iMovie '08 Tutorial

Connecting your camcorder to the computer:

Once you are satisfied with the footage you have recorded using your digital camcorder, you can edit it on the computer using iMovie. To upload your video footage into iMovie, you'll need the necessary cabling to connect the camcorder to the computer.

You'll need a FireWire cable, with one end that connects to the FireWire ports on the computer, and another end that fits in the DV port on the camcorder, like the one pictured at right.
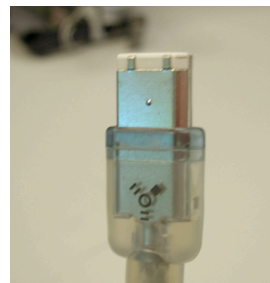
Plug the DV end of the cable into the camcorder DV port. On the camcorder pictured, the DV port was under a protective cover along the side of the camera, though the location of the DV port may vary from camcorder to camcorder.
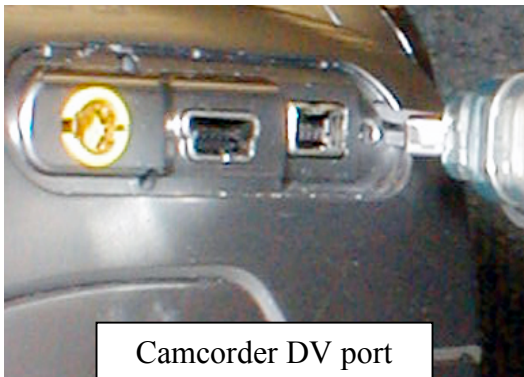
Next, plug the FireWire end of the cable into the computer's FireWire port. On the Mac pictured, the FireWire port was located on the back of the monitor, though on other computers a port may be on the front or back of the CPU.

DV Connector

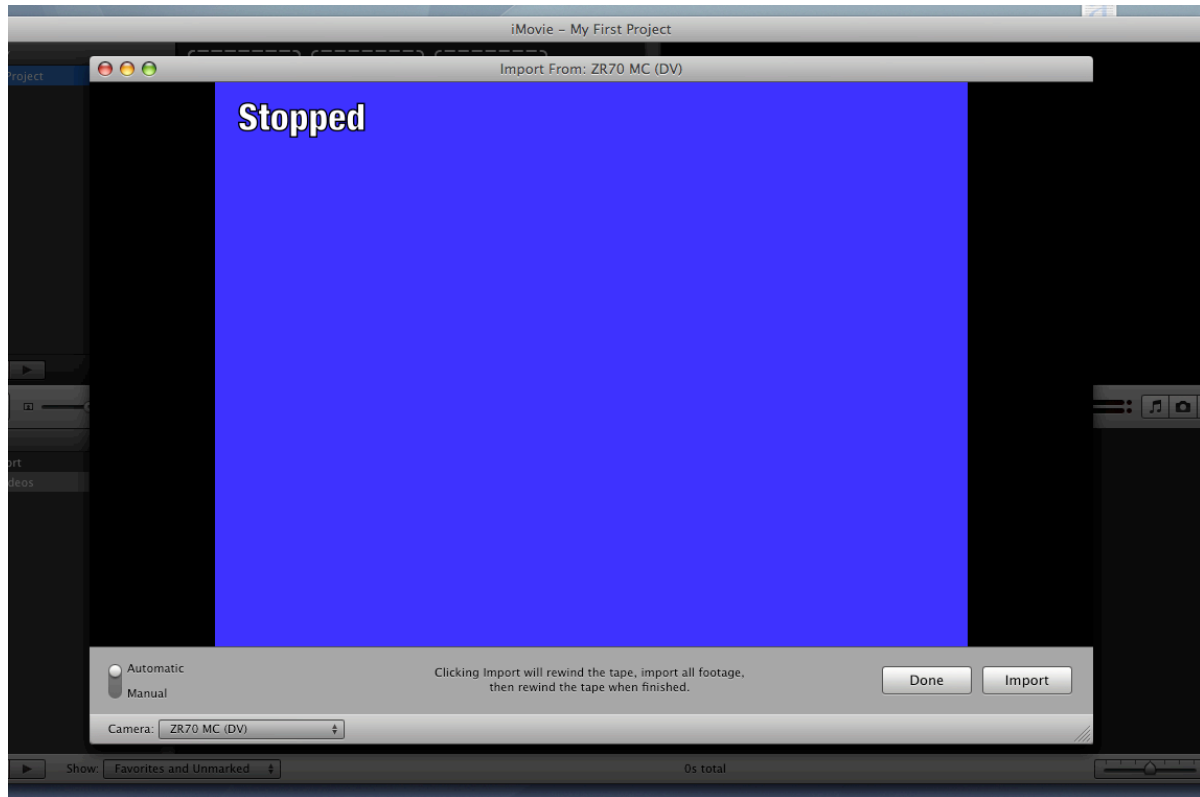FireWire Connector

Camcorder DV port

Computer FireWire Port
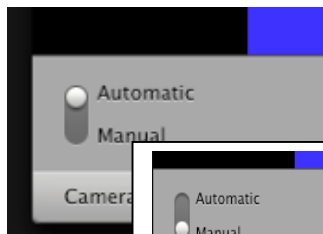
Uploading your footage to iMovie:

After connecting your camcorder to the computer, turn the camcorder on and it set it to Play/VCR mode. Then launch iMovie '08 by clicking on the program icon on the dock.

