

SESSION # 4 – Luisa Winters

4/20/09, Mon 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM Track: Final Cut Studio Editing Workshop
Session: **Using Adobe After Effects with Final Cut Pro**

If you are a Final Cut Pro user that uses After Effects just a little bit (or not at all), this session is for you. Come and see how you can include After Effects in your workflow. After Effects is a standard in the Motion Graphics world, and at the end of this session you will be a Final Cut Pro user that uses After Effects a lot!

Audience: Final Cut Pro users that wish to incorporate After Effects in the workflow

Export your FCP project using FCP Export XML feature:

- Note that PSDs & nested FCP sequences also import.
- Titles will import but you need to watch the font mapping and size.
- Make sure the same Apple codec is on the CS4 computer you are planning to use.
- Apple ProRes is now available for OSX & Windows. I highly recommend buying Quicktime Pro.
- From Premiere Pro CS4 (Windows or OSX) goto File >Import and import the FCP.xml file.
- Next, you'll be prompted to locate the project assets.
- If you get an error telling you that the video file is unsupported, then you have a codec issue.
- Again, make sure you have the same codec on CS4 machine.
- On macs, the codecs are located here: Macintosh HD>Library>Quicktime>....component.
- Some codecs are installed by FCP and the license requires you have to FCP installed.

Once the import completes you'll either see a folder in the Project panel or a message letting you know if there were any conversion issues. You can review this report and see what had issues converting. Some transitions or effects may not have mapped correctly and this will give you a complete list. If there are parts of the FCP timeline that would not convert (like Motion) , then they will be listed as off line but show up as place holders on the timeline to allow you to manually fix. *Currently, there is no way to import Motion files.*

If you need to jump to After Effects, you have 2 options.

Option 1: After you import your FCP project, you can save your new Premiere Pro project and quit. Next, launch AE and File>Import > Premiere Pro sequence. This will give you access to the same clips & effects that were available to Premiere Pro. (in this workflow, Premiere is working as the importer for AE workflows)

Option 2: From Premiere Pro, Select All clips on the timeline (CMD/Control A) and right click on any clip and use select "Create After Effects Composition" This uses Adobe DynamicLink to allow you to jump back and forth between Premiere & AE.

Also remember that with CS4 at anytime you can File>DynamicLink.Send to Encore. This will allow you to get your FCP timeline into Encore to create blu-rays, DVDs, and an interactive Flash webpage. By using this method, you can go back and forth between Premiere and Encore to make changes without need to render each time. With CS4, you only need to render during the Build process (last step).

To know more about After Effects, please refer to the class notes for the After Effects sessions.

Luisa Winters is an internationally celebrated instructor, presenter, and musician. An accomplished videographer, editor, 3D animator and graphics designer, she has created and edited scores of broadcast video and web projects for corporate, government, and educational, commercial and private clients.



An accomplished violinist, Luisa was, at the age of 13, a full-time member of the National Symphony Orchestra in the Dominican Republic. While attending the legendary Peabody Conservatory (in Baltimore, MD), Luisa learned from master musicians: Henryk Szeryng, Berl Senofski, Aarond Rosand, Charles Libove, and Leon Fleisher, among others.

Expressing her art in digital form, Luisa became an editor and motion graphics artist in 1985, and has been performing both arts full-time since that point in time. Luisa was the Adobe Premiere Pro Technical Chair for the Post-Production Conference at the 2008 NAB convention in Las Vegas.

Luisa is the author of Total Training for Adobe After Effects CS4 - Essentials (DVD), Absolute Training Premiere Pro Essentials (DVD), Adobe Premiere for Videographers (DVD) and Scores of magazine articles on Adobe Production Premium techniques (in English and Spanish).