

CS261 Analysis

The video I have created is called “Spice” Of Life. The title was chosen out of comedic preferences but also provokes questions to individuals who prefer to be a homebody than a social butterfly. What exactly brings “spice” to your life? Metaphorically speaking, “spice” can be anything, from clips of dirt to nature or from clips of buildings to people. It can be anything and to have a personal definition of what “spice” is in your life is worth questioning than just living life.

The clips and images I have used and edited, were shot directly from my phone. These specific materials were picked because I wanted to convey this mixed perspective that my “spice” is not always materialistic, but it is something I witness every day. The video is clearly a mix of images and clips put together into one because I wanted to highlight that not all things can be evoked through one fixed motion, but in clips to capture this sense of understanding on why I found this moment worth filming. The reason in capturing such things could amount to anything, and I believe that if images and clips can already convey any sort of emotion, even to yourself, then I say it was something worth capturing. I even think this because, people at some point in their lives, have had this passion to capture worthwhile imageries. For example, young kids who were gifted new phones, would excessively take photos because everything they witnessed was worth capturing. Personally, the images of random roads, nature, people, and buildings are all part of my everyday life as a young individual and in a metaphorical setting, everything I have captured has watched me grow up and they all naturally defined itself as the “spice” in my life.

Construction:

Unfortunately, due to apple suites being incompatible to images and clips taken from non-apple devices. I was forced to accept and take advantage of the graininess that the low-quality clips had and produced the idea of implementing a VHS effect. By doing this, it made the thought of having bad quality materials become beneficial use and it also contributed towards what I aim to do in this project, showing the “spice” of my life. With the help of online resources, I learnt various effects to implement the VHS look.

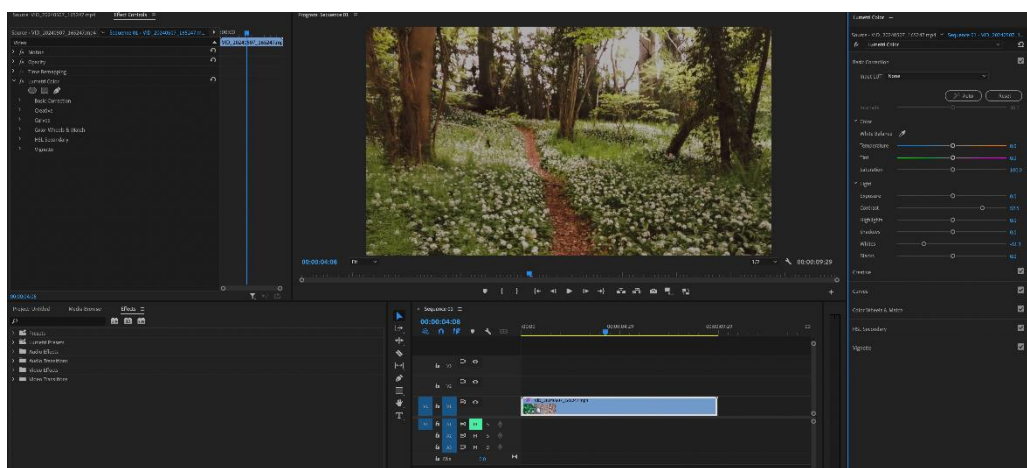


Figure 1: Use of Colour correction.

Experimenting with the shadows and white balance in clips can set the tone of an image/ scene. In figure one, I tried manipulating the shadows and colours by increasing the contrast and decreasing the whites in the clip, to achieve this sepia look.

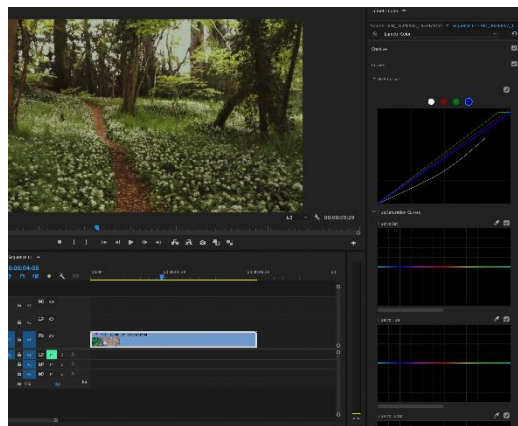


Figure 2: Use of Curves

Modifying the RGB curves helped manipulate colours in terms of developing visible contrasts between objects such as the picture above, showing an overpower of greens. By modifying the white, red, green, and blue channels, I have created an image slightly darker compared to figure one and the lighting in this image has been dimmed slightly with this yellow haze tone on it. Thus, adding a more sepia look to the image than it was originally.