The program will open and the import window will pop up:

There are two settings for importing, Automatic and Manual:

Automatic is best to use when you would like to import all of the contents of the tape. When you choose Automatic mode, the program will automatically rewind the camera and begin importing from the beginning.
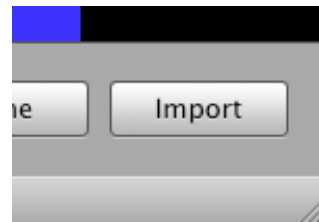

Manual is best to use when you would like to import a specific section of the tape. It allows you to navigate through your footage by rewinding and fast forwarding so that you can choose where you would like to begin and finish importing the footage.
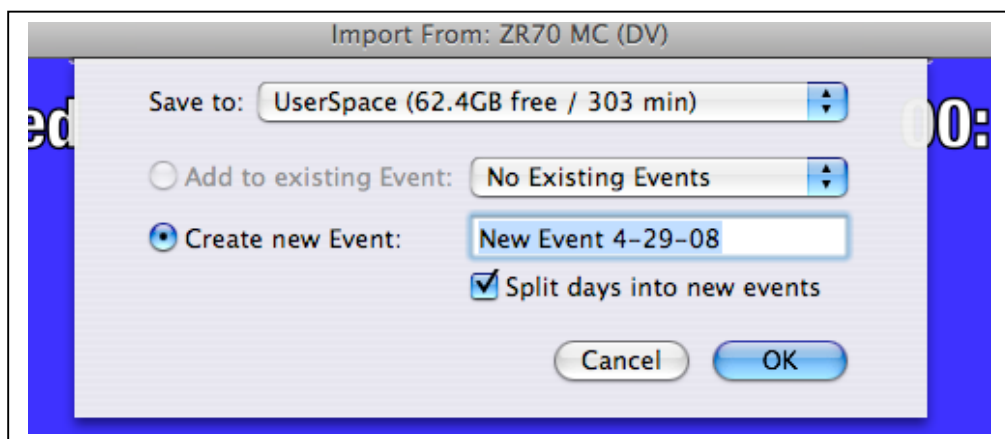
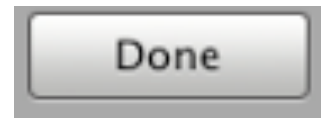## *Uploading your footage to iMovie (continued):*

After selecting an import setting, click on the "Import" button to bring your footage into iMovie '08.

Before the footage begins importing, a window will appear prompting you to save your movie. Select a location to save (select the "UserSpace," which will automatically save into the "Movies" folder) in the first drop down menu and then name your movie in the "Create new Event" box. In the future you will have the option of adding new footage to an existing event but for your first import you must create a new event and name it. When you have finished, select OK to begin importing.
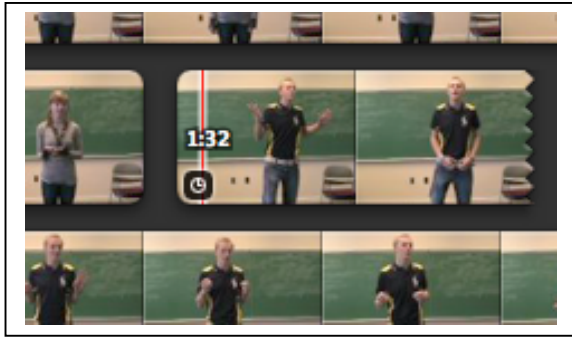
When your footage has finished importing, select the "Done" button to stop importing.

iMovie '08 will then create thumbnail images of your footage and place them in the lower section of the screen as filmstrips.

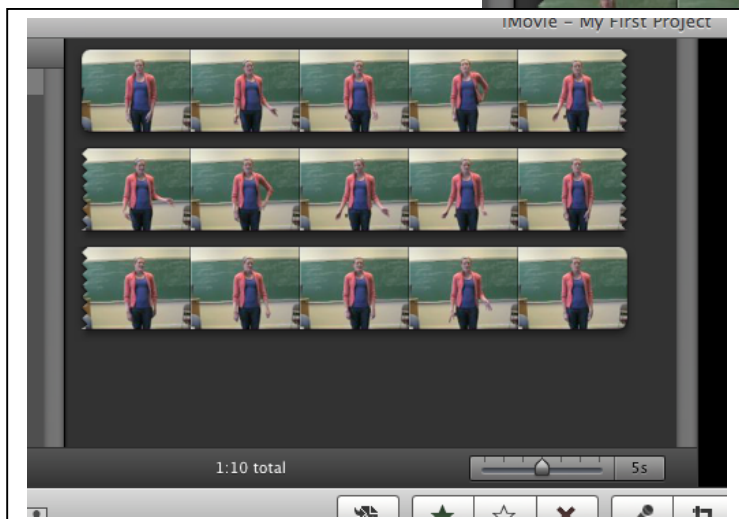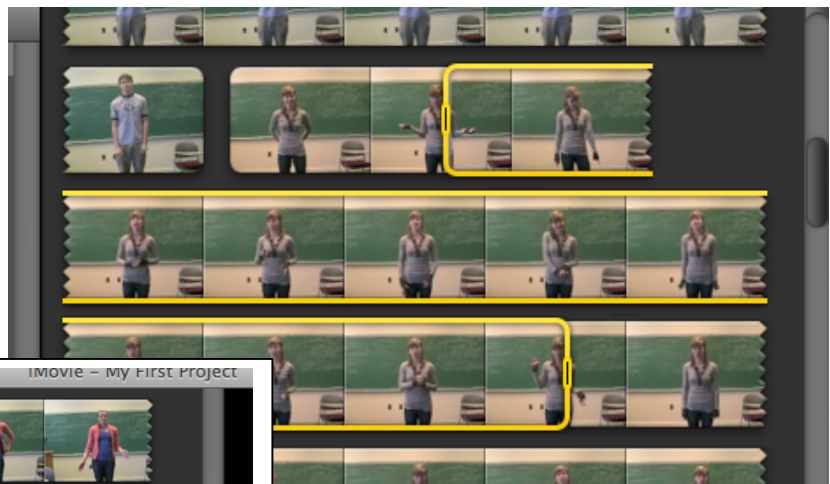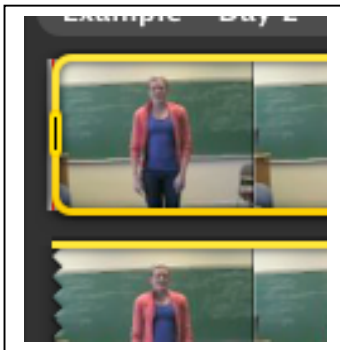## *Reviewing footage and putting your clips into sequence:*

To preview the footage that you have imported, simply drag your mouse over the clips and a red line will appear indicating your location in the clip. Run your mouse back and forth to skim the footage in the viewer (the window in the upper-right corner of the screen) or place your mouse where you would like to begin viewing and hit the spacebar. The video will then play at normal speed and you can hit the spacebar again to stop.

If you would like to skim your video without listening to the audio of the clips you can turn the sound on and off with the audio skimming button (**1**).

