



**BILLY BLUE**  
COLLEGE OF DESIGN



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| <b>Course</b>   | <b>Nuke Basic</b>   |
| <b>Lecturer</b> | Alan Maxwell  |
| <b>Duration</b> | Three days or ten evenings                                      |
| <b>Fee</b>      | \$715   |
| <b>Venue</b>    | Billy Blue College of Design, 171 Pacific Highway, North Sydney |

### **Course Outline**

This course provides an overview of compositing in film and television effects and a brief history of Nuke.

Examples of special effects work produced through Nuke will be screened over the three days, for example Digital Domain productions such as Letters From Iwo Jima, True Lies, Titanic, Transformers, etc. Peter Jackson's "King Kong" used Nuke also.

Hands-on, practical exercises in basic compositing will be demonstrated and practiced with sample footage provided.

### **Who should attend**

- People with a fascination of film visual effects who would like a taste of what is possible with present day compositing technology.
- You are interested in Digital Compositing but have never had any experience with compositing packages
- You are interested in further enhancing your 3D renders by learning a powerful compositing package in support
- You are well-versed in stills compositing with Photoshop but would like to up skill into moving footage

### **How will it be delivered?**

Based in a computer lab environment, you will be able to work hands on with the Nuke compositing software package. You will be working on dual screen Mac systems. The lecturer will give you step by step instruction and this will be accompanied with onscreen projection and practical footage / exercises to work with.



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## Course Outcomes

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- import and export footage from Nuke
- achieve diverse looks through colour grading of footage
- perform rudimentary spfx compositing techniques
- combine various fx and filmic elements into a completed special fx shot
- work with film or video footage inside of Nuke and export it
- chroma key an actor over a background scene.
- track hand held footage and stabilize it
- combine 3D CGI elements with 2D film background plates

This knowledge will form the basis on which you can expand with further learning and self development in film compositing.

## Course Content

### Practical Exercises

- Basics of Compositing
- Introduction to the Nuke user interface
- Importing footage and project settings
- Export footage
- Interface: Hot Keys, viewers and customisation
- How to render flipbooks
- The Curve editor and keyframes
- Working with the node graph
- Colour Correction
- Transforms
- Image Tracking, Stabilizing & Matchmoving elements
- Luma and Chroma Keying
- Mattes & Rotoscoping
- 3D integration

### Section 1:

- A brief history of Nuke, its heritage and just why it's positioned to be the emerging industry leader in compositing software.
- Introduction to the NUKE GUI. Reconfiguring the interface to taste. Basics of nodes.



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- How to import film footage, set up your project resolution and render out footage.
- How to render flipbooks

#### Section 2:

- Chroma Key exercises, composite actors over a variety of backgrounds with blue and green screen keying techniques.

#### Section 3:

- 3D CGI integration
- Composite an aerial flyover of CGI terrain with clouds and smoke
- Compositing multi pass 3d renders
- How to combine Ambient Occlusion passes with other standard passes in Nuke  
2D tracking

#### **Course Prerequisites**

No prior knowledge of compositing required. Basic Computer/Internet skills with PC or Mac essential. Photoshop skills very helpful but not essential.

#### **Lecturer's Biography**

Alan Maxwell has an extensive back history in film special effects working on many Australian feature films and television shows. He was miniature fx coordinator on "Mad Max 3- Beyond Thunderdome" and has enormous experience in the effects industry. See his film credits at the Internet Movie Database. <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0561645/>

He went on into Directing and has made over 70 commercials for a diverse range of clients and agencies in Sydney and Melbourne. His short films have screened at local and international film festivals. For example "Dark Heart" was selected for entry into the St Kilda film festival, screened International Short Film festival in June 1999 and later sold to SBS for screening on the television program "Eat Carpet".

<http://www.afc.gov.au/filmsandawards/filmdbsearch.aspx?view=title&title=DARKHT>

Alan has contracted at Billy Blue as a Maya 3D lecturer over the last two years and is currently teaching 3D Animation with Maya 2009 full time at A.I.E. Alan brings his practical knowledge of film making into the 3D arena.

**Recommended link:** <http://www.thefoundry.co.uk/>

**Recommended reading:** The Art and Science of Digital compositing (2nd Edition) by Ron Brinkmann ISBN: 978-0-12-370638-6