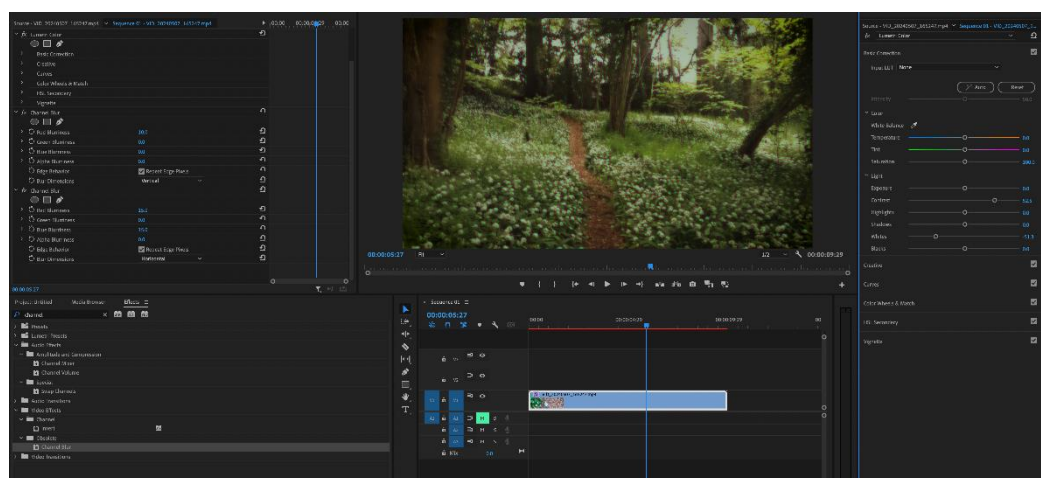


Figure 3: Use of Channel Blur

Channel blur was another effect I have used to blur out specific colours. As you can see from figure three, I have red blurred out and spreading vertically in the clip as well as the blue being blurred and spread horizontally onto the clip. The addition of using Vignette onto the corners made it so that the path became the focal point of the clip. Since I was following an online source, the channel blur produced the blue and red grains of the usual aesthetics a VHS effect has and the vignette to guide attention to the focal point.

Though, because of how dark and grainy the clip has become. I have decided to scrap the entire preset and redo it to a much more preferred look, away from the dark tones and the yellow haze/sepia effect.

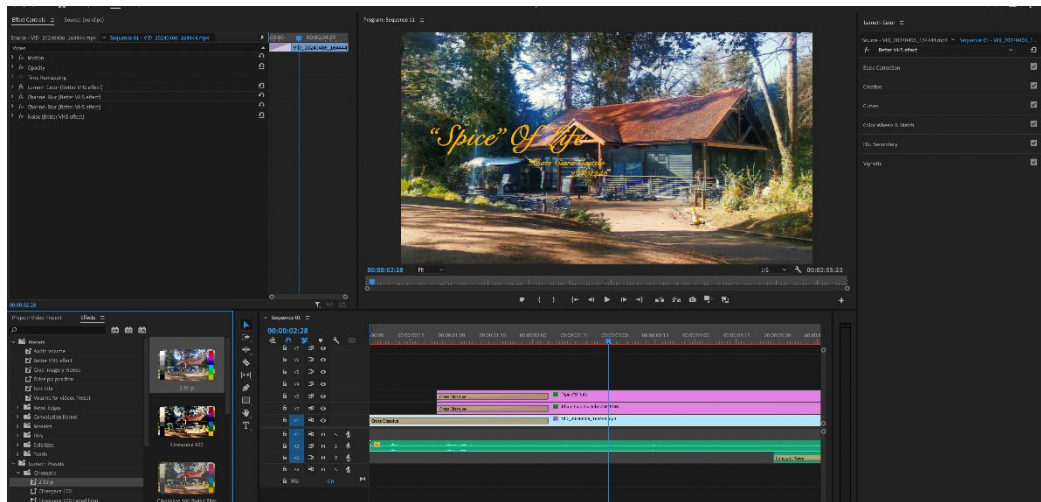


Figure 4: Redo of VHS effect.