When you have viewed your footage and would like to create your project you must begin by selecting which footage you would like to include in your final project. Do this by first clicking on a section of the footage that you like. A yellow box will appear and you can drag the left and right edges of this box to include all of the footage you would like to move to your final project. Use the viewer to see exactly where you are placing the edges of the yellow box
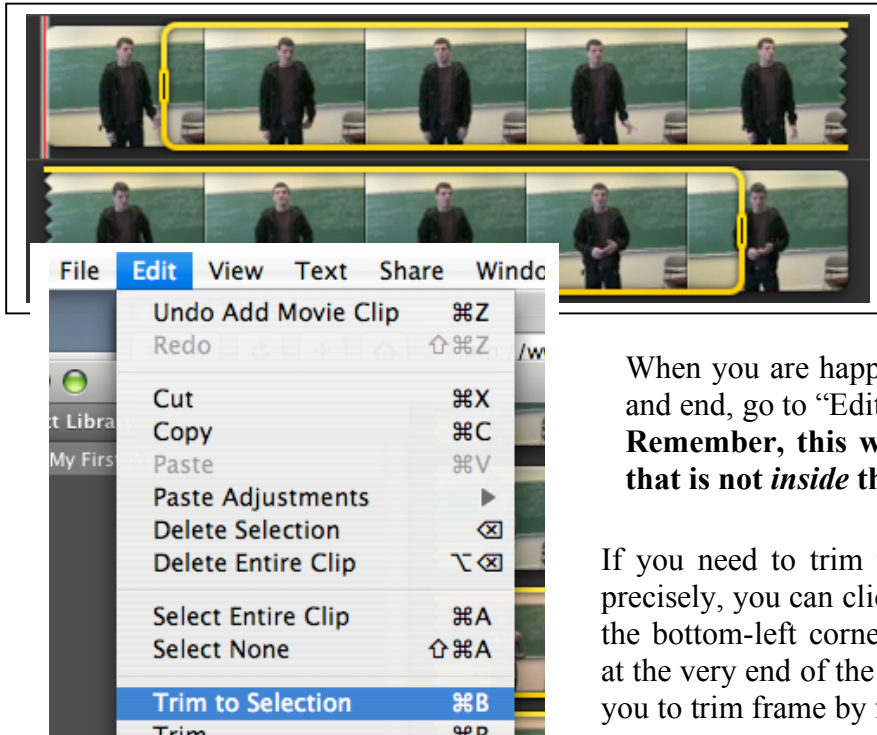

Once you have highlighted the footage you wish to move to your final project just click, drag, and drop the clip to the project window above the filmstrips. Continue highlighting and dragging clips to create your project.

Manipulating and editing clips:

Once you have added all of the clips you would like to include in your project you can edit and refine your selections. To rearrange clips, click and hold the clip that you would like to move and drag it to where you would like it to be. Before you drop the clip, a green bar will appear to show exactly where the clip will be placed.

Once you have the clips in the correct order, you can then trim them to begin and end exactly where you would like.
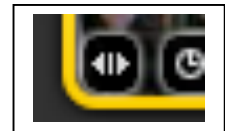

Select the clip that you would like to modify and drag the right and left edges of the yellow box, placing the start and end bars exactly where you would like the clip to begin and end. You will be deleting any section of the clip that is not inside the yellow box.

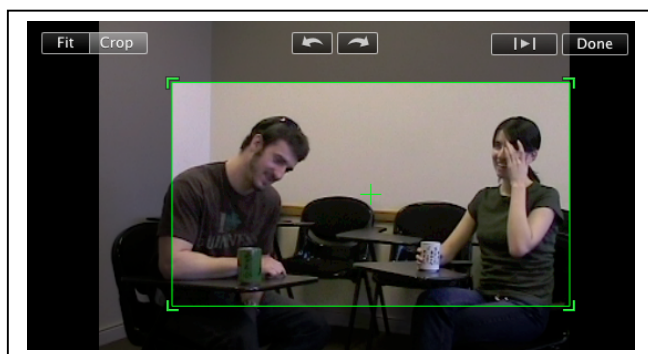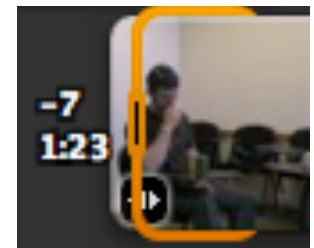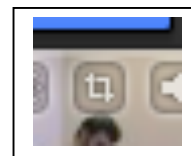When you are happy with where the clip is set to begin and end, go to "Edit" and choose "Trim to Selection." **Remember, this will delete all footage from the clip that is not *inside* the yellow box.**

If you need to trim your video very precisely, you can click on the icon in the bottom-left corner of the clip (or at the very end of the clip) that allows you to trim frame by frame.

This will then give you an orange bar at the edge of the clip that you can move to adjust the start and end points of the clip. The negative number shown indicates how many frames you are deleting and the bottom number is how much time is left in the clip.

You can also choose to crop an unwanted area out of a video clip by selecting the "Crop" button in the top row at the beginning of the clip.
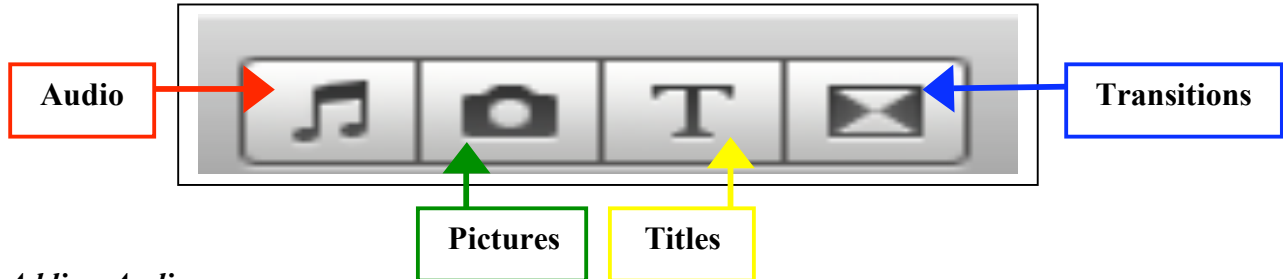

