



Poetic Documentaries

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What is a Poetic Documentary?

- A poetic documentary is a type of film that includes imagery, metaphors, and symbolism
- Poetic documentaries prioritize visual storytelling
- Similar to experimental film it can include avant-garde techniques to convey a certain feeling
- Obtains an emotional perspective about something

History

Poetic Documentaries became popular during the *City of the Symphony* movement in the 1920s

This is when poetic documentaries and experimental films became popular

Prominent example: *Rain* (1929)

- A filmmaker named **Joris Iven** created a symphony with lots of different types of shots to convey what it feels like to experience a rainstorm in Amsterdam



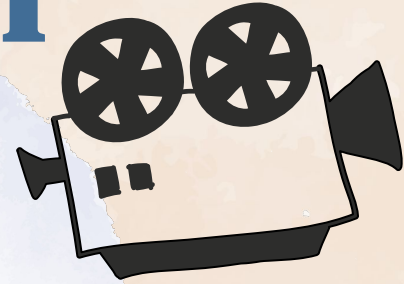
More About Joris Iven



- Dutch filmmaker born in the Netherlands in 1898 and died in 1989
- Filmed over 50 international documentaries
- He enjoyed displaying what the everyday-life in Amsterdam was like
 - This inspired his interests in poetic documentaries, and documentary film-making in general
- Wanted to create an “ode” to the Netherlands
- Overall very passionate about film making, and poetic filmmaking in particular

How to Film

1. Visual Rhythm: there doesn't need to be continuity from scene to scene
 - There does not need to be a linear narrative
2. More abstract and experimental than other forms of documentaries
 - Color, tone, sound, and moods are crucial aspects of a poetic documentary
3. Main goal is to generate feelings, rather than an abstract answer of what the poetic documentary is about



Tips for Filming

These are some tips I researched that I applied to my own poetic documentary.

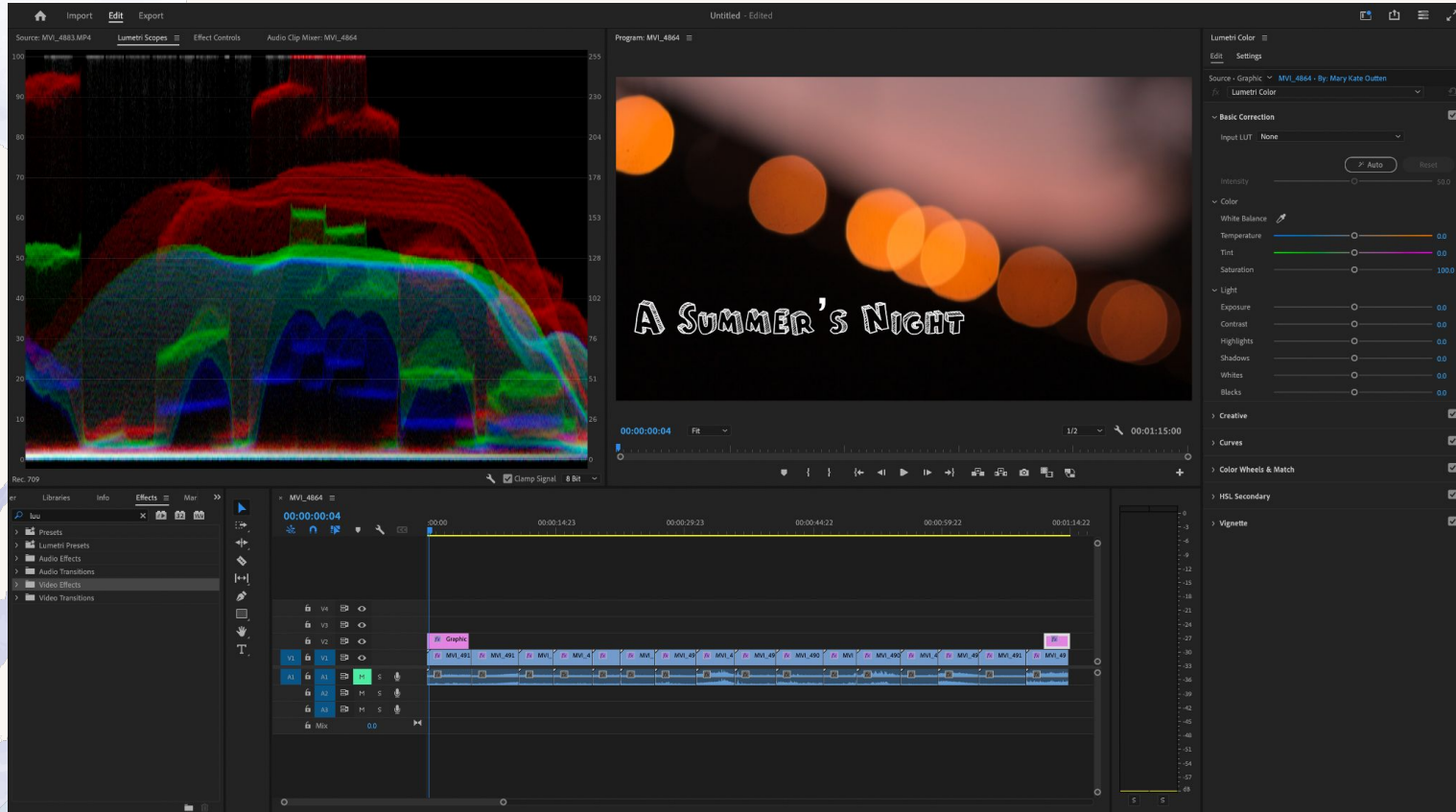
Shoot Through Things	Film through fences, out of focus branches, etc
Wind/Movement	Wind and movement can help make the piece look more cinematic
Use Things for Meaning	Use different objects to convey a certain meaning (flowers to represent life, etc.)
Use Color For Meaning	Color can help to set a certain mood or show specific emotions to generate feelings



