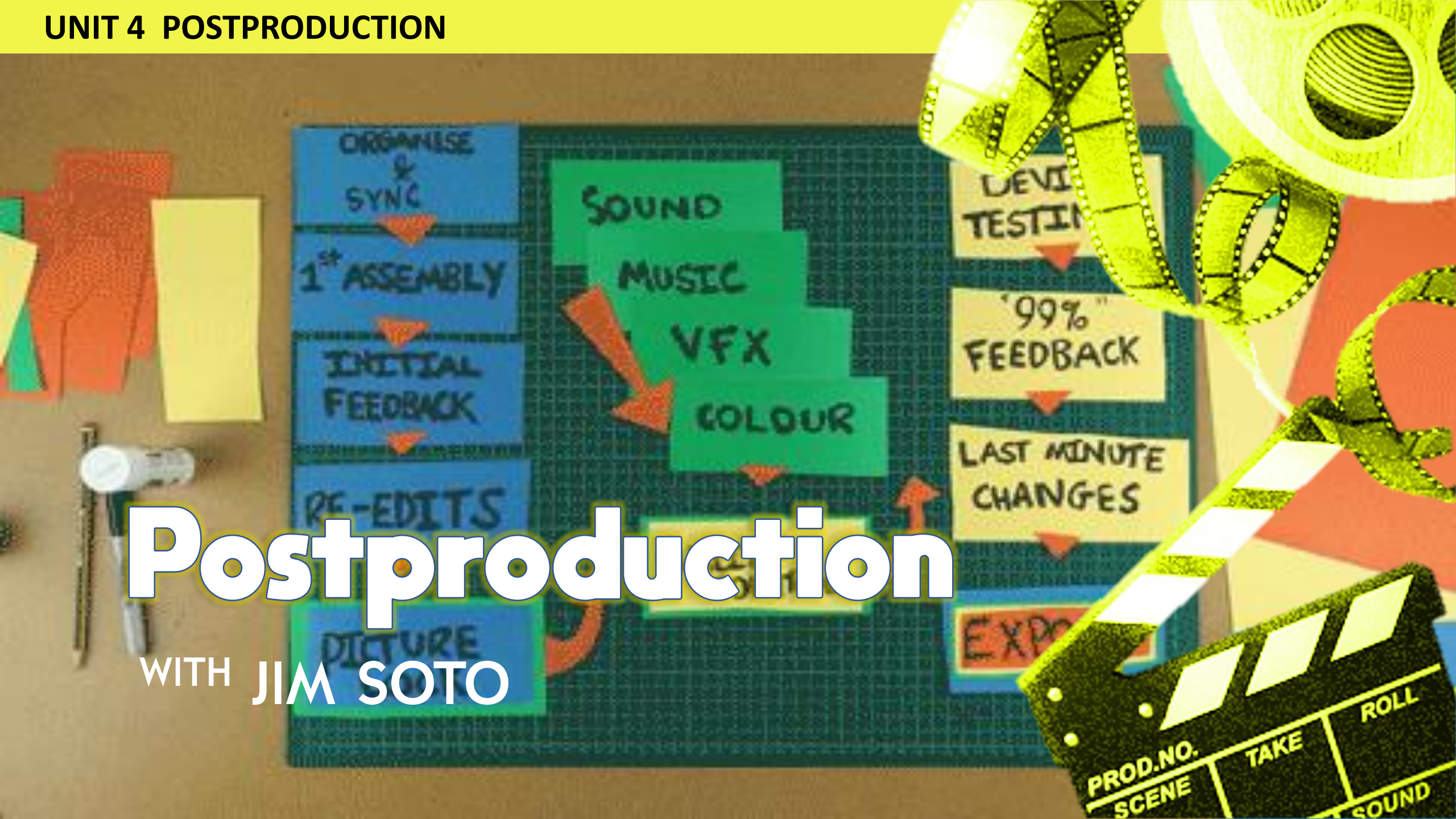


# Postproduction

WITH JIM SOTO



# POST

Post-production is the 4<sup>th</sup> major phase of the filmmaking process. It's often referred to simply as post, e.g. "We can sort that out in post".

