

# RAINBOW FAMILY TREE

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## Introduction

iMovie is an application that allows you to arrange video, photographs, text, music, transitions, and even a voiceover, to create a slideshow or a movie. It contains numerous features to arrange and edit your media in order to achieve the look and sound you want. iMovie is fun and easy to use, so don't be scared to play around and experiment!

## iMovie Versions

The following explanations are based on iMovie 7.1.1. iMovie versions previous to this will vary in regards to the look of the interface, however, the video editing principles remain the same. The Helpful Links section of this guide contains links to websites that should help you understand iMovie, irrespective of the version or operating system you are working with.

## iMovie 7+ - Window Layout

The working window is divided into three main panes. On the top left is the **Project Window**, this displays the elements being used in your project in sequence, along with any transitions, titles, and audio (Figure 1). The top right window is the **Preview Window**, here you can see how your project looks. The lower part, the **Event Window**, shows the video files (organised into Events by iMovie) in the iMovie library. These videos, or selected portions thereof, can be dragged into your **Preview Window**.



Figure 1: (1: Project Window; 2: Preview Window; 3: Event Window)

Along the centre strip of the working window are a number of buttons:



**Camera Import:**

This allows you to view the video files on a camera connected to your computer and select those files you wish to import.



**Swap Events and Projects:**

This button swaps the project pane at the top left of the window with the lower Events pane, allowing more space to view your project elements.



**Thumbnail Size:**

This sliding scale adjusts the size of the thumbnails representing the files and elements (audio, transitions) in your project.



**Add Selection To Project:**

This button adds selected video files from your camera/computer into your iMovie project.



**Mark Selection as Favourite:**

This button allows you to select a video clip in your Events window and mark it as a favourite.



**Unmark Selection:**

Removes a selected video clip from your favourites.



**Reject Selection:**

Removes the selected video file, or a selected portion of a video file, from your Events window. Please note this does not remove the file from your computer, only from your iMovie project.





## Photos Browser:

This opens a pane that allows you to browse your iPhoto library for images to add to your project. Don't worry if you don't keep your photos organised in iPhoto - it's easy to add images to your project. Find the file you wish to use then drag and drop it into your project window.



## Titles Brower:

This opens a pane that allows you to select a background and add text to make title/text screens. These can be added to the start or end of your project, or in between media clips.



## Transitions Browser:

This button opens the transitions browser, which allows you to select from a range of transitions to insert between the media clips, such as cross-fading, page turning, etc.

## Adding stills and video

If your photographs are organised with iPhoto, open the Photo browser and select the image you wish to insert. If you don't use iPhoto, find the desired image on your computer and drag it into the **Preview Window**.

Video files can be imported directly from a camera connected to your computer with the camera import button.

Video files can also be imported from where they are stored on your computer by opening the iMovie **File** menu and then selecting **Import > Movie**. You can then select the video file you wish to import.

Once imported, the video file will appear in your **Events Window**. Double-click to open the whole clip and drag it to your **Project Window**. If you only want to use a portion of the video clip, use your mouse to select what you want (a yellow border will appear around the clip). You can then drag and drop it in your **Project Window**.





## **Voiceover:**

This opens a window that allows you to record a voiceover using a built-in or connected microphone (more detail below).



## **Crop, Rotate, and Ken Burns:**

This button allows you to crop or rotate the images in your project, or you can choose Ken Burns to zoom from a start frame to an end frame on your image.



## **Inspector:**

This button is used to edit the elements in your project. The Inspector allows you to define the length of a clip, title or transition being used in your project, and also to apply various image filtering effects. It also allows you to adjust various image qualities such as exposure, brightness, contrast, saturation and white point. This is a handy way to access editing options for the individual elements in your project.



## **Audio Skimming:**

This button determines whether iMovie will play audio on-the-fly while you are trimming your audio clips. Audio skimming is quite demanding on computer system resources and is rarely necessary.



## **Music & Sound Effects Browser:**

This opens a pane that allows you to browse your computer for music or audio files to add to your project. There are a range of built-in sound effects available in iMovie. Simply drag the selected audio file and drop it in the project where you want it to play. You can then refine and edit the sound effect (see below).

## Adding audio and music

Audio files can be added from your computer by selecting the **Music and Sound Effects Browser**, which displays a list of iMovie sound effects and the contents of your iTunes library.

If the audio files you want to use are not in your iTunes library, you can search or browse your computer to find the required file, drag it into your project pane and drop it at the point where you want it to play.

Please note that you must have copyright clearance on any music, sound effects or stock images you wish to include in your Digital Story. There are a wide variety of 'creative commons' resources available on-line – check the Rainbow Family Tree website for links and references.

## Adding a voiceover

Using iMovie you can record a voiceover with a microphone connected to your computer (recommended) or by using a built-in microphone. Press the **Voiceover** button and you will be prompted to select the image or video clip in your project where you want the voiceover to commence. The computer will count down from three and start recording.