This will open the crop window in the viewer and you can then cut out the unwanted area in your video. When you are finished cropping, click "Done."
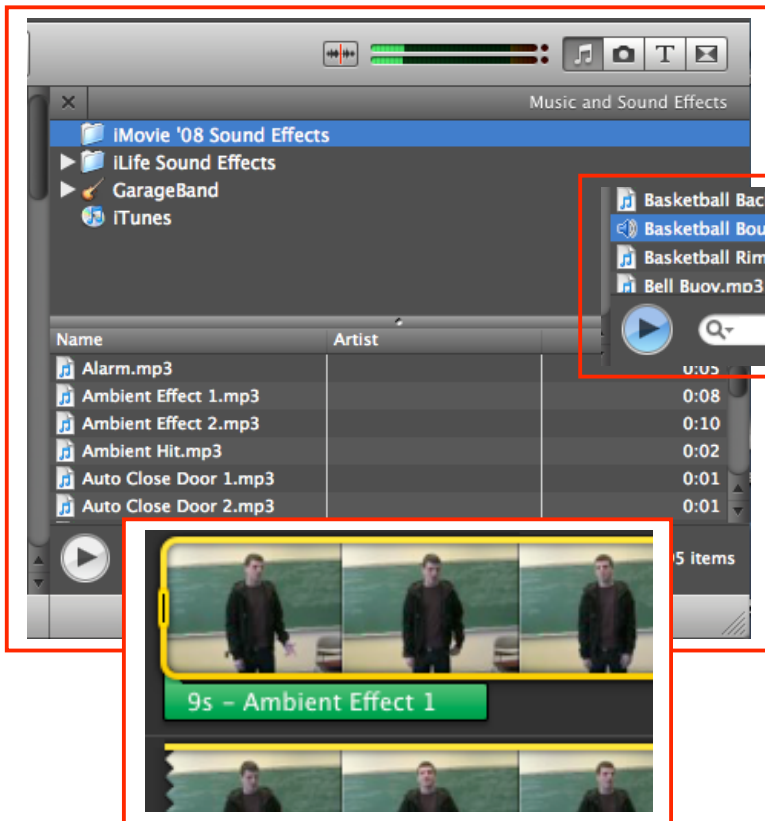
Enhancing your movie:

You can use iMovie '08 to add still images, audio, text, and/or transitions to your movie.

First, click on the icon in the media bar that corresponds to what it is you would like to add:

Adding Audio

To add audio, first select the "Audio" tab located in the media bar. This will open the "Music and Sound Effects" menu. You can then choose from included sound effects or you can import audio from GarageBand or iTunes to create a soundtrack.
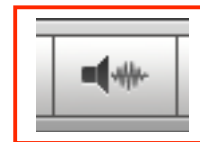

To listen to the audio clips, double click on one and it will begin playing. Or, select a clip and then click on the "Play" button at the bottom of the menu.

When you have chosen the audio clip that you would like to use, select it and then drag it into your project window. The red play head will appear to indicate where you are about to place the audio.
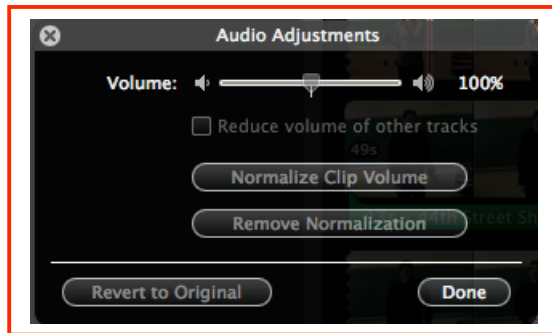
When you drop the audio into place, a green bar will appear under your footage to indicate the location and duration of the added audio.

To adjust both the audio clips that you have inserted and the audio levels of your video clips, select the "Adjust Audio" button found in the middle of the screen.
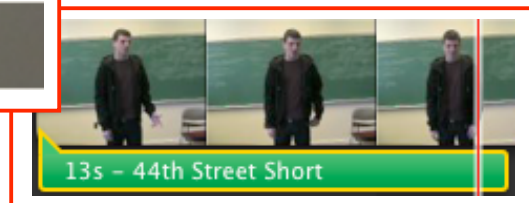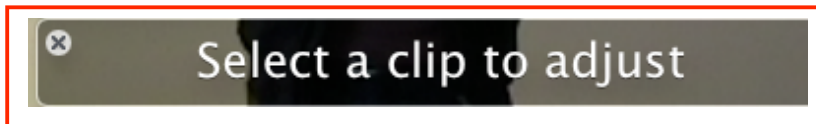
Continued on next page…

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Enhancing your movie (continued):

This will open the "Audio Adjustments" menu. You must then select an audio clip by clicking on the strip underneath the video footage. When you select the audio, a yellow outline will appear around it. This enables you to adjust the volume, reduce the volume of other tracks, and normalize clip volume.

You can continue to move the volume around until you achieve the desired balance. To undo changes, click the "Revert to Original" tab.
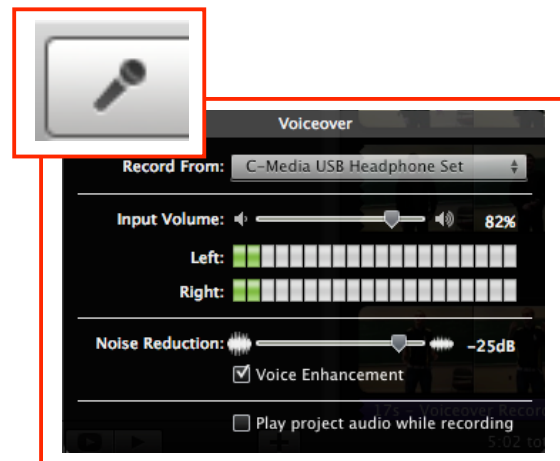
To extract audio from one clip and place it in another, highlight the clip from which you are taking the audio. Hold down the "Apple" and "Shift" keys on the keyboard and drag the audio clip over top of the video clip that you want the audio to be applied to. When you drop the clip, a green bar will appear to represent the extracted audio. You can then select and slide the green bar to place the audio clip in its exact location.

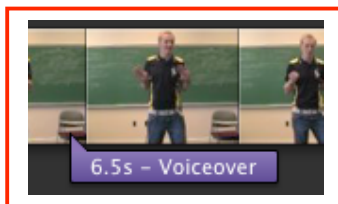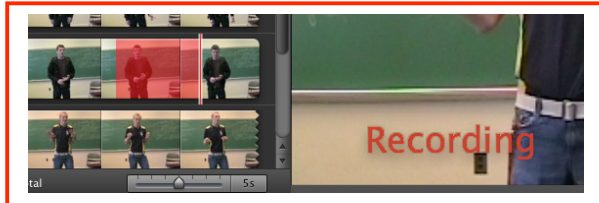### *Creating a Voiceover Recording*

You can record your own voice to place overtop of your footage by clicking on the "Voiceover" button found to the left of the Media Bar.