As you can see from figure four above, this was preferable look to my standard as it was more saturated and “spice” looking. It made the image more refined and alive compared to what it was originally. I have resorted to using a cinematic preset as you can see from the bottom left but in the effects tab, I have added my own channel blurs and noise to add texture onto the clip. Intentionally, giving this sort of old look to the clips. See from below, the difference in adding small details can refine an image/clip completely.

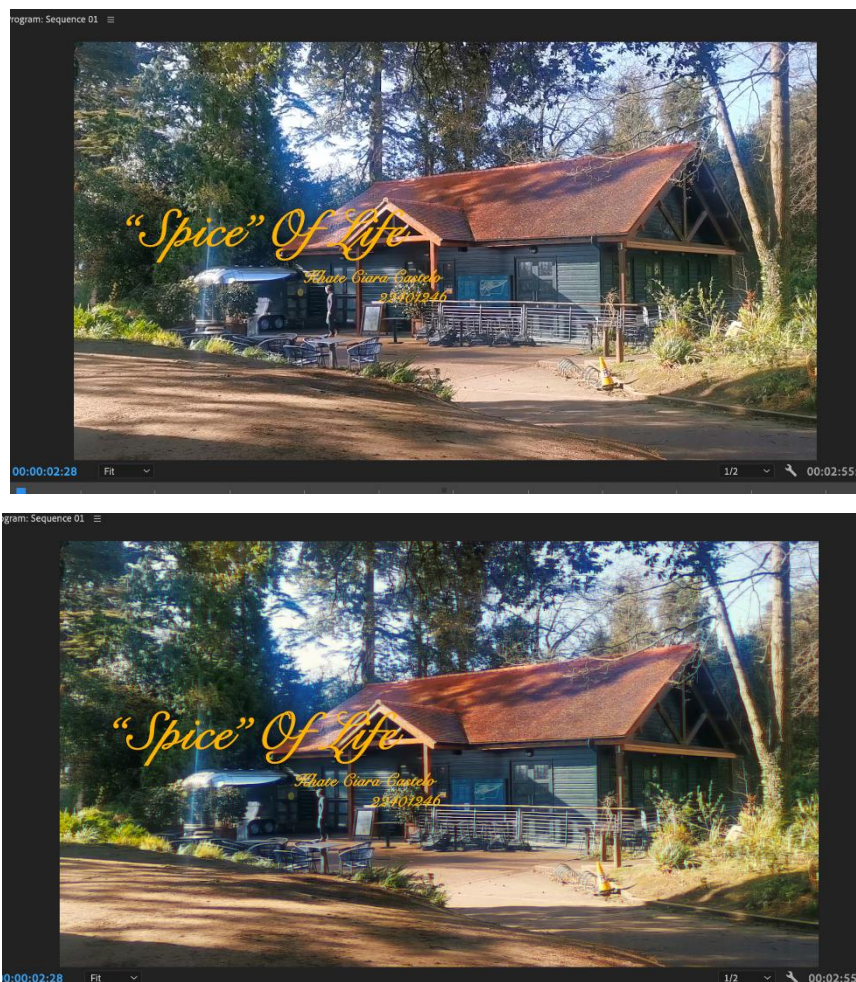


Figure 5: Before and After preset

While doing all this, I have learnt how to create presets and apply them on the go, making the process of creating “Spice” of life, easy and a more enjoyable experience. As you can see from figure 6, I have created 6 presets where some are dedicated to transforming images, using text, and manipulating audio for the video.

