



MONTREAL CAMERA CLUB

WESTMOUNT PARK CHURCH
4695 DE MAISONNEUVE WEST WESTMOUNT / QUEBEC / H3Z 1L9

Digital/Slide Show Competition

Monday, May 7, 2007

We've seen some great presentations given at the Club this year. Now it's your opportunity to show your own photography and at the same time demonstrate your creativity and imagination, by entering the Slide/Digital Show Competition on May 7, 2007.

Whether you are a beginner, or more experienced, don't miss this chance to experiment and have some fun. The beautiful Catherine Rasmussen trophy will be awarded to the winner on Awards Night.

Some Helpful Hints

Although you may choose any theme or subject, it should be cohesive but not repetitive. Since the time allowed is fairly short (4 minutes), you might like to try something other than your latest trip - go through your slide collection and come up with a theme that may be funny - off-beat - innovative - imaginative.

Choose top quality images with good technique and composition. This is an excellent opportunity to edit your images. Try not to repeat similar images unless you have a specific point to make. Include photos that show variations and different points of view. Eliminate images that do not advance the story. Be ruthless!

If music accompanies your essay, it should compliment the subject matter. If you are using commentary, your remarks should be concise, with accurate information. Lighthearted personal anecdotes often help to advance the story and keep the audience interested.

Pacing and tempo are of utmost importance, 6 to 8 seconds per slide is generally the norm.

If you want to use dissolve for your show, arrange and practice your show as usual with one carousel. Once you are comfortable with your presentation, timing, music etc. with one single carousel, simply place your slides alternately into two carousels. - Slide one will go into Tray 1; slide two will go into Tray 2; slide three into Tray 1; slide four into Tray 2. In other words, all the odd numbered slides will go into Tray 1 and all the even numbered slides will go into Tray 2. Be sure to mark which is Tray 1 and Tray 2, so your presentation will start in the correct order.

Start early and rehearse.

Evaluation

Each member of the audience will act as a judge. Judges will take into consideration the following: Theme; image quality; editing; story flow; pacing; music or commentary; titles. They will judge each entry on how well these different elements work together to create an imaginative and original presentation.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all members.

Rules

Essay may be on **any subject** of the photographer's choice. Titles should be included.

Length: 4 minutes (it may be shorter)

Essay should be accompanied by music and/or commentary.

Suggested number of images: 25-36 including titles.

This may vary according to pacing. (6-8 seconds per slide is suggested)

Entry

An entry sheet will be posted at the Club on meeting nights. Please sign if you would like to participate and indicate your choice of format (single projector; dissolve; digital).

Deadline for signing up: Monday, April 30, 2007

Please indicate the title of your presentation not later than April 30, so judging sheets can be prepared.

Competition night: Monday, May 7, 2007

(Please arrive by 7:00 p.m.)

Bring your slide essay arranged in Kodak carousel(s). If music accompanies your essay, please bring it recorded on a tape cassette, or a CD.

If you have produced a digital show, the same rules as to time etc. apply.

You will need to burn your presentation onto a CD or DVD to be played the night of the presentations.

The Club has a digital projector which has a true resolution of 1400 X 1050 pixels. It is compatible with PC and Power Mac. The Club has a Mac Mini Computer with Preview; iPhoto and Keynote installed. If you have a PC presentation please confer with John Surridge.

See reverse for more information on digital presentations.

If you need more info on digital contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Questions?

Call John Surridge at (514) 481-4112.



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Digital Slide Show Notes

Why Go Digital?

Many people now have digital cameras and would like to display their work.

It also permits the use of images from many different sources ie: slides; negatives; prints as well as digital.

The screen surface can be used as a canvas making it possible to create multi-image effects with stunning transitions not possible with traditional slide projectors and dissolve units.

Soundtracks and/or narration can easily be added.

Text can also be inserted on slides and titles can be most creative.

Shows can be saved on CD or DVD and shared via the Internet or viewed on TV.

Some Basic Considerations

Whether you prepare a traditional slide show or a digital slide show, the same rules apply for creating an effective presentation.

Do you have enough quality images for the presentation you have chosen?

Quality means crisp, clean, well-exposed, well-composed and above all variety for a change of pace.

Then edit ruthlessly.

Remember - less is more.

Hardware

Is your computer equipment up to the task? Obviously, the newer more powerful computers with faster processors will do a better job, so you will need to experiment.

Many newer computers have a CD or DVD burner installed, but you can purchase a burner that will connect to your computer at a fairly inexpensive cost. This is essential if you want to show your presentation at the Camera Club or elsewhere, unless you have your own laptop computer which you can bring along.

With a digital camera additional hardware is not necessary, but if you want to utilize your traditional slides, negatives, prints etc. then you will need a slide and negative scanner and a flat bed scanner.

Software

An Image Manipulation program ie: Photoshop or Photoshop Elements is essential to optimize and resize your photos for projection.

Some type of Slide Show Software.

Microsoft Powerpoint can be used.

There are many other programs that can be downloaded from the Internet at varying costs as well as freeware.

Slide Show Programs

Microsoft Powerpoint

Apple Keynote

Apple iPhoto

ACD FotoAngelo - www.acdsystems.com

iView Media - www.iview-multimedia.com

Photodex ProShow Gold - www.photodex.com

SmoothShow - www.smoothshow.com

AVShow by Debra Grass - www.imagesandsound.com (PC only)

Getting Started

Create an empty folder on the hard drive of your computer.

Name the folder by typing in the title of your slide show.

This is where you will store all the media that you will use to create your slide presentation.

Media includes photos, clip art, music, sound effects etc.

How to Prepare a digitized image for projection

Each final digital image file needs to be prepared for projection.

The final output size of your image is dependant on the resolution of the digital projector used. The MCC's new digital projector has a true resolution of 1400x1050 pixels, but most digital projectors have a resolution of 1024x768 pixels.

Once you know the resolution of the final projected image, you know the maximum dimensions possible for your images.

This represents the largest you should size them for optimal display with a reasonable file size.

If you think you might be using both types of projectors, then choose the larger size, as most projectors will simply downsize the image automatically.

For projected display the output resolution (dpi) doesn't make any difference. Only the pixel dimensions affect the size and detail of the image in the projected display.

With some software used to build digital slide shows, the image will be sized properly only if it's set to an approximate display resolution. In those situations, you'll want to set the output resolution to 72dpi for Macintosh and 96dpi for Windows. It's a good idea to set this output resolution just to be sure the images are sized properly before they are placed in the slide show. You can always resize the image once you have placed it in the software with no loss of quality, since the wrong resolution just means the image will be scaled incorrectly. However, it's much more convenient to have it sized properly to begin with.

If you need more information about sizing your images, look on the MCC Website under documents/digital.