After selecting the "Voiceover" button, the menu will appear. Choose the appropriate settings from the voiceover menu, including whether you are recording from a built-in or external microphone.

Enhancing your movie (continued):

When you have chosen the proper settings on the menu, click on the spot in your footage where you would like to begin recording. A countdown will appear to indicate when it will begin recording. Speak into the microphone and while you record a red tint will cover the footage that you have recorded on top of. When you are finished, click on the video clip again and it will stop recording.

After recording, a purple line will appear under your footage to show the exact location and duration of your voiceover. If you need to, you can now move your voiceover recording by sliding the purple line to its exact location.
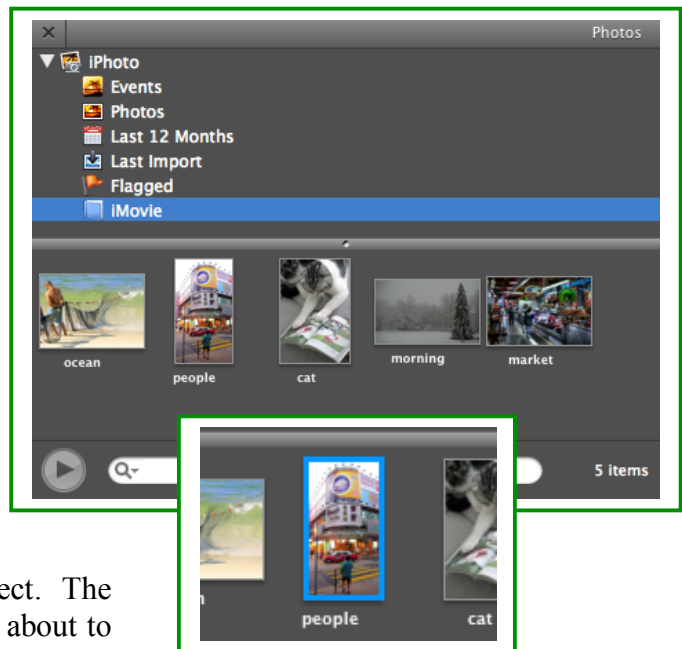
Adding Pictures

To add pictures to your iMovie '08 project, click on the "Photos" icon in the media bar. This will open the menu, which allows you to import from your iPhoto library.

Some file types will not be recognized by iMovie. It is best to use JPEG or TIFF images. If you have photos that are not in JPEG or TIFF format, you can convert files using Adobe Photoshop or another image editing program.
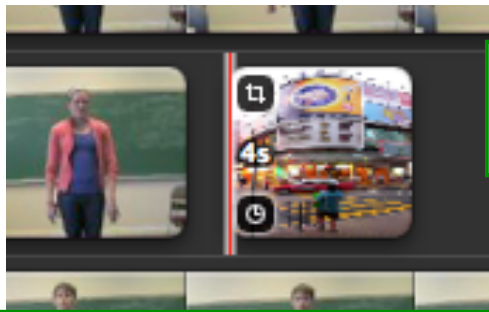
To bring a photo into your movie, click on the image you would like to insert and a blue outline will appear around the photo.

Click and drag the photo into your iMovie project. The green bar will appear to indicate where you are about to place the photo.

Enhancing your movie (continued):

Once you have inserted photos into your iMovie project, you can fit, crop, rotate, or apply the Ken Burns effect. To add special settings, select the "Crop" button; this will prompt you to then select a photo to crop.
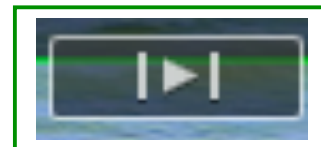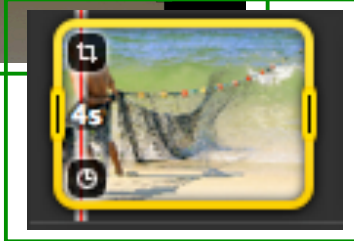

Select a photo from your footage by clicking on it; a yellow outline will indicated that it was selected and it will appear in the viewer.

Buttons will appear across the top of your photo that allow you to apply special settings to your photo. To preview the effects that you have chosen, click on the "Play" button.

When you have finished modifying your photo, click the "Done" button in the upper-right corner of the viewer.

By default, photos inserted into iMovie are set to appear in the movie project for 4 seconds. To adjust the duration of your photos, first select the photo and then click on the clock icon in the bottom-left corner of the photo. This will open a window that allows you to adjust the duration of the photo.
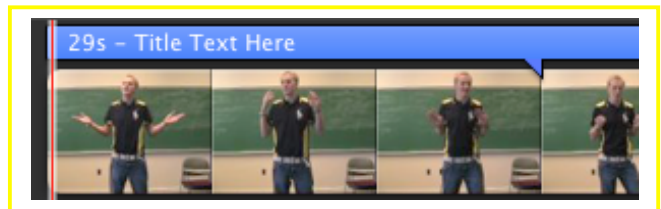
Enhancing your movie (continued):

Adding Titles

You can add text and titles to your movie to add interest and clarify aspects of your iMovie project. Click on the "Titles" button in the media bar to open the menu.

