

Special Visual Effects

assignment 1

A shot in the spirit of *A Trip to the Moon* (Méliès, 1902)

You are to produce a short (roughly 5-15 second), single shot inspired by Méliès's use of *trompe l'oeil* paintings in *A Trip to the Moon*. Instead of painting full-size set pieces and achieving the effect in-camera, you are to use digital tools to combine one or more static elements with your video source footage.

Allow yourself to be infected by Méliès's imagination. Create a fantastic place that doesn't exist, or couldn't for any number of reasons. Humor, in the style of *A Trip to the Moon*, is encouraged!

Your video shot must include:

- One or more people, in motion.
- A locked-down, static camera.

Your final composite must include:

- The video element.
- One or more static elements, overlapping with one of the people in your video element (in front of the people or behind them or both). Where these elements come from doesn't really matter! They can be painted, scanned, shot with a digital camera, or even be video clips of static objects. The critical piece here is that they are appropriately matted and placed into the scene.

We are going to work with a lot of data this term and this will make handing in assignments a little tricky. For this assignment, you are to hand in two different versions of your shot. The first should be a full-resolution video output of the shot to either mini-DV or VHS. Please cue the tape to the proper place. This is so we can see your final composite as it's intended to be seen.

(This tape will become a portfolio of all of your project work this term. It will be something you hand in at the end of the semester for evaluation)

The second version should be a half-res Sorenson-compressed QuickTime file handed in to Course Storage (see class information sheet for account name and password).

Both versions are **DUE Thursday February 6 at the beginning of class.**

Don't forget the other homework for Tuesday:

Sign up for the class email list (lists.hampshire.edu).

Order the class text for delivery by next Thursday (see course info sheet for details).