Topic 92

5 C's of Cinematography – Continuity

Continuity is the characteristic of a scene whereby the action seems fluid and continuous, even though it is composed of a number of shots. There are many ways that continuity can be broken -- which can be noticeable and therefore distracting to an audience. For example, if the hero's clothes are dirty and bloody as he is walking through the doorway, but clean as he emerges from the building, that is a continuity error. Another kind of continuity error can be caused by poor editing. For example, a character might move to a chair and sit down in a long shot, and then we cut to a close-up and see the end of the character's sitting movement. Depending on how these two shots are edited, it will either look like a continuous motion (good continuity), or you might see repeated action or a gap in action (poor continuity). Many people enjoy picking out continuity errors in movies.

Continuity errors are often the result of cutting for performance, where the editor pieces together shots that form the desired feel of the scene with little or no attention paid to background objects or actions that cause the errors.

Check continuity between a live camera and a previously recorded clip

To check continuity between a live camera and a recorded clip, display a frame from the clip in the split region, and make the camera the active source.

1. Scrub to an appropriate frame in a recorded clip.

2. In the Field Monitor, click the Split Screen button.

3. To switch the active source to the live camera feed, click Stop, or press the Esc key.

Check continuity between multiple cameras

The Split Screen option is useful for comparing and calibrating multiple cameras to give video from all of them a common appearance.

1. Plug both cameras into the computer, adjust the manual settings on one of them, and record a small clip to the hard drive.

2. Switch to the second camera, and enable the Split Screen option between the recorded clip from camera one and the live feed from camera two.

3. Adjust iris, white balance, and other settings so that the image from the second camera has good continuity with the image from the first.