WORKFLOW FOR MENU AUTHORING
FOCUS NIGHT MAY 12 2010.

SPECIFIC TO PINNACLE 14 ON A PC

Procedure is generally correct refer to your manual for exact information.

INPUT MEDIA.

1. Create a folder "focus_menus" in your "VIDEOS' folder

2. Copy the AVI or MOV files to the folder and the "SVMC_back" graphic as well.

3. Open up Pinnacle 14

4. Find and import from file the media loaded in step 2

5. Select new project and clear non required media from project bin.

BUILD MOVIE CONTENT

6. Select the clip "Danube_short" and drag it to the timeline.

7. Save as "focus DVD session" to save new project name.

8. Now load the second clip "Abbey_short" onto the time line to follow the Danube clip.

9. Save !

ADD THE DVD MENU

10. Put T/L cursor at start of Time line.

11. Click on the DVD menu symbol or in tools menu click set links to menu.

    11.1.   A series of menu templates should appear

    11.2.   Review the templates and select a 16:9 widescreen with "Thumbnail boxes.

    11.3.   Check cursor is still at very start of Time line and double click the chosen menu template.

    11.4.   The menu should insert itself at the start of the time line.

    11.5.   Answer the dialogue question by opting for manual chapter links, ignore the rest of the boxes.

12. Save !

EDIT THE DVD MENU

13. Position cursor on the menu and double click, an menu options box will appear

14. Click the box marked "Edit menu"

    14.1.   Menu editor opens.

    14.2.   Delete all of the buttons and thumbnails not required.

    14.3.   Select the test title items and change to your needs. Ignore the chapter# texts at the thumbnails for the moment.

    14.4.   Close the editor by clicking "OK" or :Apply". The altered menu should appear in the timeline and in the menu Options box.

LINK MENU TO MOVIE CHAPTERS

We don't want a complex mish mash of chapters so we will limit the project to two chapters one for each clip we imported.

15.   Position the cursor exactly at the start of the first clip(chapter).

    15.1.   Click in the "set chapter link" box in the menu options section

    15.2.   Click in the "return to menu at end of chapter" box in the menu options section.

    15.3.   Observe that the icon for first clip is now in the menu thumbnail.

16.   Repeat step 15 for the second clip(chapter).

SIMULATE THE MENU OPERATION

17.   With the cursor click on the menu icons(thumbnails) to check that the correct clip(chapter) plays in the project monitor window.

18.   If any errors found redo the links

BURN DISC

When all is correct you can burn the DVD onto a disc. We won't do that tonight as it is a time consuming and there is nothing more to be learned about DVD Menus there.

FURTHER REFINEMENTS.

19.   You may not be too happy with the background from the template menu and prefer an alteration. You may have a set

background or you could grab a still frame from one of the chapters or you could use a jpeg photo that you took for the purpose. We use any of these as follows.

20.   Just before we simulate at step 16

    20.1.   Double click the menu in the timeline to bring it back up into the menu options area click on the "edit menu" box.

    20.2.   The editor opens.

    20.3.   At the right hand side of the menu select the little box for backgrounds

    20.4.   A set of pictures appears in the right hand panel where the text styles were. These are samples from the Pinnacle templates, project bib and any compatible images you have in your "my pictures" folder. You can also find and load in any graphic from another folder in your computer.

    20.5.   Let's use the one you loaded at the star of tonight. Just click on it and the menu background changes to agree.

21.   Click "ok" to accept the new background and the editor will close and you new menu will appear in the timeline ready to test and then burn.

ONE BUTTON MENU

When you provide a DVD for screening that has only one movie in it there is not much point to "A menu with selections". So you can either do as we did earlier and edit a template down until there is only one thumbnail left and use that. You may prefer to have a special one just for you competition entries. Here is how to produce the special.

22.   Arrange you project as before but with only one clip(chapter) on the timeline.

23.   Select any template of the 16:9 size or 4:3 if that's the size you are using. Proceed to select the menu and get it onto the timeline as in all applicable steps down to 12.

24.   Now edit the menu as follows.

    24.1.   Insert your special background.

24.2. Eliminate all of the buttons and thumbnails in the menu. Ignore the "this menu will do nothing" warning for the moment.

24.3. Go to the right had side vertical row of icons where you selected the background and click on the "Buttons" icon

24.4. A set of buttons appears on the far right. Select a suitable "NORMAL" button and drag it into the menu where you want and resize it to suit your graphics.

24.5. Add any test you want over your background. Click "OK" to escape from the editor.

25. Back in the time line position the cursor in the menu and click it to get it into the options box window.

25.1. Position the cursor at the start of the movie and set the chapter link for the "Button"

25.2. Set return to menu at end of chapter.

26. Test and burn.

Good luck and happy menu making

Scotty.
Wednesday, May 12, 2010