

Taking the intimidation out of video with your smartphone at PVD fest

The prospect of making short films may seem daunting and overwhelmingly complex, but it's not. As photographers, you already have many of the skills necessary to be successful with moving images. You know how to compose a frame, how to use the best light available, and how to work with digital-imaging technology. You also own a highly portable, easy to use, incredibly high quality video making camera with great built in image stabilization, as in your smart phone. This class is aimed at artists who want to make videos with smart phones, telling brief visual stories, by recording video and sounds on their smart phones and then editing them together into short videos, of anything of interest, be that of their travels, their family, their work, etc.

To do this, you need an experience teacher and filmmaker to guide you through the transition from still photographer to filmmaker—and then you need to dedicate the time to practice. In this class, the guide will be David Wells, who creates videos full-time, for personal projects and paying clients. With his guidance, you will learn how to create a dramatic and visually compelling short films maximizing ambient sound and compelling motion visuals.

The initial lessons of the class will be at the Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts in the morning. After that introductory morning session each student will make a short film as we move outside to film the action at PVDfest from about 3pm until about 9 pm during PVD Fest <https://pvdfest.com/> which is September 25 – 26. PVD Fest will make a perfect subject since people expect cameras there and the event features great visuals and sounds to capture. Before the class, students will be expected to watch a series of videos to help them get up to speed on various parts of filmmaking. These pre-recorded videos will focus focus on tools, storytelling techniques, softwares, etc. Allow a couple days to view these films in small doses in advance of the class..

During the class session before the Saturday afternoon/evening events of PVD Fest, David will orient you in terms of the gear, strategies, subject matter, location scouting, and plans for recording video and audio of the street festivities, the performers and spectators at PVDfest in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. One of the most important lessons of the workshop is to use your photographer's eye when capturing video in order to shape that viewer's experience and the narrative by using the kind of camera work techniques which photographers already know.

Before the second session students will be expected to already have watched a series of videos to help them get up to speed on the software that class will be built around in order to edit the video/audio clips captured on Saturday afternoon and evening into a film during the day on Sunday. These pre-recorded videos will focus on the software and they will focus on story development through careful organization of those clips made on Saturday afternoon and evening. Saturday after PVD fest students are expected to download and organize their audio and video content following the instructor's guidance.

The next day, Sunday, class will start at 9 am, with a focus on organizing and renaming clips to a useable naming convention. Then we will discuss reordering duplicates of the selected clips into the first order for making a rough cut of the film. After a 12 pm lunch break the class will dig into the software for video editing, then

the students will work on their short films. At 5 pm the class will review the final version of each student's film.

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David Helfer Wells is an award-winning visual storyteller who has worked as a newspaper photographer, a freelance magazine photographer, and most recently a filmmaker. He creates still and moving images for clients such as Bryn Mawr College and Aramco World, and his personal and grant-funded projects have been supported by the Fulbright and Alicia Patterson Foundations. Magazines that have published David's work include *Fortune*, *Time*, *Life*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, and *The Sunday New York Times*, among others. His films have been shown at festivals worldwide, in Bangalore, New York City, Rome, and San Francisco.

Before Class	TIME	9/25 SAT	9/26 SUN
Watch pre recorded videos on film making tools and techniques and on editing/organizing final film output	9 am to 1pm	Class time - lessons / questions / follow up on lessons in prerecorded videos	Class time on organizing, selecting files and assembling in software
Web search their camera for video specific controls as per instructor's pre-class letter	1 pm - 2 pm	Lunch	Lunch
Practice video and audio gathering as per instructor's pre-class letter	2 pm to 5pm	Walk PVD fest with instructor for planning/guidance	Final editing session
	5pm to 9 pm	Record Audio and Video of PVD fest on your own	Final review of class produced video (should finish by 6:30 pm +/-)
THU 9/23 7 to 8 pm Briefing via ZOOM - AFTER watching selected assigned videos	Over-night	Download and organize audio and video into folders	