

# VIDEO: EDITING WITH CHRISTINE CHEUNG



Now that you have watched Christine Cheung's tips on editing, try these exercises to put some of the ideas discussed into practice.

Editing is a crucial job in filmmaking. It is the job of the editor, with guidance from the director, to take the raw footage and create one clear story. Editing influences the tone, feeling and meaning of the film.

*Please note: For this task you will need a camera to film with and some basic editing software. A smartphone camera is all you need, and any editing software that comes with your computer or phone is going to work, such as Windows Movie Maker or iMovie. If you need help with operating these programs ask your teacher for some tips, or do a quick search for a video tutorial.*

1. Form groups of 4 - 5. **Film** each member of the group saying "You!" with any **emotion** you want. For example, happy, sad, surprised, angry, it's up to you! Each one should be a separate clip.
2. Next, film every member of the group having a **reaction**. You might react in fright, laugh, gasp, be outraged, be surprised, again it's up to you. Each one should be a separate clip.
3. Now we need to label the clips. **Label** all the "You!" clips with a number from 1 – 5. Label all the reaction clips with a letter from A – D.
4. Import all of the clips into your editing software.
5. Using the software, **cut together** the clips in an order. You will need to make sure each "You!" clip is followed by a reaction clip.

For example you might order your clips:

- 1A, 2B, 3C, 4D

or you could do any number of orders such as:

- 2D, 1C, 4A, 3B

*NB: Don't worry about your cuts being neat or perfect, we are just playing at this stage!*

6. **Save** each new order as one short video. Then **watch** each short video as a group.
7. **Discuss** as a group:
  - What kind of story is being told in each video?
  - Does the story make sense, or is it completely non-sensical?
  - What is the tone of the story? For example, funny, silly, strange, scary, sad, magical?
  - How different are the videos, even though they are the same clips in different orders.
  - Which versions are more interesting to you?
  - Choose one of the videos and brainstorm a possible plotline, ie. a backstory for the video. For example, perhaps one person is accusing another person of stealing their dog, then a bystander gets involved saying the person being accused is innocent.... and so on.
8. As an additional step, for the version you prefer, add **sound** effects and/or music. Note how you can affect the tone of the video by doing this. What kind of sound or music might suit? What kind of sound or music might change the tone completely?

## Extension activity:

Repeat the above process using a microscene from Shakespeare. See some options to choose from over the page. This time you will need two people as the actors. This time, think about where you might place the actors – ie. are they talking directly to the camera, or will you have your actors in profile, one character facing left, and one character facing right, as if they are looking at each other.

You might also like to think about the pace of your cuts – quick editing can make a conversation seem urgent or dangerous, while lengthier pacing can give the conversation an entirely different tone.

Edit the scene together in the order that Shakespeare wrote it to start with, then play around with different orders, even if they make no sense. The point is to play and see what interests you!

*NB: If you are working solo, this could be a fun project to do yourself where you play both characters! It will end up looking like an argument or conversation with yourself, which is a fun creative concept!*

## Micro scene 1

OBERON: Ill met by moon light proud Titania.  
TITANIA: What, jealous Oberon? Fairies skip hence  
I have foresworn his bed and company.  
OBERON: Tarry rash wanton! Am not I thy lord?  
TITANIA: Then I must be thy lady!

## Micro scene 2

DEMETRIUS: I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.  
HELENA: You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant.  
DEMETRIUS: Do I entice you? do I speak you fair?  
Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth  
Tell you, I do not, nor I cannot love you?  
HELENA: And even for that do I love you the more.

## Micro scene 3

HERMIA: God speed fair Helena! whither away?  
HELENA: Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.  
Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!  
HERMIA: I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.  
HELENA: O that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!  
HERMIA: The more I hate, the more he follows me.  
HELENA: The more I love, the more he hateth me.

## Micro scene 4

QUINCE: Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.  
FLUTE: Here, Peter Quince.  
QUINCE: Flute, you must take Thisby on you.  
FLUTE: What is Thisby? a wandering knight?  
QUINCE: It is the lady that Pyramus must love.  
FLUTE: Nay, faith, let me not play a woman; I have a beard coming.

# BELL SHAKESPEARE SHORTS FESTIVAL

## About Christine Cheung:

Christine Cheung is a Sydney based Film and Television Editor. Growing up with a love of animation, MGM musicals, Alfred Hitchcock, and the television series 'Bill Collin's Golden Years of Hollywood'. She began her film career as an assistant editor on the films *Happy Feet*, *Australia*, *Animal Kingdom*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Water Diviner*. She has cut the shorts *Red Rover* (SFF), *Shiloh* (MIFF), *Chicken* (BFI), *First Day* for ABC International Day of the Girl, the Presto web series *Let's Talk About* (Season 2), and *Woes* for ABC/Fresh Blood. She has co-edited the independent films *Zelos* and edited *The Greenhouse*, and the genre film *Nekrotronic*.

Two of her most recent projects ABC children's series *First Day* and the short film *Chicken* were nominated for AACTA awards 2020. *First Day* was also the recipient of the Rose d'Or Award for best Children and Youth Series, and First Prize in the Live Action Television category at the Chicago International Film Festival. *The Greenhouse* is currently screening at Queerscreen - Mardi Gras Film Festival 2021 and will make its international premiere in the BFI Flare program. *The Greenhouse* won the audience choice award at the Mardi Gras Film Festival 2021.