

# HOW TO CREATE A COMPELLING MONTAGE AND TURN YOUR LIFE STORY, INTO THE STORY OF A LIFETIME!



LATOUR de FORCE  
PRODUCTIONS  
DEMO REELS / CUSTOM MONTAGES



## WHAT TO DO FIRST



**Gather all of your footage:** Make sure you have all of your materials that you want to use for your custom montage...home movies; hard copies of photos; online pics; discs; thumb drives...anywhere you may have saved your videos recordings to...ie. iPhone; maybe a DSLR camera, etc....Are you wanting to use videos from your wedding? Where do they 'live'...on a disc? VHS tape? How about those slides from your European vacation/honeymoon, will you want to include those as well?

**Convert to editable format:** Depending on which software program you use, you will need to make sure that all of your footage has been converted to an editable format, so that it will run smoothly in your workflow. Hard copy photos will need to be scanned, and depending on what kind of shape they are in, they may need to be cleaned up a bit. VHS tapes will need to be transferred to a digital format, so they can be viewed to pick out the best parts!

**Prepare your timeline:** Make sure everything 'matches' in regards to the settings. This step is crucial so that everything runs smoothly, and there's no video 'skipping', or un-synching. Nothing worse than your precious memories looking all 'wonky' after you've put it in your timeline, You'll want retain the quality of the video, and ensure smooth playback and output.



# START BUILDING YOUR MONTAGE



**Choose An Attention-Grabbing Theme:** With so much creativity that can be done with a montage, the possibilities are endless! The theme sets the tone of the project, and gears up your audience for what's coming up! An opening page, with the title for example, 'How We Met', could be the set up for a montage of a bride and groom to show at their wedding reception. This could include pics and videos of them growing up, and their journey as a couple before getting engaged, along with a creative design/colors, and favorite music!

**Set Up Your Workflow:** Set up the order of the photos, videos, and music, according to the story you want to tell. Are you going linear, ie. starting with baby photos first? Or, grouping according to life events/special occasions, etc.? One artistic choice could be to do something fun and start the story with their most recent pics/vids, and then 'jump around' to different time periods. As the 'director', you get to decide!

**Pick The Best parts:** Your montage gets to be compelling, while telling a personal story. Your guests will want to see the best parts of the story, and feel like they are indeed part of something special. One way to do this is to pick and choose the most favorite highlights...for example, if showing a wedding, highlighting the groom as he kisses the bride, is enough to convey the love story of a wedding.





## NEXT STEPS



**Make it compelling:** Your montage video will already include photos, video clips, and music. Additional elements, such as including interviews, voice-overs, etc., can take your montage to a whole other level. Not only will your montage be more interesting to your loved one(s) who are the subject of the montage, but the video will indeed be more interesting and compelling to your entire audience!

**Keep it concise:** You definitely want to keep your audience engaged throughout the length of the video. An ideal way to do this is to keep it 10 min...or less. You can still pack a punch with this length...rather than risk your guests checking their watch, or worse, skipping ahead. Best to grab their attention, and keep it!

**Leave them wanting more:** The goal of a custom video montage is to celebrate your loved one(s) with the best highlights of their life, as opposed to showcasing their entire life. Let your guests be awed by the wonderful stories they know about their loved one(s), and maybe even be pleasantly surprised to hear about the stories that are new to them.



## SUCCESS!



*Photo credit: Doreen Birdsell Studios*

**Exporting:** Your montage is finished, and ready to be shown to the world! How will it be viewed? Will you be showing it on a large screen? A DVD? A private link on YouTube for you and your loved ones to watch? You'll need to compress and export accordingly. ie., .mov; .mp4; as well as check the compression specs for YouTube; Vimeo; etc., and upload accordingly.

**Viewing:** Your montage will now be 'live' on several platforms, available for viewing at the click of a button! A professional, custom, well-crafted video montage can very well be the best gift your loved one has ever received, and leave your audience crying tears of joy!



## ABOUT ME

Latour de Force Productions specializes in creating custom video montages for special occasions...ie. wedding anniversaries, birthdays, reunions, etc. By using your precious photos, home movies, and unique music selections, we co-create your beautiful custom montage to show at your family gathering or special event. A custom memory montage will be a keepsake that you and your loved one(s) can refer back to and relive their special moments forever.

Click [here](#) to get started on turning a life story, into the story of a lifetime!

