Lesson 03 Creative Adaptation

- 1 Adapting traditional theatre elements for digital platforms
 - 1.1 Understanding Digital Platform Limitations and possibilities
 - 1.2 Conveying Atmosphere in a Digital Format
- 2 Optimizing the Online Viewer Experience
 - 2.1 Enhancing Viewer Experience
 - 2.2 Visual Elements for Narrative Storytelling
 - 2.3 Creating Virtual Sets and Backgrounds



Understanding Digital Platform Limitations and possibilities

Once a spectator is physically in a theatre, he can select which area of the stage he focuses on, what details of the set he choses to pay attention to.

He is in an active behavior, not just watching but actively watching and listening. All senses are active. The energy of the cast and the other spectators are surrounding him.

What about the viewer behind his laptop, or watching on his phone. The question is how to keep the audience focused? How to make sure the performance is touching an Online audience? How to convey the emotion?

We need to, as video directors, streaming specialist to be on top of our game.

We need to use cinematic language, to be different, to dare using different techniques, to adapt the story telling for such an audience.

The interaction with the director, the technical crew of the play is key to achieve that so as to remain in harmony with their visions.



Last week we talked about the importance of working hand in hand with the lighting designer, sound and set designer.

Once they implement their vision to the production, our work as video directors/streaming specialist is to ensure their vision to be well received by the audience.

We have tools such as OBS to enable us to twist and enhance some of these aspects.

The colors and lighting

The use of luts and color correction tools in real time within our broadcasting software enable us to easily transform the colors and feels of our visuals. If the production doesn't have a big lighting budget, this technique is handy to transform a rather flat lighting look on stage to appealing visuals following the mood of the scenes.

Of course, always the better lighting on stage, the better outcome for the broadcast.



What are LUTs?

Look-Up Tables, often abbreviated as LUTs, are essential tools in the world of digital image and video processing. They are used to manipulate and transform the colors and tones of images or videos in a systematic and consistent way. Here's a more detailed explanation:

Color and Tone Adjustments: LUTs are primarily used for color grading and correction. They allow you to modify the color balance, contrast, brightness, and saturation of an image or video. By applying a LUT, you can quickly achieve a desired visual style or mood, such as making footage appear warmer, cooler, more cinematic, or vintage.

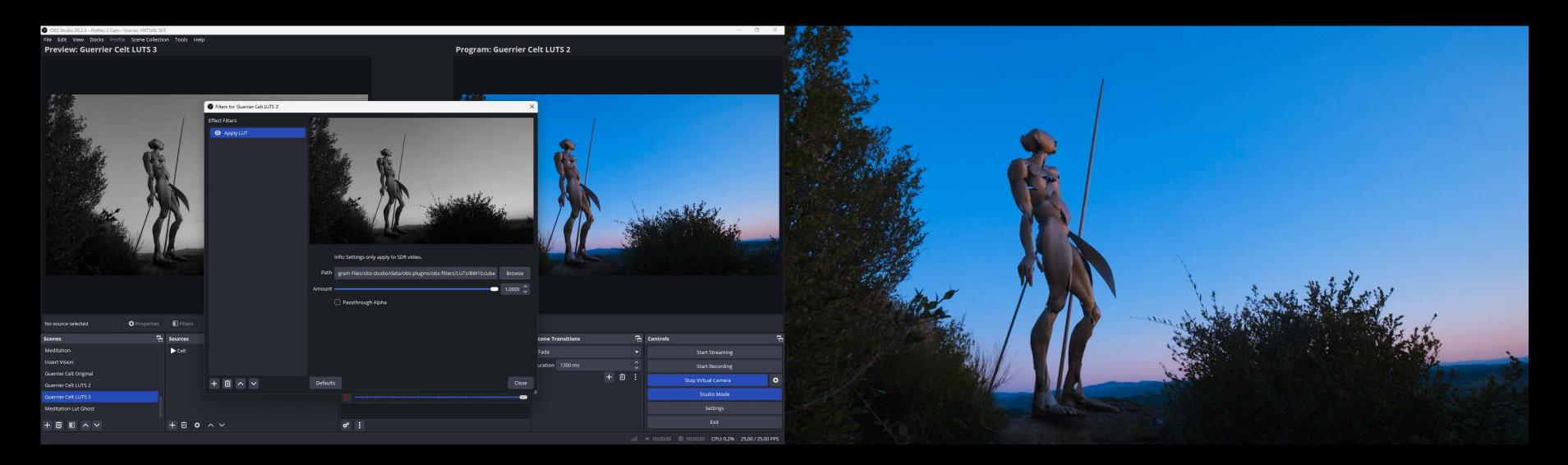
Consistency and Efficiency: LUTs provide a way to maintain visual consistency throughout a project. For example, in filmmaking, LUTs ensure that footage shot under different lighting conditions or with various camera settings can be made to match seamlessly in post-production. This consistency is crucial for maintaining the overall look and feel of a video.

Creative Control: LUTs offer creative professionals, such as photographers, videographers, and graphic designers, precise control over the visual style of their work. They can experiment with different LUTs to achieve unique and artistic looks, whether it's a vintage film aesthetic, a high-contrast cinematic vibe, or a dreamy, desaturated appearance.



What are LUTs?