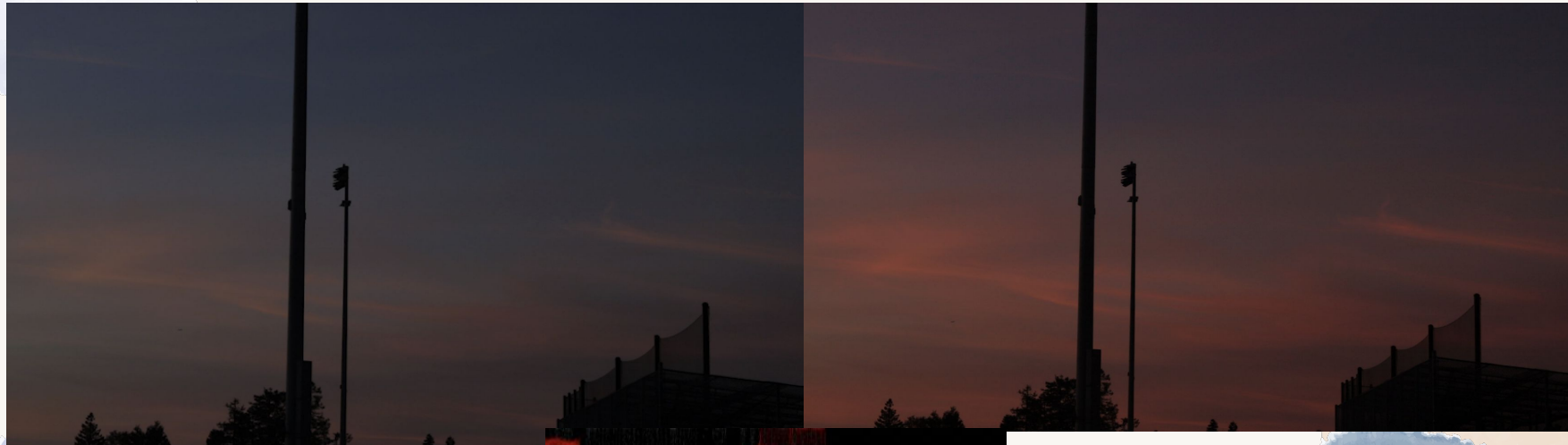


A SUMMER'S NIGHT

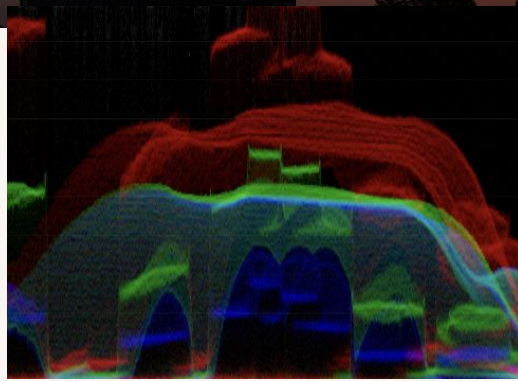
Behind The Scenes: Premiere Pro



Color Grading



Before



After Color Grading

Color Grading



Before



After

Key Takeaways:

- 1) Practicing how to take aesthetically pleasing shots
 - I feel that the sunset clips helped to convey what a summer night feels like
- 2) Learning the history about poetic documentaries

If I were to make another poetic documentary, I think I would encourage more “moving” shots, to create even further cinematic videos.

I found color grading helpful to help convey the vibe of a “summer’s night,” so this is something I would really encourage