimming and inputting them into the timeline.

6) In some of my projects, I also add some photos, or some additional video clips, placed over the main timeline. They are called B-Roll shots.

7) I process to add transitions between clips when I feel it may add to the story.

    a) Transitions are special effects that connect one scene to the next one.
    b) There are many different types of transitions available in the editing software, and third parties offer even more different and complicated types of transitions.
    c) The most common types are:
        i) Fade in and out
        ii) Zoom in and out
        iii) Swipes and wipes
        iv) Blurring transition
        v) Spins and twists

8) I then add text to my video.

    a) **Titles** to introduce the content of the film.
    b) **End Credits** to name the cast and collaborators to the movie (if any), the music score and the author's name of the project.
    c) **Captions** to emphasise an element of the screenshot.
    d) Most editing software provides customisable templates, making adding text to the video easy.

9) Adding Music: The most difficult part (for me) is selecting the background music.

    a) I am not a musician and therefore rely on music from the Internet, or if a friend who plays an instrument may let me use his recordings.
    b) There are many ways to upload music files on the Internet. YouTube provides a lot of tunes that may be used freely without copyrights.
    c) FCP X, and other software, include several sounds and music.
    d) For a price, many third parties offer a massive catalogue of ready-to-use music and sound effects.

10) Video Colour Adjustments: Colour Profile, Colour Correction and Colour Grading.

    a) It is the most delicate part of the workflow, which requires quite a lot of training, and I am still learning.
    b) A picture profile determines the footage's characteristics and helps keep consistency across the video. Some popular picture profiles include C-Log, S-Log, V-Log, etc.
    c) Colour correction is the process of fixing the technical colour issues to make the footage look natural (adjusting exposure, contrast, white balance, etc.).
    d) Colour grading is a more creative process responsible for creating a specific mood and atmosphere, the final look of the video depends on colour grading.

C – EXPORTING

11) Exporting the final video to publish on social media.

   a) Most editing software provide a wide range of options for exporting video and templates to make it easy for the user. So, one can export in a preferred file format based on the needs. Besides, many file converters will help change the video format when necessary.
   b) The most common formats are MP4, AVI and MOV. I usually export as MP4, which plays well on PCs, Apple computers and tablets.

12) Conclusion: I hope the live demonstration that Barry and I offered you today will make you decide to give it a try.

Link to Video editing sites that will give you more information:

https://www.renderforest.com/blog/category/video-editing/

There a plenty easy to follow tutorials on You Tube for each specific software that you may wish to use.