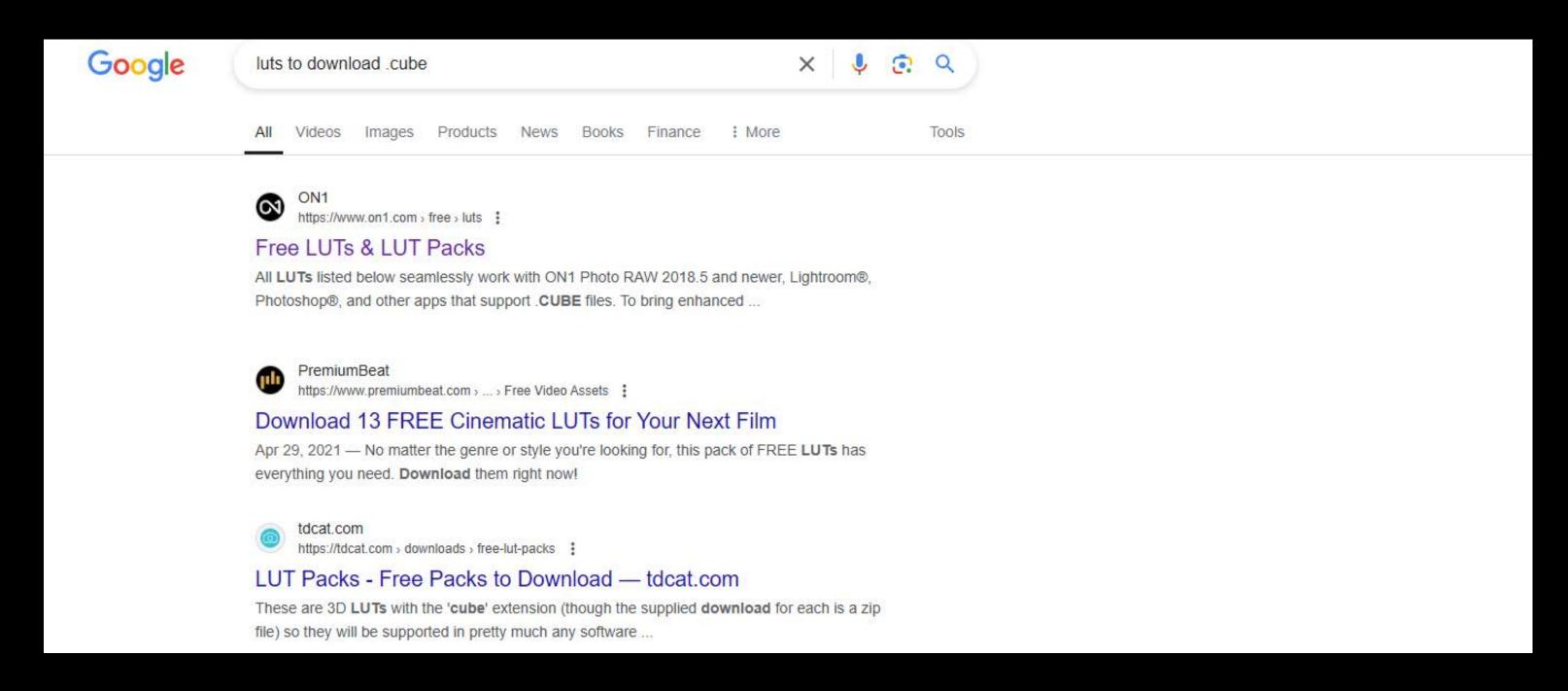
Software Compatibility: Most professional image and video editing software, like Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, and DaVinci Resolve, support the use of LUTs. Users can easily import and apply LUTs within these applications, making it a versatile tool for various creative projects. **With OBS make sure to use files who are .Png or .cube.**



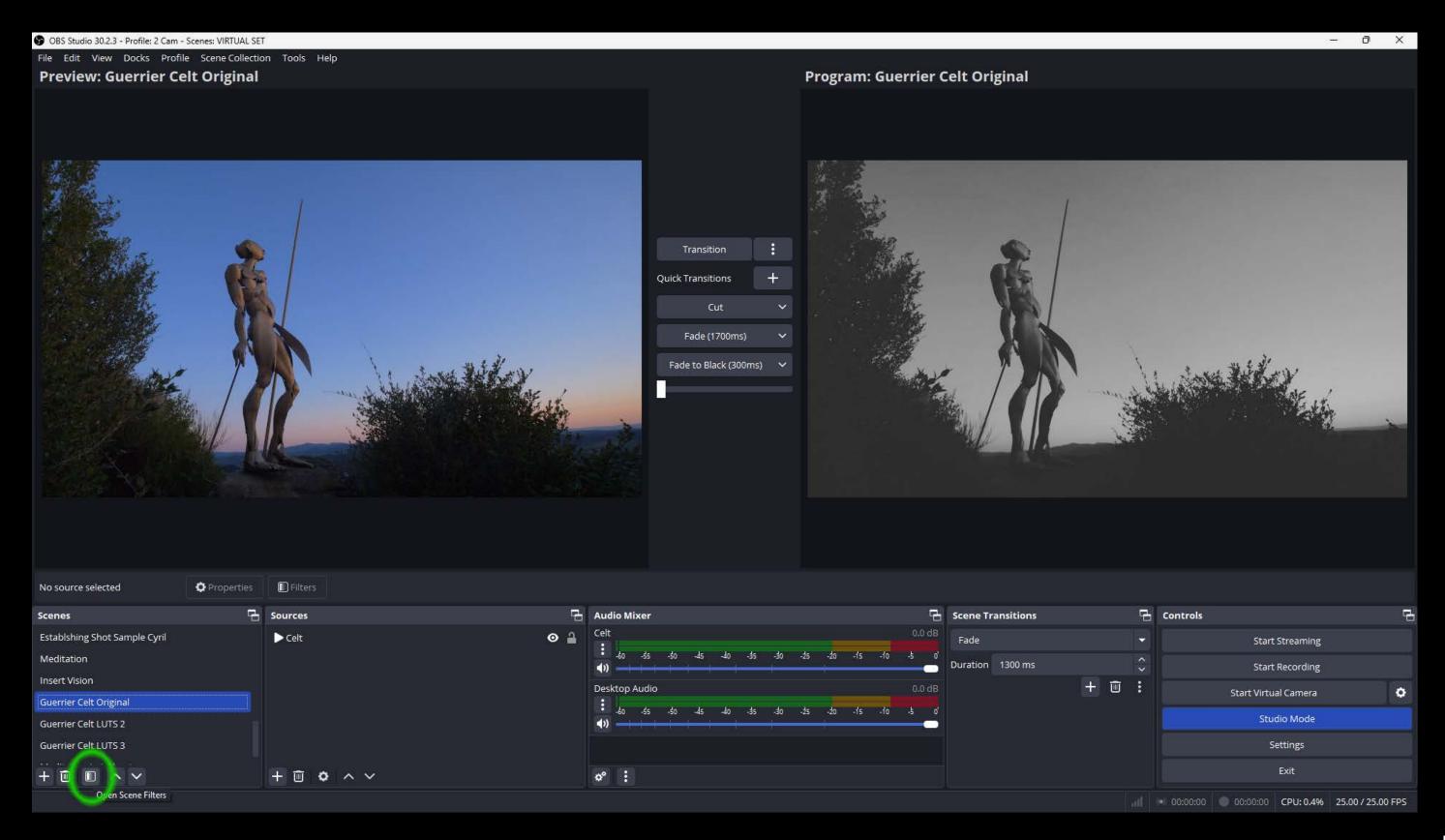


What are LUTs?