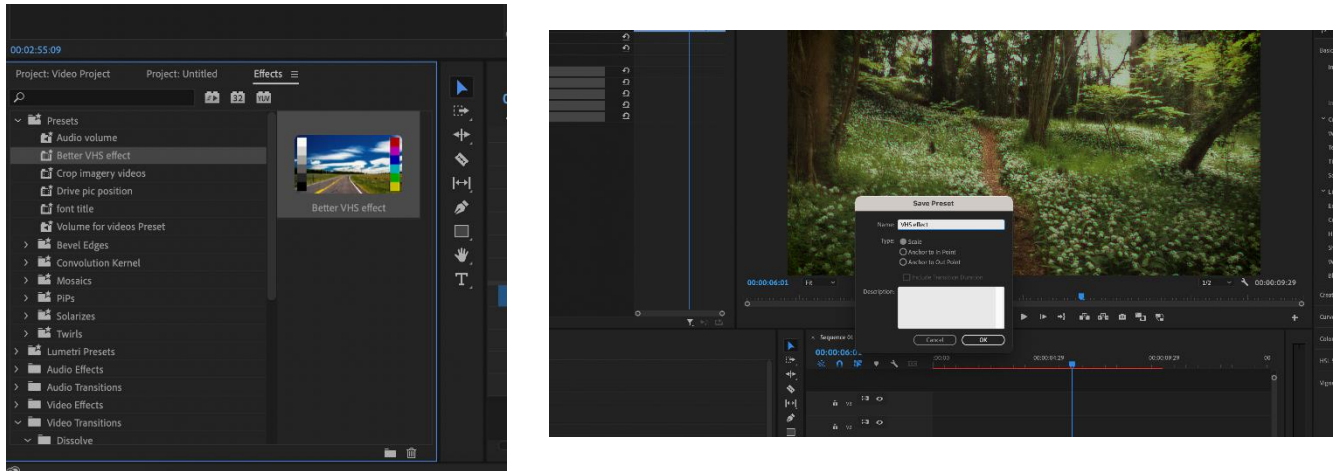


Figure 6: A list of all my presets and creating a preset.

Text was one of the required techniques in our video project, so I implemented an intro text and an outro text to my project. Shown in other images, I decided to put it to the left middle-ground and in a cursive font because it personally reminded me of the old vintage movies that were around ages ago. It also makes sure that the bad quality of my materials was put to good use.

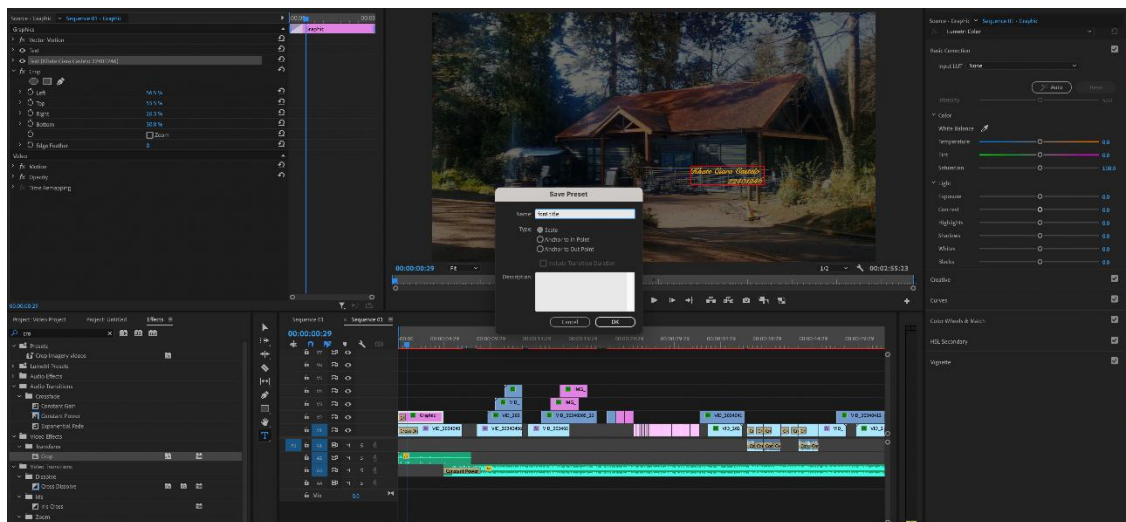


Figure 7: Using text elements.

Another technique I have used so far was taking advantage of transforming effects. Utilising motion, scaling, and crop has helped make aesthetical layouts in parts of my video. Using these effects gave me the opportunity to use various clips, and choosing those that complete each other to create visually appealing scenes. One reason is for

the visual aesthetics, I wanted to combine colours of the places I have captured within this one scene of the video. Conveying an artistic impression to my video and to show that various places have this natural palette which differentiates them from other places. See from figure eight below, clips combined have create this visible monochrome of blues within this one scene of the video.