The menu allows you to browse many different title options. When you choose one that you like, select it and drag it into your project. The footage where you are placing the title will have a blue tint to indicate where you are dropping the title. When you let go, a blue bar will appear above the footage to represent the title.
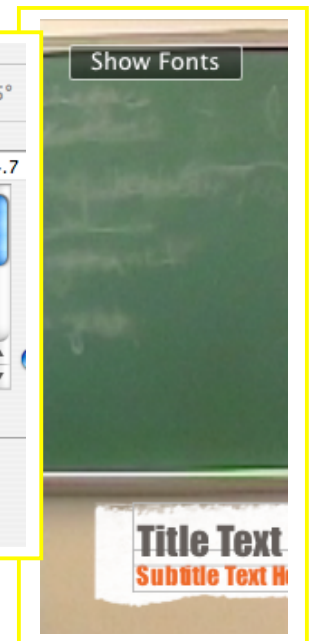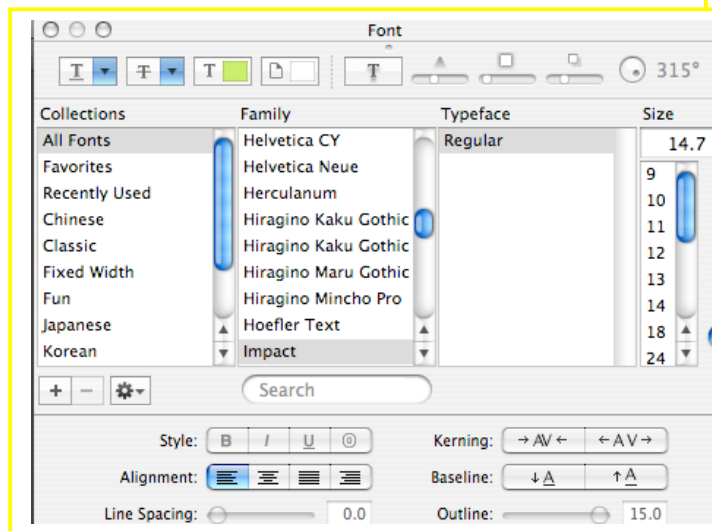

If you would like to add a title over top of a black screen simply follow the instructions above but instead of dropping your title over footage drop it in the black space where you would like the title to appear.

To edit the title that you inserted, click on the blue bar to select it.

Once selected, you can then place your cursor in the text area and type in the title that you would like to use, like the name of the movie, the date, or a person's name.

You can adjust the font, color, size and alignment of the title by clicking the "Show Fonts" button in the upper-left corner of the viewer.

Click the "Play" button to preview your changes. Click "Done" when you are finished.
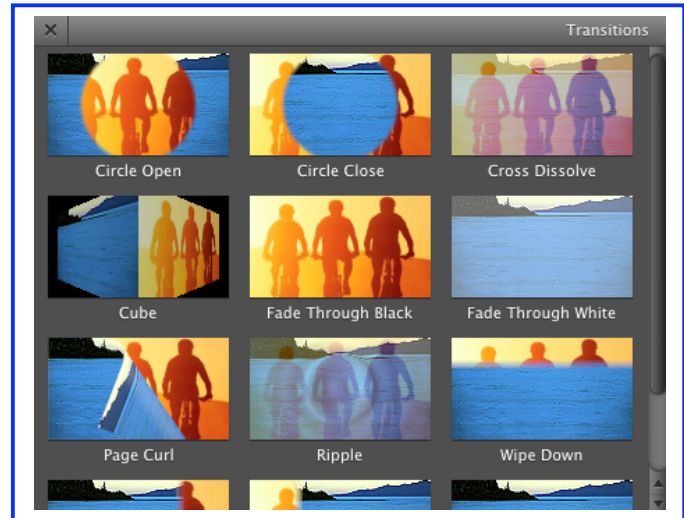
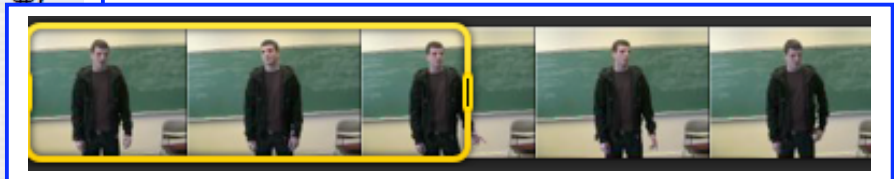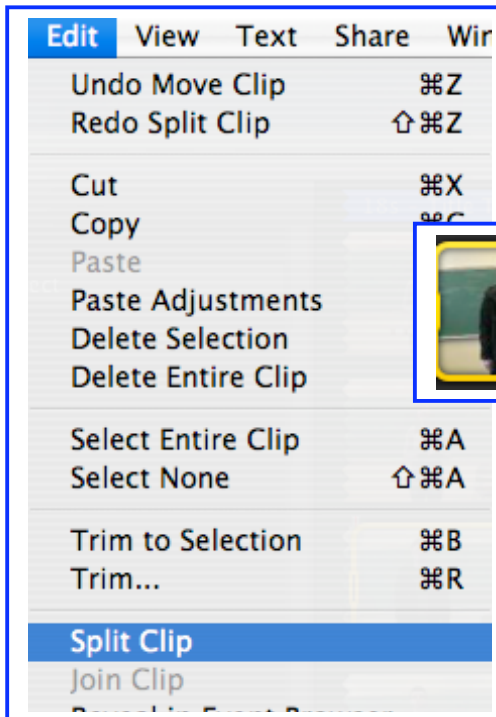## *Enhancing your movie (continued):*

Adding Transitions

You can insert transitions into your iMovie project to ease the flow between scenes and give your project a more professional look.

Click on the "Transitions" button to open the menu. Preview the different transitions by holding your mouse over the thumbnail image. When you have chosen the transition you would like to use, select the thumbnail and drag it into your project. Run your mouse over the footage to view the transition in your project.

If you would like to place a transition within a clip rather than in between two clips you must first split the footage. Click on the clip to select it and adjust the yellow outline so that one edge is at the beginning or end of the clip and one end is placed where you would like the clip to split.
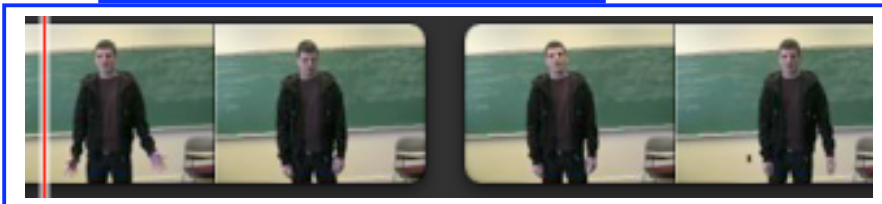

The clip will split at both the beginning and end of the outline, so if you only want one division you must place either the left or the right edge of the yellow outline at the beginning or the end of the clip!
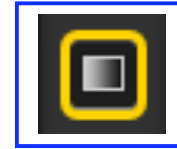
Once it is adjusted to where you would like the clip split, go to "Edit" and then select "Split Clip."

