iMovie ‘09: The Basics

Overview

iMovie ‘09 is a video editing software package that is included with the iLife ‘09 suite. It allows users to organize footage, edit videos, and export completed movies without extensive training.

Video Tips:
• Start with good footage (use a tripod, microphone for good sound).
• When filming pay attention to lighting, avoid quick pans & zooms.

TIP: A variety of video cameras are available from The Link in the basement of Perkins Library. They can be borrowed for four weeks.

The iMovie ‘09 Interface

1. Project Area – Shows how your clips are arranged in your project.
2. Viewer – Allows you to preview your video. This is also where you crop video or still images.
3. Toolbar – has buttons for the most common tasks.
4. Event Library – Lists every Event you’ve created to organize video clips.
5. Source Area – Shows the clips in your Events, which you can add to a project.
6. Browsers – Allows you to access music, still images, titles, and transitions by clicking on the appropriate button.
Importing Video

There are several ways to import video into iMovie ’09. The following devices are supported:

1. Firewire-equipped video cameras
2. DVD, hard disk or flash memory cameras
3. Digital still cameras (clips are imported through iPhoto)
4. iSight camera built into a Mac or connected through a Firewire cable

To import video from a video camera (through Firewire):

1. Launch iMovie.
2. Select File > New Project
   • Enter a Project Name and select an Aspect ratio, Standard (4:3), Widescreen (16:9) or iPhone (3:2). Standard is best for viewing on regular TV or on the web but when video is shown on an HDTV, black bars will appear alongside the image (aka Pillar box effect)
   • Choose a Theme.
   • Check box next to “Automatically Add” if you want iMovie to automatically add a transition between each clip, then select the transition you want to apply.
3. Connect your Firewire cable to your computer and make sure the camera is turned on and in the correct mode for video transferring (typically Play/VCR). This varies camera-to-camera.
4. The Camera Import window will open. If not, go to File > Import from Camera.
5. Make sure your camera is selected in the camera pull down menu.
6. Set the rocker button to Auto if you want to capture the entire tape and Manual if you want to capture various clips.
7. Click import.

**TIP:** If the media is already on your computer, you can import the media into iMovie.

**NOTE:** Files will automatically save in this version!

## Editing Your Movie

### Making Selections:
You do not have to use an entire video clip. To select just a portion of any clip:

- Click once on the clip to display a yellow selection area. By default, this area represents 4 seconds of the video. (You can change this in the preferences.)
- To expand or contract the selection, click on the edge of the selection area until the cursor changes to a bar with a double arrow, and then drag in or out.
- To re-center the selection area, place your cursor over the top part of the selection area (until it changes to a hand with a double arrow) and drag the selection area to another location in the clip.
- If you do not want to select the entire clip, hold down the Option key and click on the clip. To select multiple clips, hold down the Command key on your keyboard as you click on the clips you want to select.

### Trimming:
Trimming allows you to change the duration of a clip by removing unwanted frames. To trim a clip:

1. In the Project area, hover over the clip with your cursor to display the action control (it looks like a gear).
2. Click on the action control and select ClipTrimmer. This will open the Clip Trimmer below the Project area and show you the clip as a selection (in yellow). The grayed out area is the part that will be trimmed.
3. Adjust the part you'll keep by dragging on the edges of the selection.
4. To preview the trimmed selection. Click on the Play current clip segment button in the Clip Trimmer.
5. Use the Show previous clip and Show next clip buttons to trim other clips in your project.
6. When you're finished using the Clip Trimmer, click on Done.

### Precision Editor:
The Precision Editor is a visual editing tool that allows you to edit the end of a clip and the beginning of the next clip in the same window.

1. To open the Precision Editor, click on the Action control of any clip in the Project Area and choose Precision Editor. A Precision Editor will open in the in the project area.
2. Click and drag the transition point to change the end of the first clip and the start of the second clip.

Enhancing Your Movie

iMovie offers several tools to allow you to enhance your video:

Photos:
To add a still image to a project:
1. Click on the Photos button on the toolbar.
2. Choose a still image in your iPhoto library and drag it into the Project area.
3. To change the duration of the still image, double-click on the image in the Project area to open the Inspector, click on the clip tab and enter a different value in the Duration field.
4. To add an effect to the image, click on the Video effect button on the clip tab of the Inspector. Hover over the effect thumbnails to see a preview of each effect in the Viewer. Once you find an effect you like, click on its thumbnail to apply it to the image.
5. Click Done.