To stop recording simply click on the clip, the preview pane (top right), or press the space bar. The voiceover will then be added to your project as an audio file 'pinned' to the clip you recorded over.

## Arranging clips in your project

You can adjust the order of media clips (photo, video and audio) in your project by simply clicking on the clip you wish to move and dragging it to where you want it to play. Please note, however, that moving video or photo elements with audio clips 'pinned' to them (such as audio clips are displayed in purple) will move the 'pinned' audio clip to the same point.



## Editing images, video, and audio

To edit individual images and clips simply select the image/clip you wish to edit (a yellow border will highlight selection). Then use either the...

1. **Inspector** button,
2. The small cog icon that appears in the bottom left corner of your clip, or,
3. Right click on the clip.

This will access various editing functions, such as, duration of clip (the time the image will remain on-screen), image filtering effects, crop or 'Ken Burns', image qualities (brightness, contrast, colour saturation etc.) and audio qualities.

## Transitions

Animated transitions between images or videos can be added with the **Transitions Browser** button. They can be edited the same way as video and audio, by using the [Inspector] button, the cog icon in the lower left corner of the transition or by right clicking on the clip. You can adjust the length of the transition, choose start and end points and apply new effects.

## Title screens

Title or text screens can be inserted anywhere in your project by selecting the **Titles Browser**. View the range of text effects by moving your mouse pointer over the different options. This will give you a small preview of the text animation/effects.

Drag the title to where you want it. Enter your text in the **Preview Pane** at the top right of the iMovie window. The '**Show Fonts**' button in the corner of the **Preview Pane** will allow you to select from a range of font styles, colours and backgrounds.

Once a title screen has been inserted into your project it can be edited the same way as other project elements; using the Inspector button, clicking the small cog icon in the lower left corner of your title screen or by right clicking. In this way you can adjust the duration of the title screen, select new fonts, backgrounds and text effects.





## Saving your project

iMovie creates an **iMovie Projects** folder where it saves every project you create in your main **Movies** folder on your computer. Video and audio elements are saved in this folder as well as title screens, transitions, and any edits you have made to project elements.

## Version Control

Version Control is best explained in the following scenario: Imagine that you have spent time working on your Movie project. You haven't finished it but want to keep the file so you save it as *yourname\_imovie01*.

The next time you open the file you want to make changes that you aren't sure will work. You may want to experiment – but at the same time you don't want to risk losing any work you have done previously. The best thing to do in this situation is, when re-opening your project, re-name your file (File> Save As) as *yourname\_imovie02*.

Now you have 2 files. One named *yourname\_imovie01* and one *yourname\_imovie02*. Then if you made any changes to *yourname\_imovie02* that you are not happy with – you can always start anew with *yourname\_imovie01*.

## Exporting your project

When you have completed your iMovie project you can export it as a movie. iMovie offers a range of export sizes and formats, depending on how you wish to use the project. iMovie can export projects for viewing on iPods, iPhones, computers, YouTube and other internet based video streams, and in video formats such as .avi, .mp4.

To export your project as a movie, open the iMovie **Share** menu and, depending on how you want to use and share your project, select the export size and format options that best meet your needs.

You'll find support in making these choices on the Rainbow Family Tree Digital Storytelling workshop forums.



## Sharing your movie

You can screen your finished product on your computer for friends and family

You can also burn your movie to DVD using customized software. Check out some of the iMovie links at the end of the manual for detailed instructions on this process.

You can upload your finished movie to the Rainbow Family Tree website so that a whole community of storytellers can enjoy your tale. This is a relatively straightforward process and you'll find instructions on the site itself.

## Finally . . .

Congratulations! If you've gotten to this point you're probably feeling a mixture of pride, elation and exhaustion. And remember – this is just the beginning... you've made one short film... it may seem like a drop in the ocean... but if only one person is moved and inspired by your story you have made a contribution to making the world a happier place to live in as a GLBTQI person! When you think about it like that its great motivation to share your story wide and far... Invite friends and family to view your story on the website... and encourage them to share it with their friends and acquaintances too!



## ■ Helpful Links

### **iMovie 3 & 4 video tutorials**

<http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/imovie3x>

### **iMovie 6 video tutorials**

<http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/imovie/index.html>

<http://www.design.iastate.edu/LABS/tutorials/imovie/homepage.html>

### **iMovie 9 video Tutorials**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie>

### **Adding photos to your iMovie:**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie-photos>

### **Adding voiceover to your iMovie:**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie-voiceover>

### **Adding background music to your iMovie:**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie-music>

### **Adding sound effects to your iMovie:**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie-sound>

### **Adding titles to your iMovie:**

<http://www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/#imovie-titles>



# iMOVIE HELP GUIDE

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