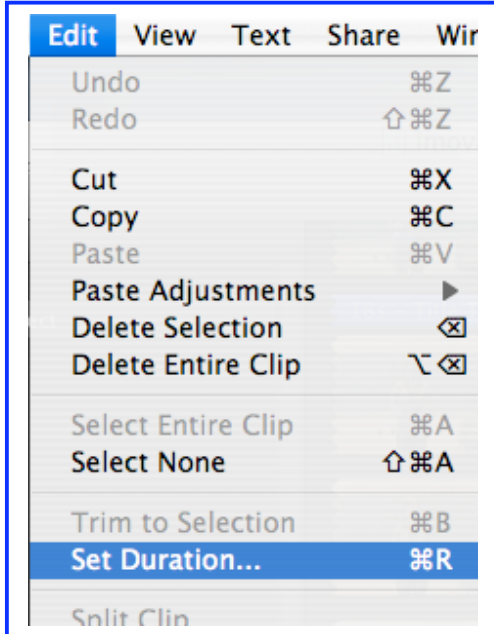You can now insert a transition within the clip.
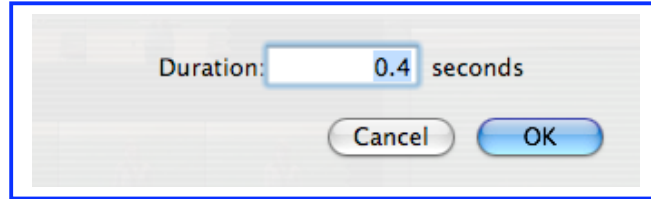
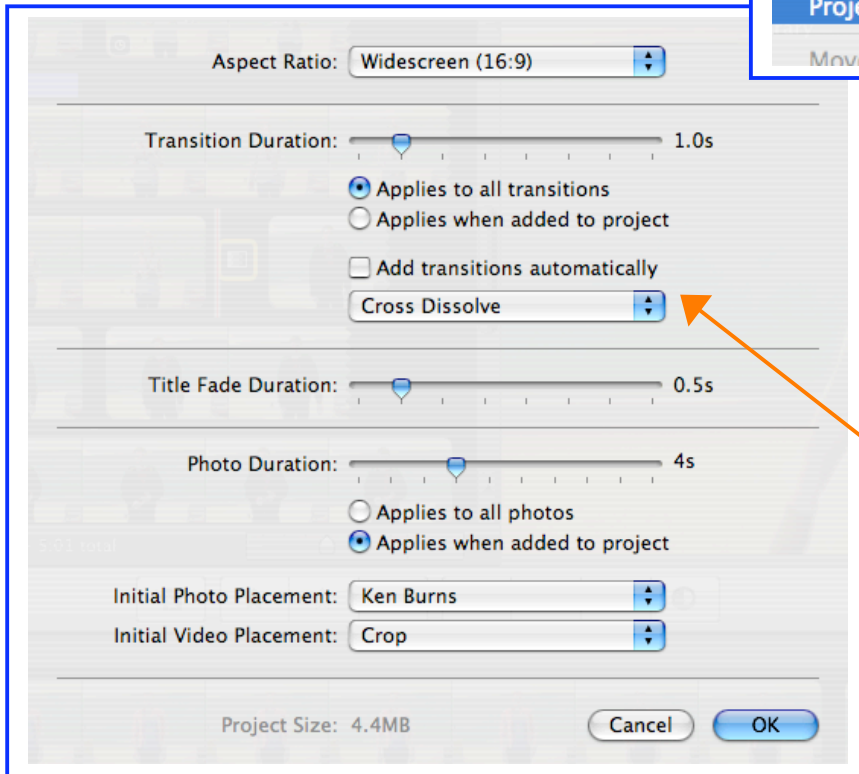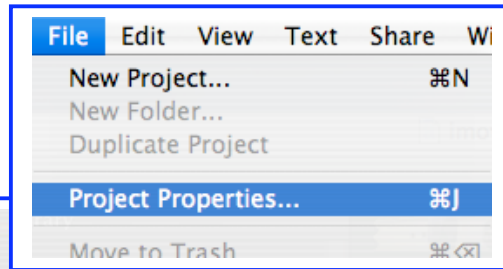*Continued on next page…*

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Enhancing your movie (continued):

To adjust the duration of your transitions, first select the transition by clicking on it and go to "Edit" and select "Set Duration…"

This will open the "Duration" tab where you can enter the amount of time that you would like your transition to last. When you have adjusted the duration, click "OK" and the change will apply to that selected transition.

To modify the duration of all of your transitions uniformly, go to "File" and select "Project Properties."

This will open the "Project Properties" window, which allows you to adjust the transition duration as well as make other changes. To apply a set duration to all transitions select the "Applies to all transitions" option.
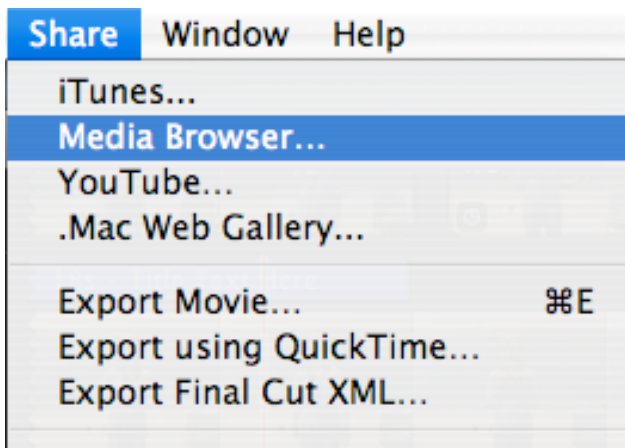
You can also choose to add transitions automatically between clips by selecting the box and choosing a type of transition to add.