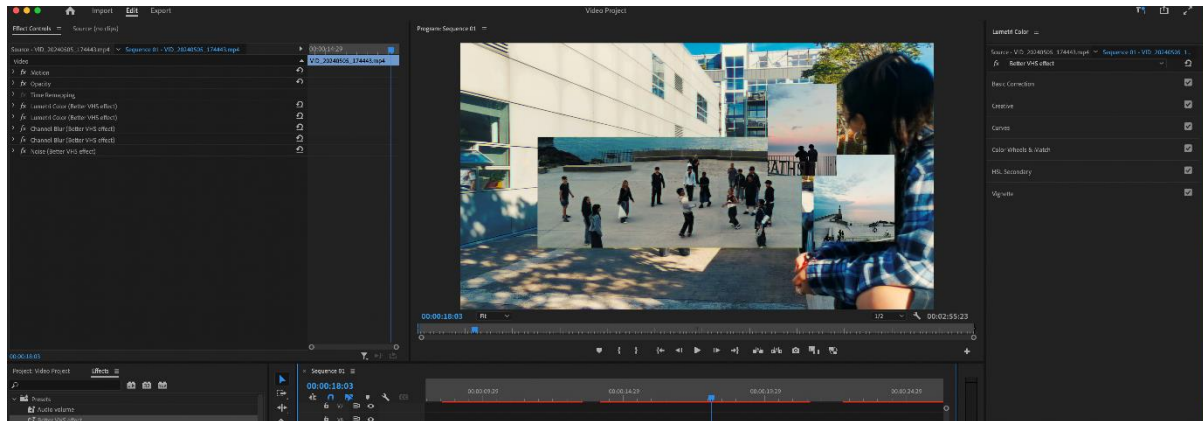


Figure 8: Transforming effects.

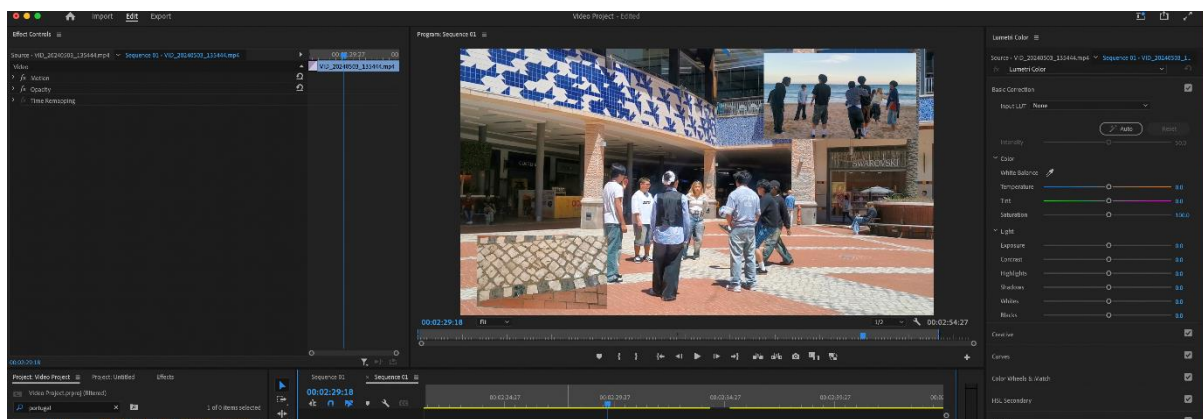


Figure 9: Another example of creating a colour palette by combining clips,

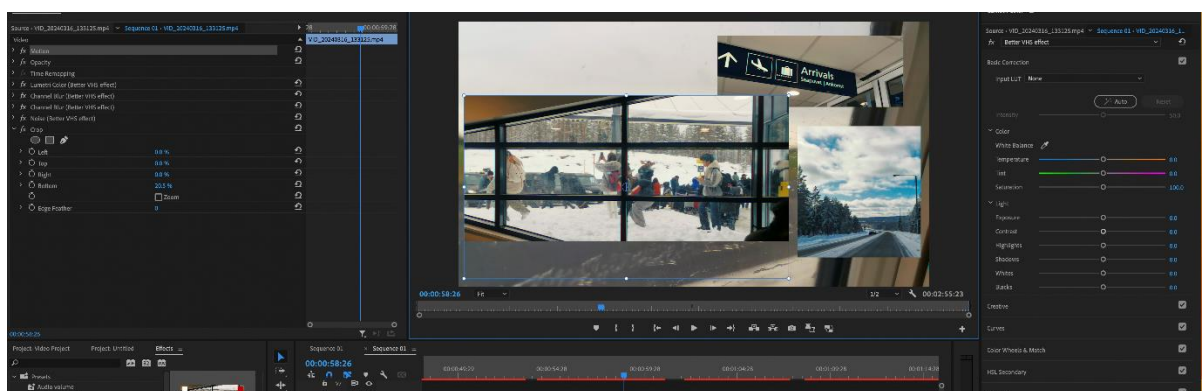


Figure 10: Displaying the transform effect on the left.

