

INTRODUCTION

Film Education's MOPIX series of interactive CD-ROMs will explore many facets of the filmmaking process – from scriptwriting to editing and sound creation. Key to all CDs will be the task of developing students' understanding of the moving image, from both an analytical and also a creative perspective.

With the increased availability of digital video and stills cameras as well as non linear editing programmes, it has never been easier to create films within the classroom. However, all too often discussion of moving image creation revolves around equipment and avoids the question of aesthetics – the aesthetics of the shot, the scene, the sound etc.

All of the MOPIX CDs address the aesthetics directly – using specially created editing, sound and digital image programmes specifically created for the series. All these programmes are simple to use and the key learning outcome will be an aesthetic understanding of the process being carried out – be it montage or sound.

We believe that the experiences offered through the various exercises will have a positive effect on the students' own filmmaking – that through editing a series of rushes they will realise the importance of shooting scenes in a variety of ways so as to give flexibility in the final creation of a film.

The series will offer extensive resources for each project and students will learn through doing and experiencing. Thus, on the resource dealing with filming dialogue, students are given rushes which are 'wrong (i.e. disobey the 180 degree rule (crossing the line)) thus enabling them to see the 'rule' in action and thus realising why crossing the line does not work. Or does it? Students are able to experience and experiment for themselves.

The **Edit Suite** contains no transitional effects. Our experience has shown that, given effects, students (and teachers!) will use them 'come what may' with little thought as to what they can add (or detract from) their film. The use of effects will be dealt with in a future CD. Key to the exercises is an aesthetic development in the understanding of the effect that can be created through concentrating on the spatial, rhythmic, temporal and visual relationships of shots edited together to act as a means of communicating an idea and/or emotion to an audience. These concepts are dealt with fully in the **Teachers' and Students' Introduction to Editing**.