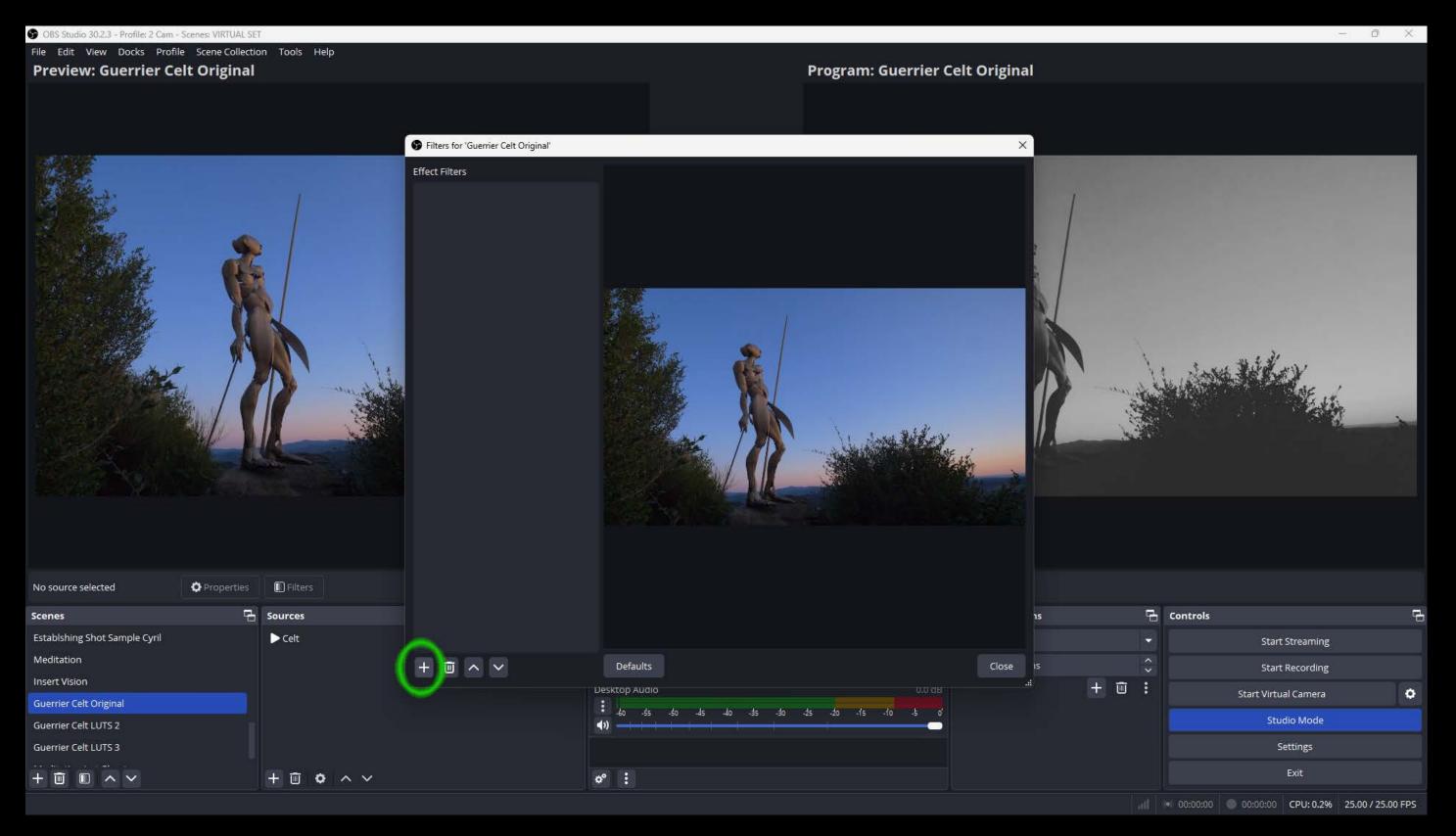
You can download some LUTs easily and import them to your software to enrich your creative possibilities.