Other video editing techniques applied were the transitions. Personally, I believe that I used an excessive number of transitions, especially with only applying cross dissolve, has made it very repetitive throughout the video. This is something I would change if I

could do this all over again and with more time in my hands. The only clip I had applied with a different transition, the film dissolve effect, was only the outro of the video. However, throughout the process of this video, these transitions aided in producing a story and highlight its visuals. From being out in nature in Ireland to ending it with being in a different country, these transitions have produced a natural story for “Spice” of Life. Another reason for this use was to display the passing of time when you are living in the “spice” of it all. One example of using excessive transitions is shown in figure 11. In this part of the video, I made each clips dissolve in and out of the video to convey the passing of time and at the same time, make these clips seems as if they are ‘dancing’ with the audio in the background.

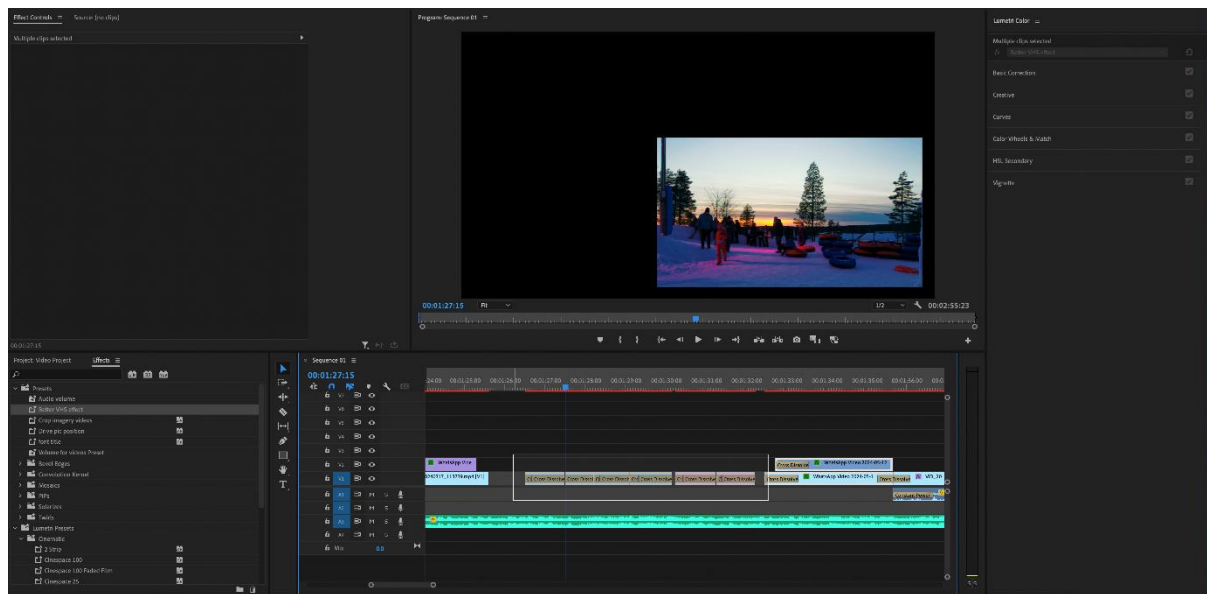


Figure 11: Cross Dissolve transitions

Relating to the audio behind this project. Several audio files were implemented throughout this project, one being the sound of an inserted tape in the beginning, the music throughout the video, the different audios coming from some clips incorporated, and the sound of the tape being taken out in the end. Constant power effect was also used in majority of the audios for transitions, and I made sure to adjust the volume to an acceptable level so viewers can watch the video at full volume.

The audio for inserting and taking out tape sounds were chosen to imply that this is a recording, or a montage called “Spice” of life. This was also implemented due to my aim in creating this VHS effect in the first place. The choice of music was only out of musical preferences and to deliver this overall wholesome tone of the entire project. Audios from several clips were left to be heard because I felt incorporating some completed the video in terms of highlighting moments and for some that I felt were necessary to be heard. Figure 12 shows an example of one of the clips that were left to be heard because I personally think this clip should be given a moment in the video.