Many things happen in post-production. Common tasks include:

- Editing footage
- Editing the soundtrack, adding sound effects, music, etc.
  - Adding titles and graphics
  - Color and exposure correction
  - Adding special visual effects
- Re-shooting certain scenes if required ("pick-up" shots)





**In most cases post-production is relatively straightforward, consisting of choosing and arranging footage in the correct sequence. In most cases however, post-production is a time-consuming job taking longer than the actual production phase. Let's take a tour of the process.**

# EDITING FOOTAGE



Director Quentin Tarantino and long-time collaborating Editor Sally Menke.

Once Principal Photography has concluded and the Director has all the **coverage** needed, it's time to build all that footage into a coherent story. Editing is the process of connecting segments of motion picture footage, special effects and sound recordings in the post-production process.



**Editing is what allowed film to move from simple visual records of events to complex story telling.**

**Because of its importance, the editor's role may almost equal that of the director. Regardless of the footage shot for a film, it will be worthless unless creativity is used in deciding which shots will appear; in what order; and how long they will last.**



This process must be done with sensitivity, perception and artistic appreciation of the film's theme and the director's intentions. In most cases, the director and the editor work together to create the first version of the film (the "director's cut").



# EDITING THE SOUNDTRACK / SCORING



Soundtracks are vitally important when it comes to creating the right feel for a film. Music and other sounds have the ability to key the audience in on what emotions they should be feeling in a given scene.



**Soundtrack editing (or Audio Post) involves several processes. Films may need some, or all of these in order to be complete:**

- 1. Production Dialogue Editing**
- 2. ADR (Additional Dialogue Recording - if needed)**
- 3. Sound Effects Editing & Design**
- 4. Foley Recording (sound effects recorded to sync with film)**
- 5. Music Composition & Music Editing**
- 6. Mixing (or re-recording)**