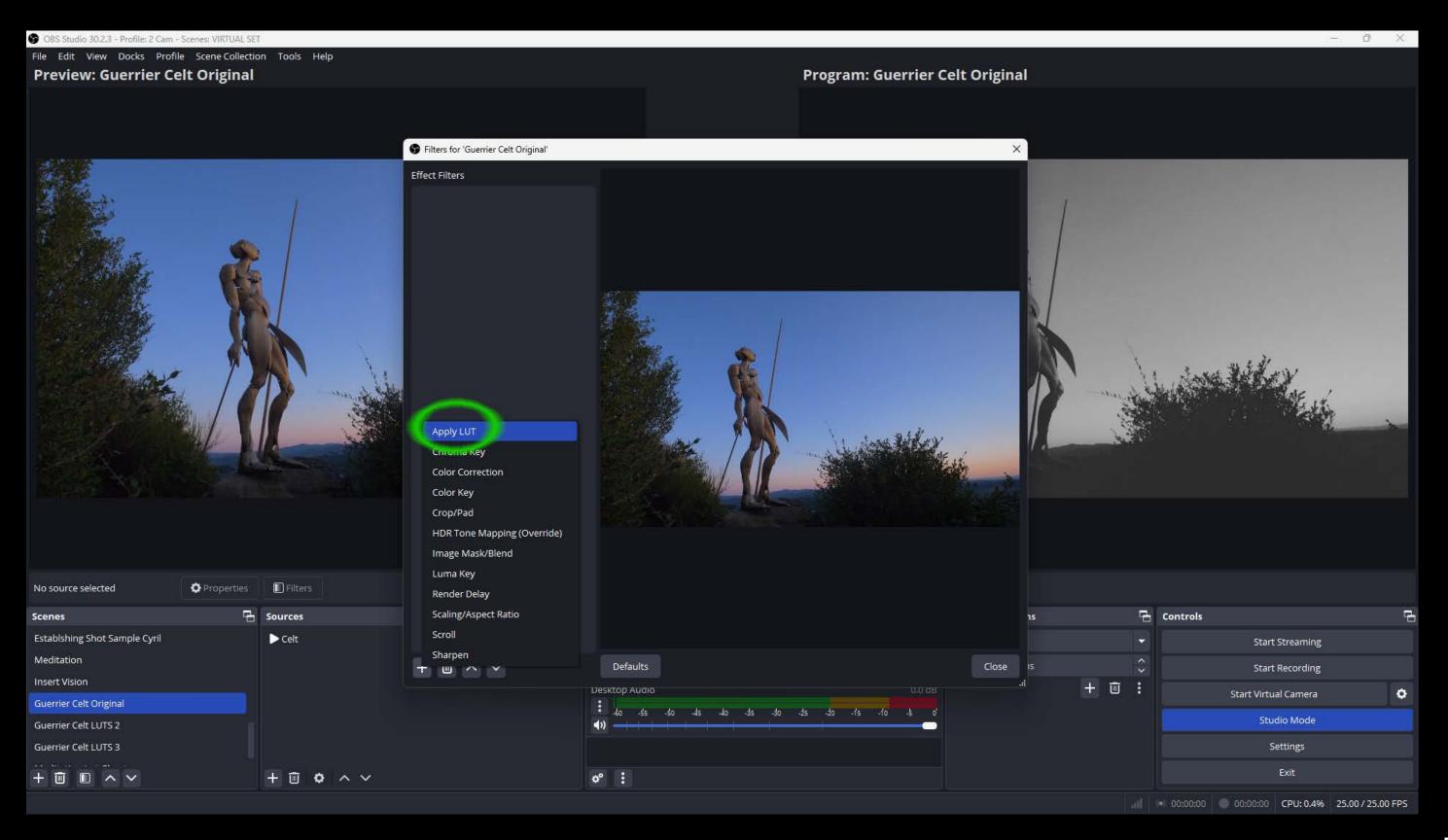




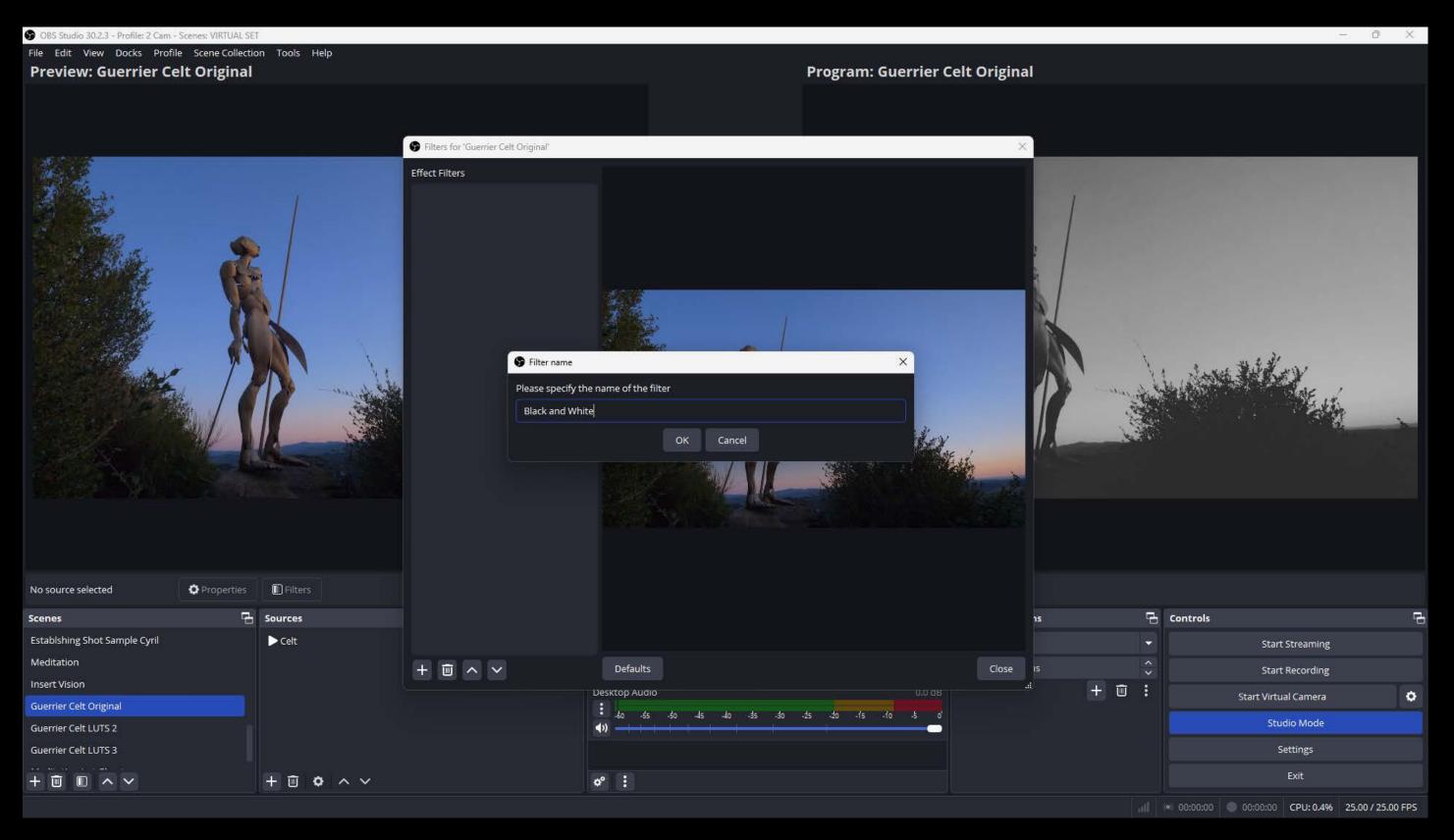




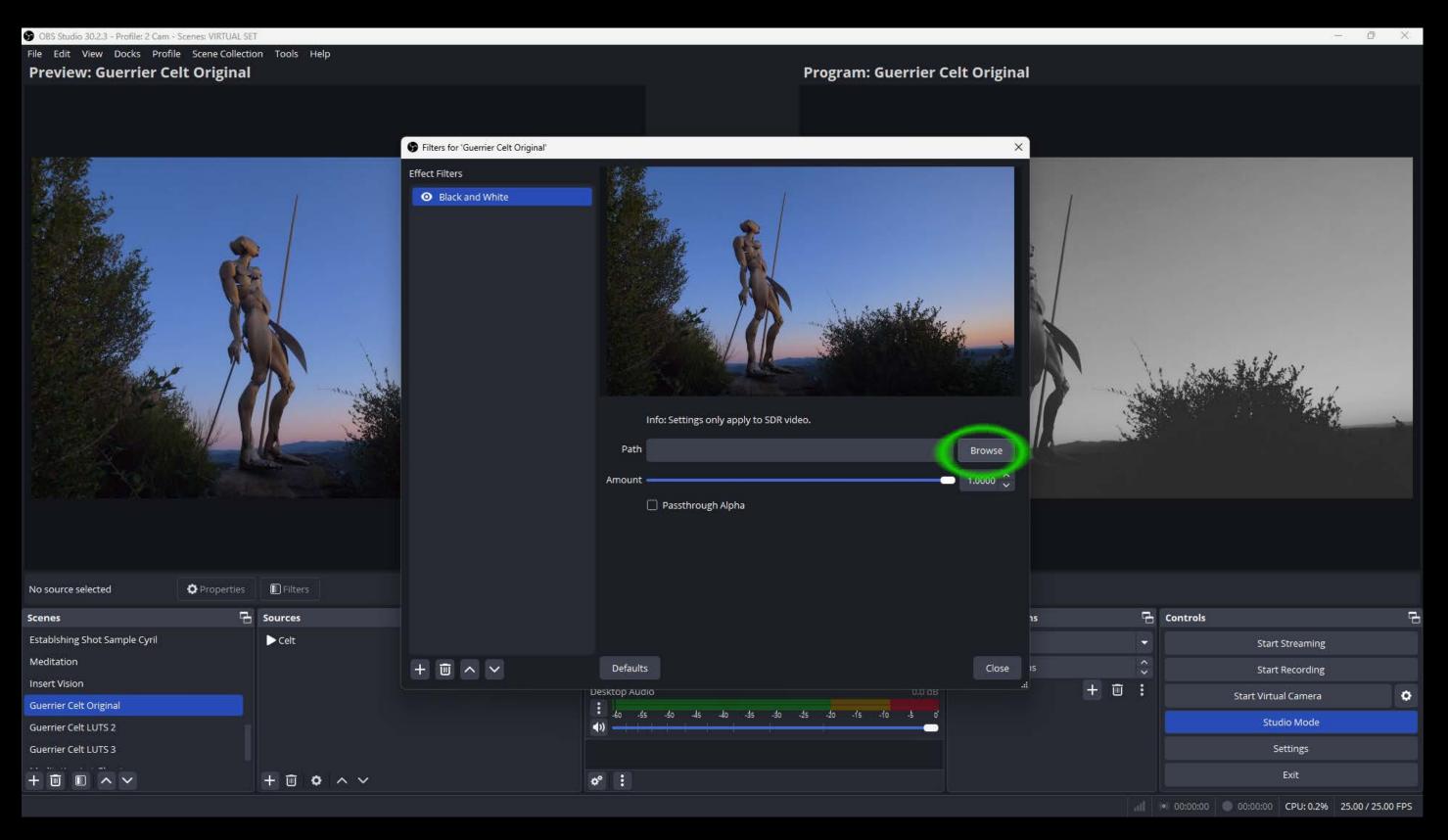




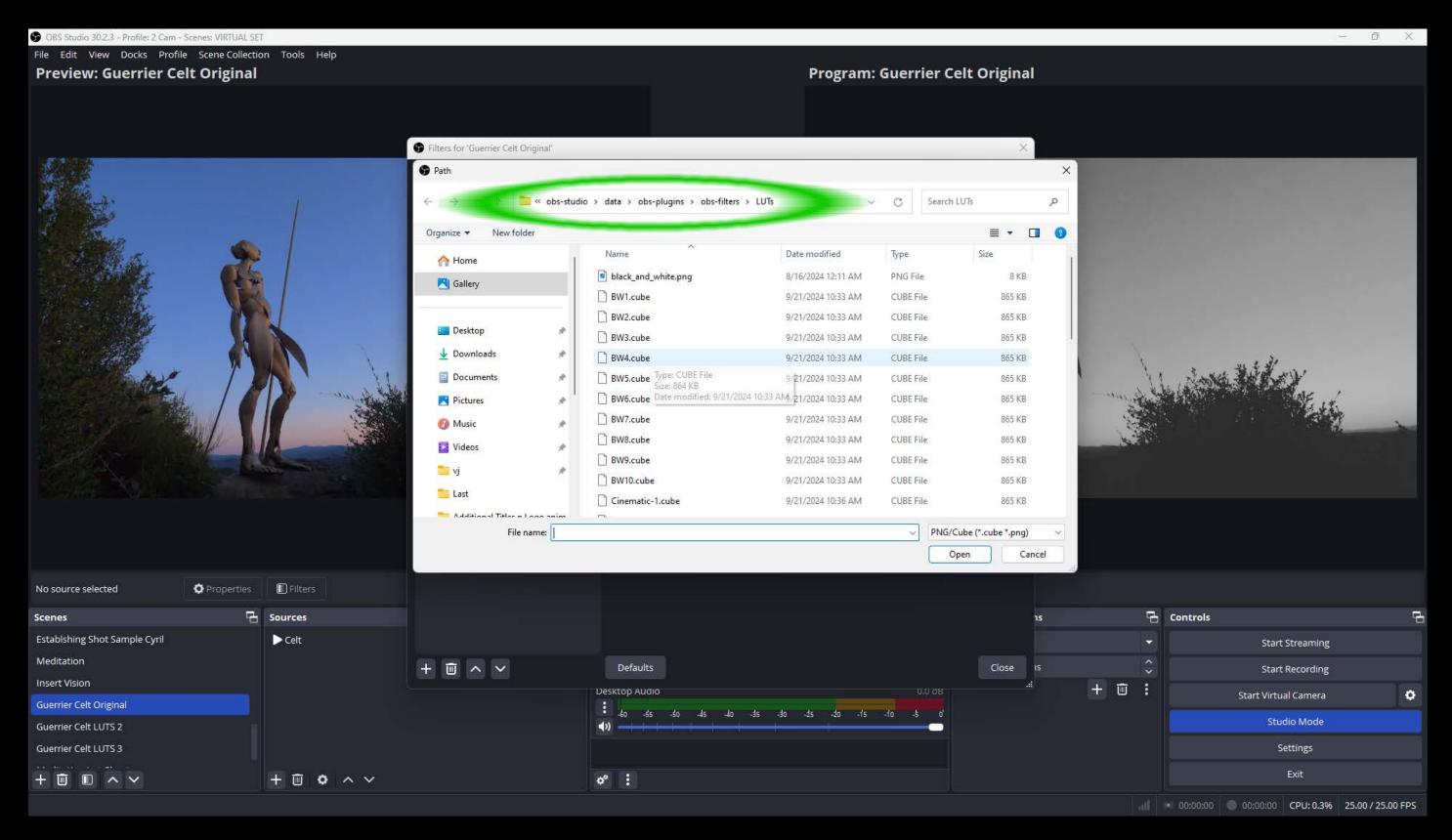




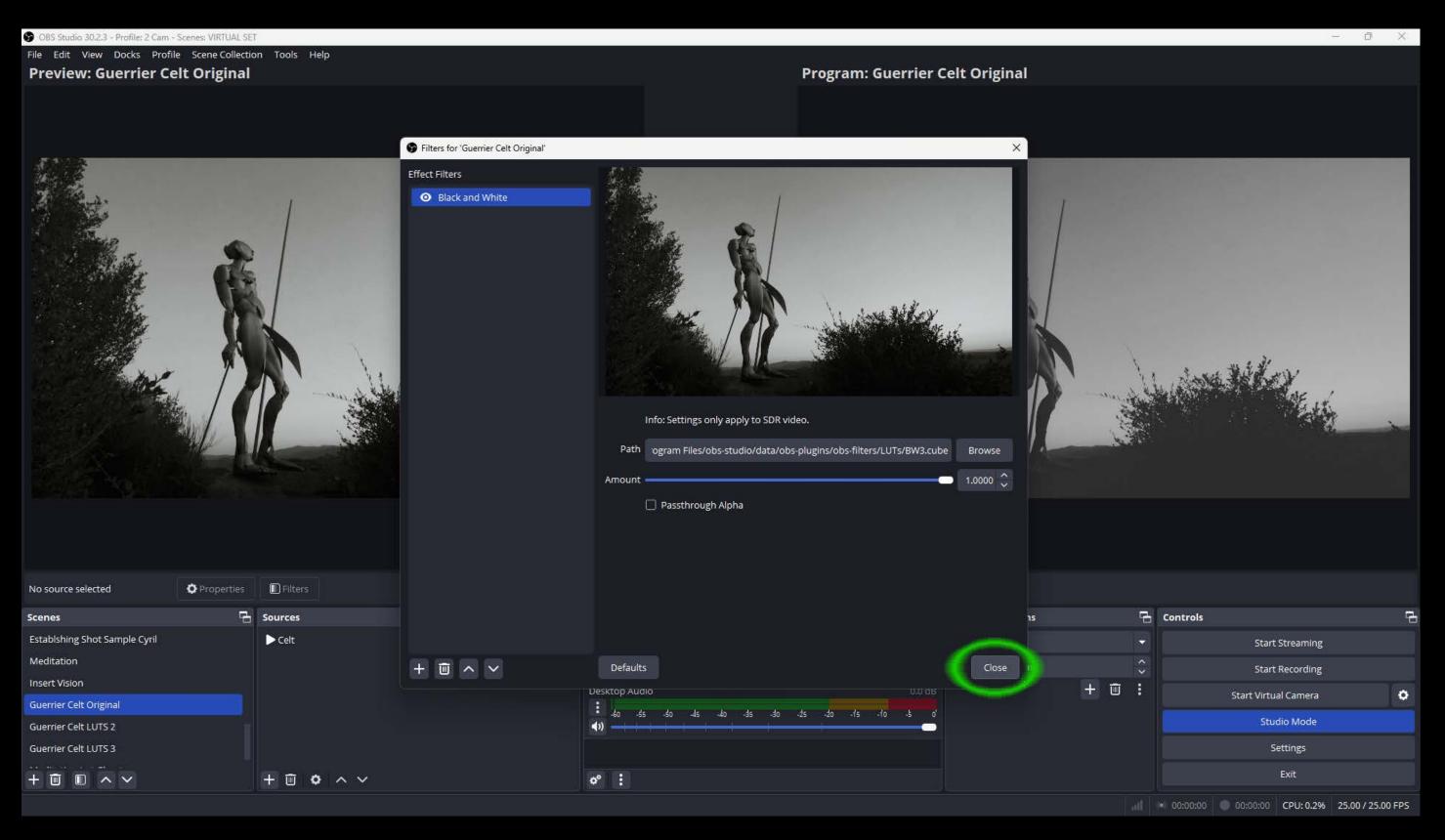




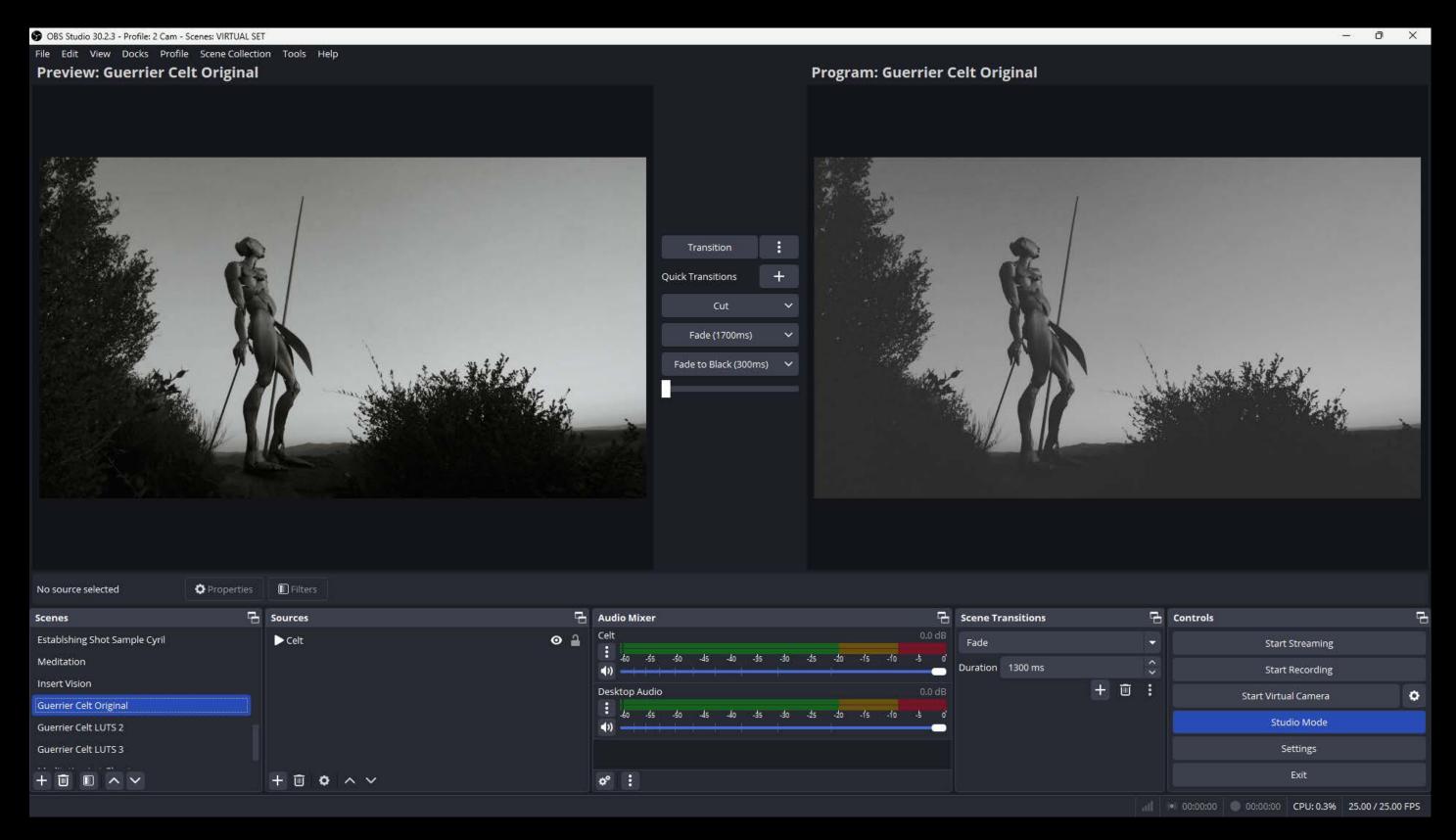




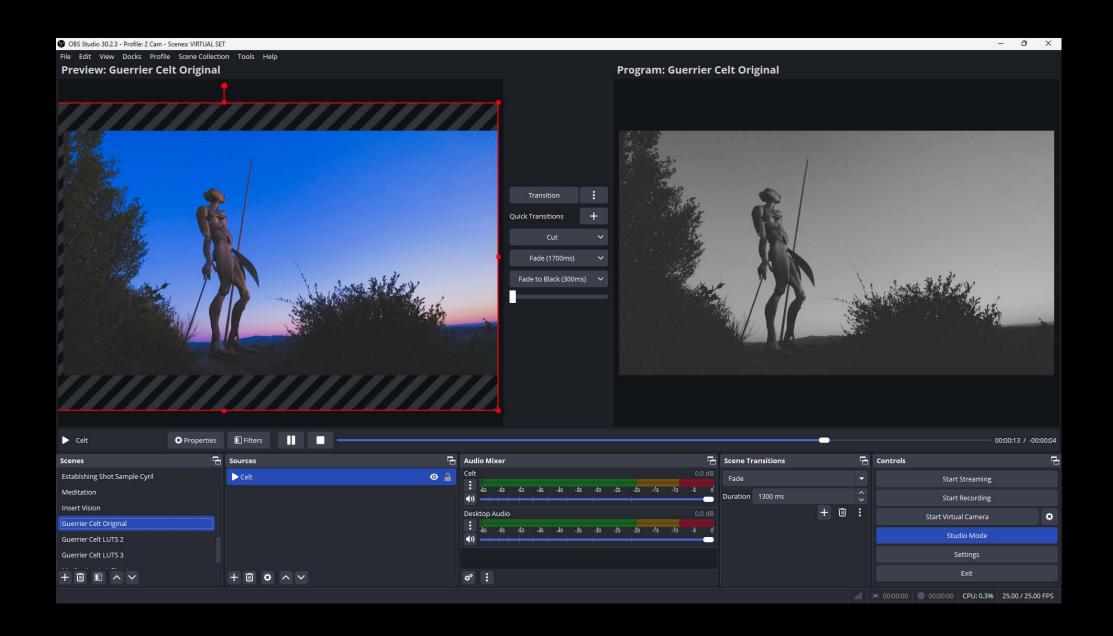












Different types of LUTs for different outcomes



The set design the props, the environment

We can consider inserts of objects or element of the set design recorded beforehand. That way we can emphasis on details.

We can shift the attention of the viewer accordingly. We can as well record and use establishing shots of exteriors when the scene is in an interior, that way we can introduce the scene and showcase locations that cannot be depicted on a theatre stage but can immerse the audience in the story.





The establishing shot

The establishing shot, which can be either a wide-angle view of the story's location or a close-up of a particular object or detail, offers context, sets the performance's tone, and immerses the audience in the world of the story.

Establishing shots serve as a way to begin a story visually. They give the audience a clear picture of the setting, including where and when the scene takes place. It's all about setting the stage for the show!

Shooting and editing a well-executed establishing shot can evoke emotions, build suspense, and capture the viewer's imagination.

For example, consider the opening shot of the city skyline in Blade Runner.

This establishing shot not only introduce the audience to the world of the story but also create an unforgettable visual experience.



