

# **SCUM Book Review**

## **“iMovie 3 & iDVD”**

**BY DAVID POGUE**

Review by Phil Chan, SCUM

If you are like many of us who don't feel that we read well then this is the book for you.

The first 77 pages detail the use of the video camera. This opens the world of the digital video production.

The book is separated into 4 sections.

1. Capturing DV footage
2. Editing and transferring video into iMovie.
3. Finding and identifying your audience then exporting to VCR, QuickTime CD or DVD.
4. Understanding iDVD. Formatting, learning video, audio, and still assets. Organizing the material for the viewer so that he can see the whole video or sections.

You learn that each country uses different formats in production. Our format is NTSC in the US and the Americas and Japan. This stands for National Television Standards Committee. This means there are incompatibilities with countries that use PAL (Phase Alternating Line), which is the second most popular format. The countries of Asia and Europe use PAL. Also PAL has frame rate of 24 frames per second as opposed to NTSC of 29.97 frames per second (fps). Moviemakers have a frame rate of 24 fps so some videographers use PAL because frames are the same.

For the first time camera buyer you are introduced to the various formats that exist today and the trends of digital video work. You learn of VHS, VHS-S, VHC, 8 Mill Cassette, Hi-8 Cassett, digital Hi 8 Cassette, and digital mini –cassette. Each has advantages of line resolution over each format. You learn analog versus digital filmmaking. In reproduction digital production can be reproduced as much 40 times before you see differences from the original production. VHS you have color drop off after one reproduction. It is also the same for audio. The capture rate for digital is 48 Kb vs. 24 KB. The higher the capture rate the better the fidelity.

You learn how to shoot from various angles. When and where to zoom. Also when you pan or don't pan, tells you the do's and don'ts of good photography. The book makes you observe lighting, good lighting, bad lighting and the use of key frame lights. All the fundamentals are introduced to take you from the home moviemaker to the professional video photographer.

The chapter on iMovie takes you into capturing your work. How to set up your equipment and if you have analog equipment how to get it into iMovie. If you have digital equipment through the use of the Firewire capturing your images. Step by step you learn how to clip, arrange and add your project into your dream video. You can title, transition, and add sound and voice over into your video project. You can add stills with narration to the movie. With the Ken Burns Effect you make stills seem to move and you highlight special areas of the picture through movement. Scenes can be labeled with subtitles. You learn to add titles, transitions, caption and credits.

From the finished video project you learn to export to your Videotape source, quick time or DVD. You can add sound to the video with your favorite CD for sound effects. This adds mood to your work.

On page 77 if you should video a wedding there are 22 helpful guidelines that you can use.

You learn to put your movie on the Web. You learn about pixels.

From iMovie to iDVD. You learn how author a DVD. If you make many copies, DVD's are less expensive than tape and easy to duplicate. Your copies become all originals in quality as if they are all originals because of the digital format. Apple gives you a set of canned themes and buttons. You navigate the video into the DVD for the viewer. From the initial button you can make 6 buttons, then from each button as you go deeper into the video you can make an addition 6 buttons at each succeeding level .You learn to make moving backgrounds for each level of entry. Your DVD can be as good as professional DVD's that you rent or buy from the store. The books steps you easily into production. Follow each step and you can become a professional DVD expert.

In conclusion, iMovie 3 & iDVD is a very readable book. You don't have to be expert to make a video and DVD. I find that the author simplifies each step so any person can be the next Steven Spielberg.