TIP: To apply a “Ken Burns” effect to a still image, select the still image in the Project area and click on the Crop button on the toolbar. Select the Ken Burns tab in the Viewer. The Ken Burns controls will be visible in the Viewer.

Titles:
To add titles to your movie:
1. Click on the Titles button in the toolbar.
2. Choose a title style and drag it over a video clip in the Project area. The title will show up as a blue icon above the video clip.
3. To edit the title, make sure the blue title icon is selected. A preview of the title will be displayed in the Viewer. Click on the placeholder text to enter your own text.
4. Click on Show Fonts button in the Viewer to open the Fonts window where you can change the color, size, font family and other text properties.
5. Click Done when you’re done editing your title.
6. To change the duration of the title, click on the blue icon and drag on one of its edges (a title can span several clips). To delete a title, select it and press the Delete key on your keyboard.

TIP: To create a title over “black”, drag a title style between two clips. This will activate a background chooser window.
Transitions:
To add a transition between two clips:
1. Click the Transitions button in the toolbar to bring up the Transitions browser.
2. As you hover over a transition in the browser the thumbnail will display a preview of what it does.
3. When you find a transition you like, drag it into the Project area and drop it between two clips. The transition will display as a gray box between the two clips.
4. To preview the transition, skim through the video beginning with the clip right before the transition. To delete a transition, click on the gray transition marker to select it and press the Delete key on your keyboard.

Video Effects:
Video Effects allow you to make your video appear aged, change to b/w, add a vignette, and more. To add a video effect to a clip:
1. Double-click on the clip in the Project area to open the inspector.
2. Click on the Video Effects button in the Clip tab.
3. Hover over each thumbnail to see a preview of the effect in the Viewer. When you find an effect you like, click on its thumbnail.
4. Click Done to close the inspector and add the effect to your clip.

Audio:
To add background music to a project:
1. Click on the Music and Sound Effects button on the toolbar.
2. Click on the disclosure triangle next to iTunes or Garageband in the Music and Sound Effects browser to see the songs available in each of these programs.
3. Choose and iTunes or GarageBand song and click on the Play button at the bottom of the browser to preview it.
4. Drag the song file from the browser to an empty area of the Project. The song is displayed as a green or purple box surrounding the video clips in the Project area. A music note will appear after the last clip in the project area. A music note will appear after the last clip if the music is longer than the video.
   • You can add more than one song.
   • To arrange music go, to Edit > Arrange Music Tracks.
5. If you want a song to start playing at a specific point in the movie, drag that song's green or purple box in the Project area so that the top left edge of the box is over the frame of the video where you want the music to start playing. (This is called pinning the music track to the video.)
6. To remove a song from your project, select it in the Project area and press the Delete key on your keyboard.
Add sound effects (music and sound effects browser), voiceovers (click on the mic icon) and more.

**Themes:**

In addition to standard transitions and title styles, iMovie ‘09 includes several themes that will automatically add transitions and titles to your movie. These themes also include animations that will make your titles and transitions look like variations of a photo album, a bulletin board, scrapbook, filmstrip, etc.

To set a theme for a project:
1. Open the Title or Transition Browser.
2. Click Set Theme in the upper left corner of the browser.
3. Hover over each thumbnail with your cursor to see a preview of the animations included with each theme.
4. When you find a theme you like, click on its thumbnail to select it.
5. Make sure “Automatically add transitions and titles” is selected. Choosing None as the theme will add the auto transitions but not any of the animations.
6. The first time you add a theme, you will be prompted as to what to do when the clip ends (your options are to overlap the ends and shorten the clips, or to extend the ends in the order to keep the duration the same.)
7. Click OK.

**Publishing your Movie**

To share your movies you need to export them out of iMovie ‘09 using one of the options in the Share menu.
1. Share >
2. When the Publish windows opens, select from different options.
3. When you are ready to export, click on Publish. The time varies (depending on your computer and the file size.)
Additional Resources

lynda.com
lynda.com is an online software training library. All Duke students, faculty, and staff can access this resource with their Duke NetID.
http://www.oit.duke.edu/training/online/lynda.php

OIT Multimedia Project Studio (MPS)
If you want help with your multimedia projects or just software in general, the MPS is a great resource available. Trained MPS Consultants are on hand to help out. The labs are located in Old Chemistry 016 on West or in 115 Lilly Library on East Campus.
http://www.oit.duke.edu/mps

Apple iMovie Training – Free Online Tutorial
http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie

Apple iMovie Support
http://www.apple.com/support/imovie/