

Visual Effects Pipeline: Pre-Production and Production

In this lesson, we'll cover the first two stages of the visual effects pipeline: pre-production and production. These stages are crucial for a smooth workflow and successful visual effects.

Planning

- Importance: Effective planning is essential to avoid project failure and ensure everyone involved has a shared vision.
- Who Plans? Ideally, everyone contributes. In larger productions, the VFX supervisor takes the lead, overseeing the entire project and making sure everyone understands their roles.

Key Aspects of Planning

- Storyboards & Pre-visualization:
 - Storyboards are a series of illustrations depicting key scenes and camera angles.
 - Pre-visualization is a basic animation that helps visualize action, movement, and potential issues before filming.

Production

- VFX Team on Set: A VFX representative is crucial on set to:
 - Communicate with the crew regarding shot requirements and data collection.
 - Ensure reference materials (measurements, lighting setups, 360° images) are captured for post-production.
 - Advise on green/blue screen usage, lighting techniques, and camera settings to avoid issues during compositing (keying out backgrounds).

Example: Adding Clouds

Imagine adding clouds behind an actor in a field. Here's how planning and production work together:

- Planning: To ensure the clouds appear behind the actor, a blue screen is needed (not green to avoid keying out the grass).
- Production: The crew sets up the blue screen, ensuring proper lighting and avoiding wrinkles.

Benefits of Proper Planning and Production

By planning and capturing the necessary elements during production, adding the clouds in post-production becomes a smooth process. This highlights how these initial stages save significant time and resources throughout the visual effects pipeline.

Next Steps

We'll delve deeper into the pipeline, exploring digital asset creation and post-production techniques.