When you are happy with your settings, click "OK" to apply changes.
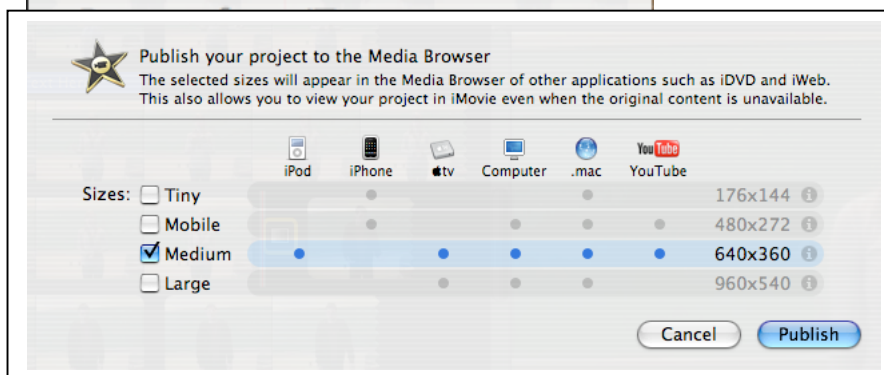
Exporting your final movie:

Right now your project is not in a format to share with others – it is a project file, not a finished movie file. You have several options to export your movie and share it with others.

If you want to burn your movie on a DVD, go to the "Share" menu and choose "Media Browser…"

This will open the publishing window where you must choose the correct size for your movie. The chart shown below helps you choose the proper size by placing dots to indicate what size will work best with how you plan to view your movie.

When you have chosen the best size, click the "Publish" button; this will render your movie so that it will appear in the Media Browser of other applications, including iDVD. You can now launch iDVD and your movie will appear in the Media Browser.
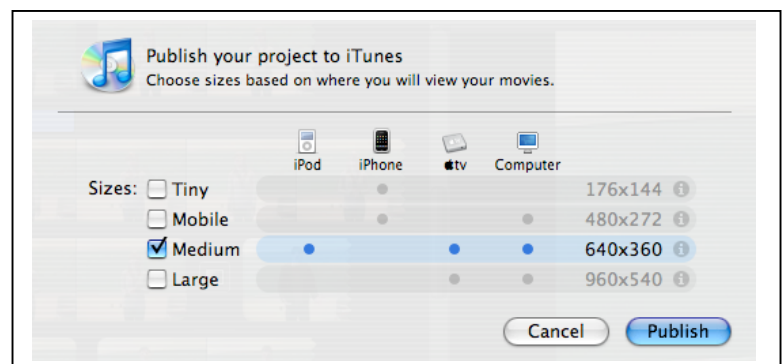

For more information on creating iDVD projects, see the documentation on using iDVD '08.

If you wish to share your movie as a vodcast (a video podcast), go under the "Share" menu and choose "iTunes…"

This will open the "Publish" window and prompt you to choose the best size for your project. After selecting a size based on iMovie's suggestions, click on the "Publish" button. iTunes will automatically launch and your movie will appear in the application.
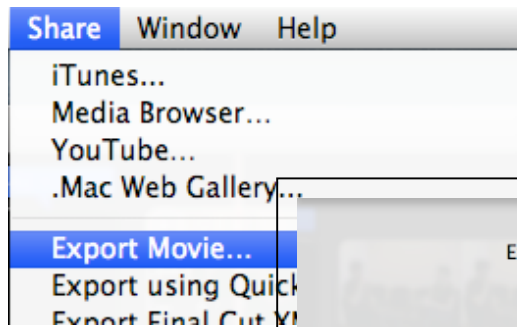
For more information on creating podcasts and vodcasts, see the documentaion on using iTunes and VODcaster.
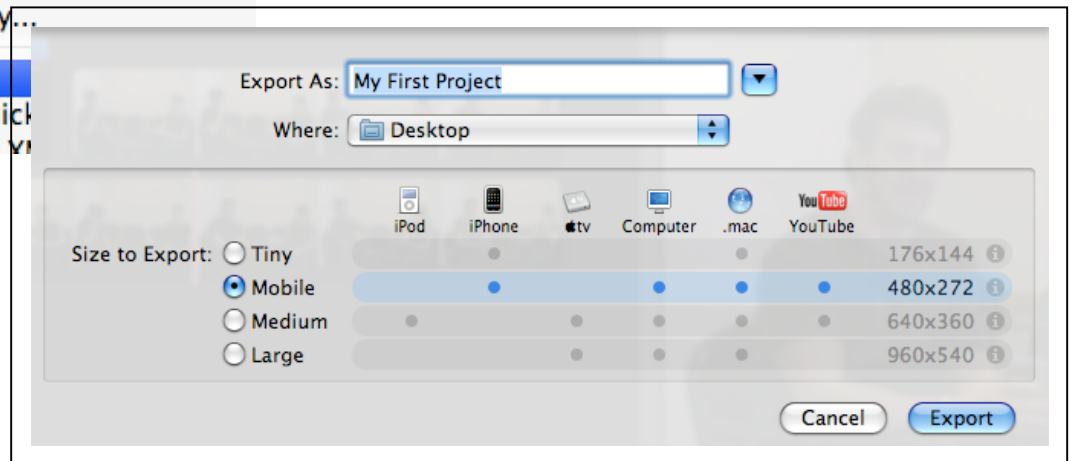

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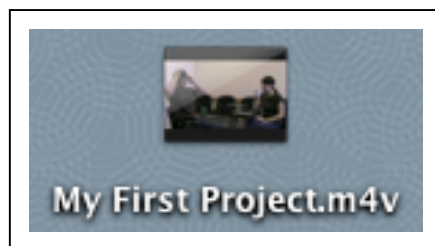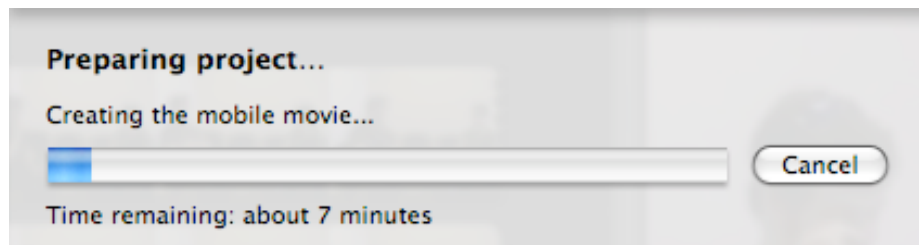
Exporting your final movie (continued):

To export your project as a movie file, choose the "Export Movie…" option under the "Share" menu.

iMovie will then prompt you to save the project being exported and chose the best size. Choose a name and location for your movie. ***Do not save your raw movie file to a network drive.***

When you are ready, select "Export" to begin creating your movie. **This may take a long time.**

When iMovie has finished creating your movie file, quit the application and locate your file.

For more information on using iMovie '08, consult Apple's documentation found in the Help menu.