The establishing shot

A good establishing shot can take various forms, such as:

Wide shots that showcase the entire scene

Aerial shots that provide a bird's-eye view

Close-up shots that focus on specific details

These different kinds of shots are great for giving the audience a complete grasp of the location. By showcasing different perspectives, viewers get a thorough understanding of the setting.

Wide shots are among the most common establishing shots. They provide an expansive view of the environment.

To draw attention to a specific building in an establishing shot, filmmakers have a range of filming techniques at their disposal. They can **tilt the camera up or down**, **pan across the scene**, **or zoom in.** Wide shots are particularly effective for giving viewers a sense of the physical space of the scene.



The establishing shot

Aerial shots provide a unique perspective and are often used in establishing shots to showcase the **scale of a scene.** They might also be used to highlight the relationship between different elements in the shot.

Aerial shots are a filmmaker's go-to for capturing great locations. These shots can be incredibly effective by leveraging elements like composition, framing, lighting, color, and camera movement. **They add depth and beauty to any scene**, making them a popular choice among filmmakers.

A great example is Stanley Kubrick's The Shining, which opens on a lone family car driving through vast mountain ranges, giving a taste of the isolation the family will experience over the course of the story.



The establishing shot

Close-up shots, while not as common in establishing shots, can still be effectively used to:

Emphasize the emotions and reactions of a character.

Draw attention to an object or detail.

Create a feeling of familiarity between the viewer and the subject.

You can use various close-up shots, like extreme close-up or medium close-up, to create the desired effect.

These shots can add a friendly and practical touch to your videos, allowing you to capture the details you want.



Optimizing the Online Viewer Experience

Enhancing Viewer Experience

The audio broadcast has to be very clean, clear, using different types of microphones/sources such as:

Ambiance microphones such as boom mics

Wireless Lavalier microphones clipped on each of the actors

Suspended directional microphones if the cast is big

A channel from the device playing back the music or the sound mixer in case of live performance of the sound track on stage

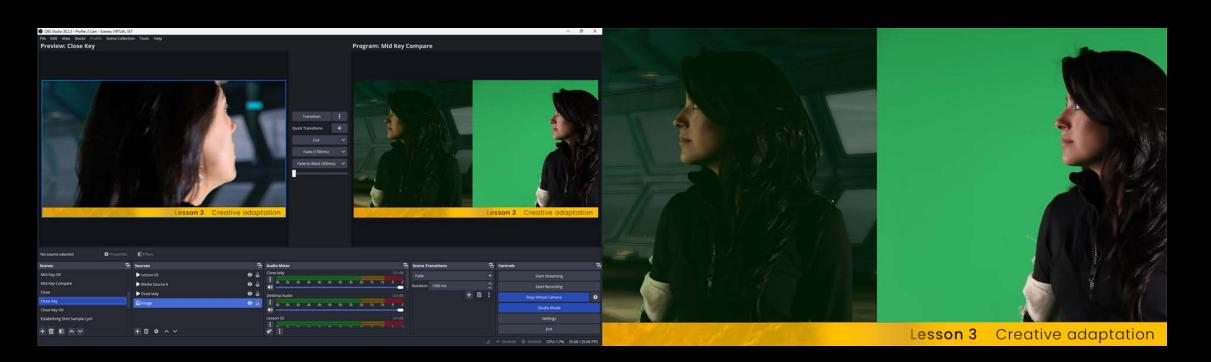


Optimizing the Online Viewer Experience

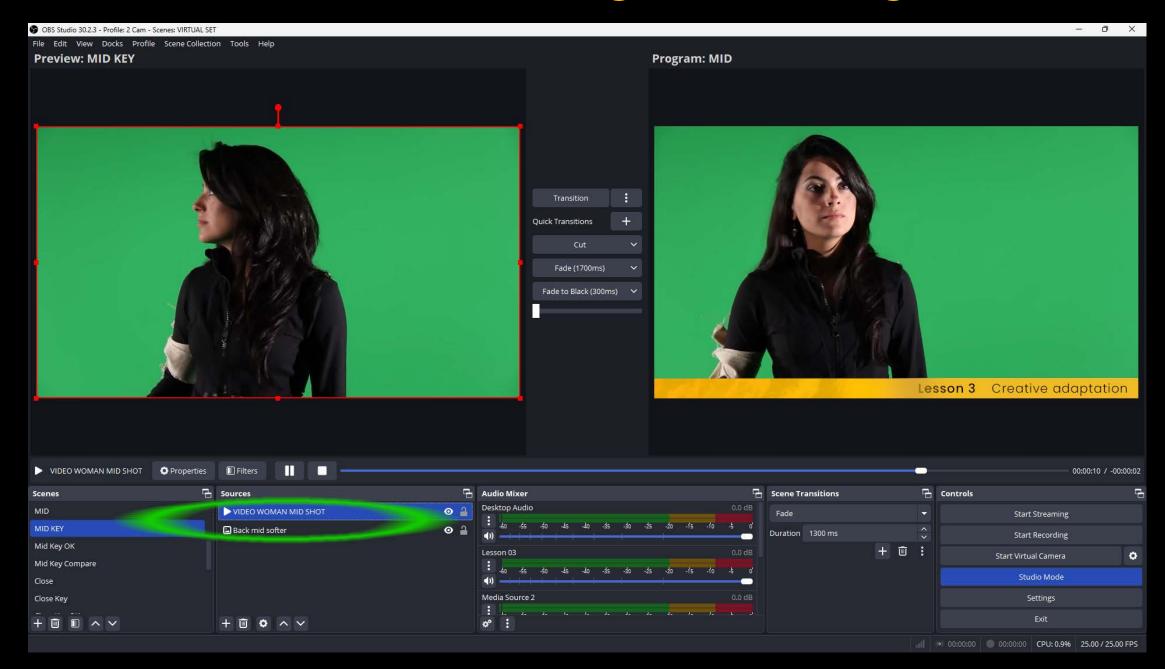
Visual Elements for Narrative Storytelling / Creating Virtual Sets and Backgrounds

We can imagine using name and location tags to help the viewer understand better some elements of the story.

The software OBS enable us to do live keying and masking expending the possibilities of our broadcast.







Make sure you have 2 layers in your scene, the upper layer should be your subject (it can be a live camera), the downer layer the background (in this case a picture) that you want to appear behind your subject.