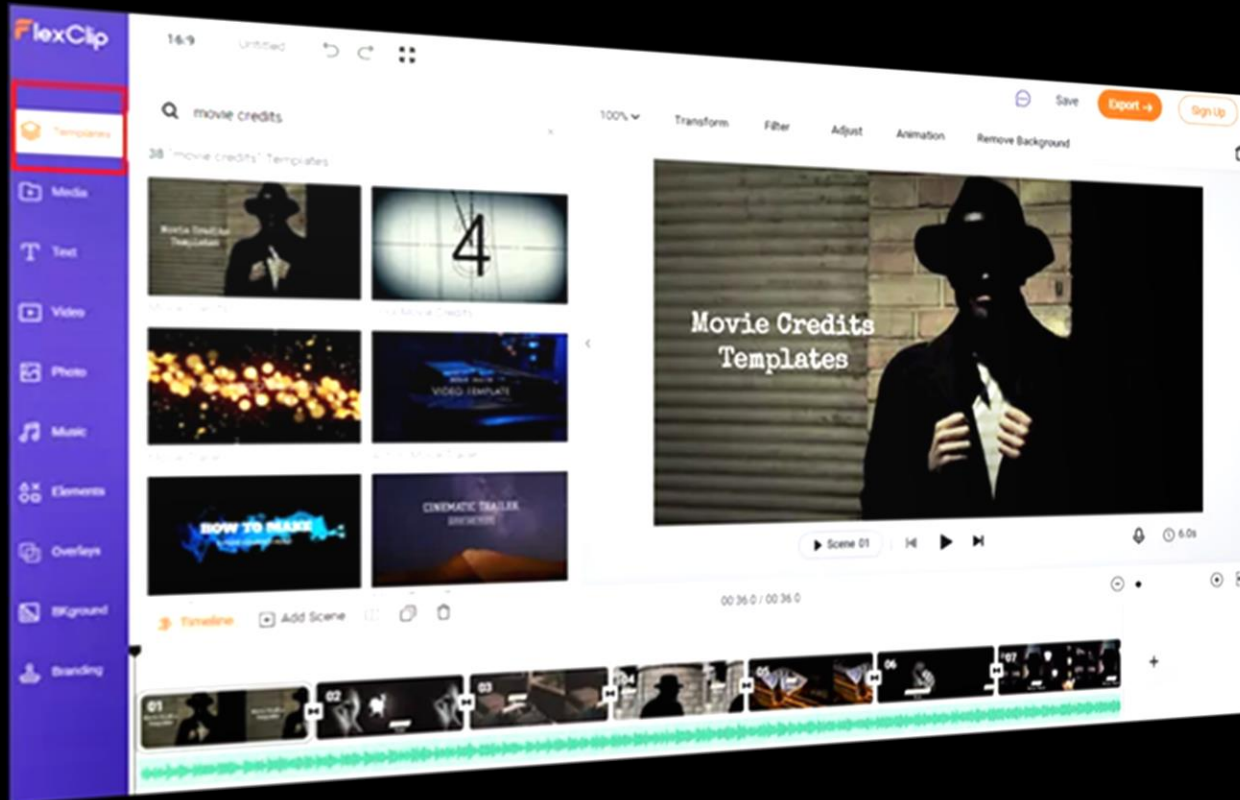
# ADDING TITLES AND GRAPHICS



Film title design has long been an essential part of movies. It was originally a motionless piece of artwork called title art. The manner in which titles of a film are displayed on screen is considered an art form.

Title sequences are often presented through animated visuals and kinetic type while the credits are introduced on screen. They usually set a mood and capture the audience before the movie starts.

Modern technology has enabled a much more fantastical way of presenting them through use of apps that are available free to people like you!





A well known designer is Maurice Binder, who designed the often erotic titles for many of the James Bond films from the 1960s to the 1980s. Daniel Kleinman created this sequence for *Casino Royale* (2006).



# COLOR AND EXPOSURE CORRECTION



Frequently, digitally acquired images don't have optimal exposure or color balance to begin with. E.g., many digital cameras deliberately record blacks that aren't quite at 0% in order to avoid the unintended crushing of data.



Accidents also happen in any shoot. E.g., the crew may not have correctly balanced film stock for the shooting conditions, or someone may have forgotten to white balance the camera before shooting a scene lit with fluorescent lights, resulting in footage with a greenish hue. Mistakes of this kind can be fixed with many available imaging apps.



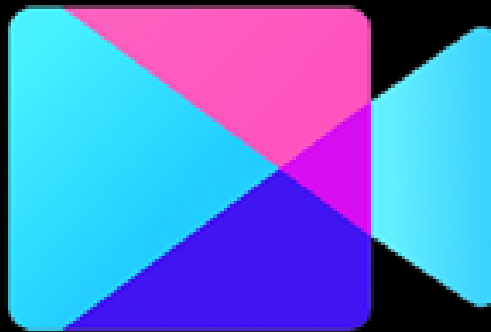
Very popular color grading/correcting tools you could use to grade/correct your projects include, but are not limited to:



DaVinci  
Resolve



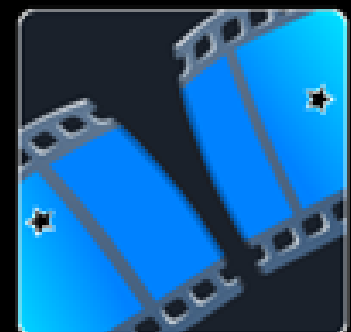
Filmic  
Pro



YouCam  
Video



Adobe  
Premiere  
Pro



Movavi  
Clips



# ADDING VFX



Although most visual effects (vfx) are completed during Post, they must be carefully planned and choreographed in pre-production and production.



VFX are executed with the use of multiple tools such as graphic design, modeling, animation and others, while SFX are made on set, e.g. explosions, rain, etc. A VFX supervisor works in the production from an early stage to work closely with production and the film's director to design, and lead the teams required to achieve the desired effects.

# RE-SHOOTING (PICK-UP SHOTS)



Reshoots are shots or scenes filmed after principal photography has concluded. In some cases pickup shots are specifically planned. E.g., on a set, a scene may be filmed one day with actors and then the next day is used to pickup shots which do not need the actors.





Reshooting famously saved films such as *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004), *Superman II* (1980) and *Back to the Future* (1985).

**These shots could include close-ups of props, different angles in which they are not noticeable, etc. They could be unplanned shots needed to fix editing problems, better looking scenes, etc. As a contingency, time is usually allocated for pickup shots as part of the production plan.**

# RESHOOT

1. What is the purpose of post-production?
2. What six processes might be necessary to edit the soundtrack of a film?
3. What is the function of a movie title?
4. What does color-correction usually fix in a film that wasn't done before shooting?
5. Why should scenes be shot after principal photography has concluded?



Next:

# THE EDITOR

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