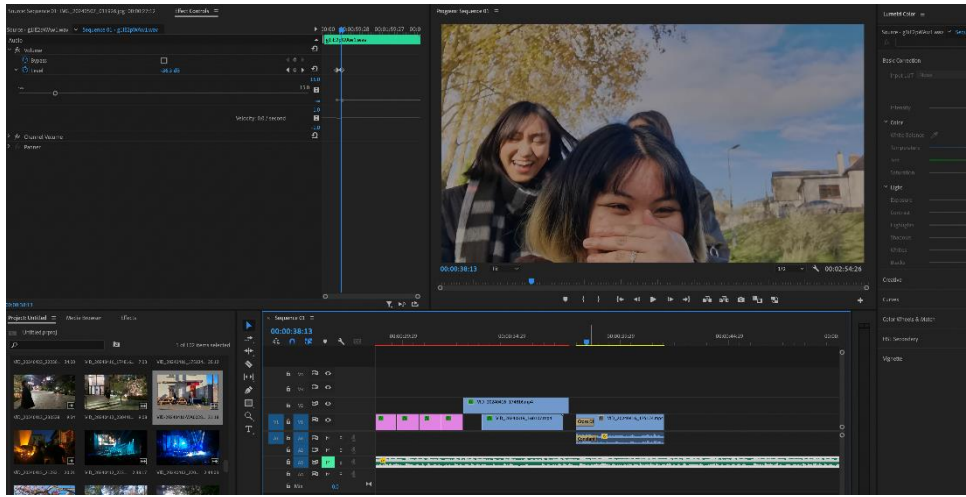


Figure 12: An example of an audio left out to be heard.

Lastly, setting in and out source points of the video was implemented, giving me a smooth process to export the video and discovering the size of the file instead of using the entire timeline. Doing this made the process of the video efficient and it also ensures Premiere to export the exact duration of the video.

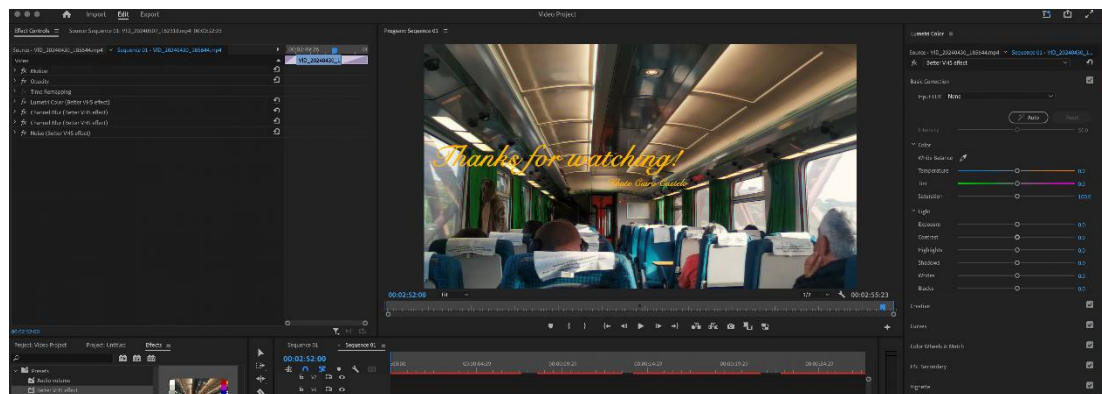


Figure 13: Setting the in and out source points.

Evaluation:

I felt that my experience using Premiere pro was enjoyable. Incorporating clips, images and audios whilst implementing editing techniques, gave me the opportunity to take advantage of the creative freedom I had and challenge my ideas through experimentation and trying new tools. Due to the freedom, I achieved implementing tools in Premiere Pro at a comfortable level and learnt so much from cropping and scaling clips to manipulating colours, tones and creating presets for those changes. The skills I have gained has helped me achieve my goals in trying to display details such as implementing the VHS effect, the transitions conveying a story and the incorporation of audios completing the overall tone of the video. Such components have quite added some “spice” to the project itself.

Though, such experiences do not exist unless a lot of improvements are to be considered. As I mentioned before, I used an excessive number of transitions within this project, and I would want to reduce or use several types of transitions if I were given the chance. Along with improving the VHS effect by experimenting more with colour corrections and trying out the 3-way colour corrector. Lastly, if I had another chance and had more time to do this, I would have implemented more techniques that were taught to us from the tutorials as I lacked in terms of displaying image editing techniques, especially for masking.

Overall, this was an enjoyable experience for someone who has limited time to express any creative freedom, and this was an opportunity to stray away from the usual analytical thinking. Being able to express and challenge my creative thinking throughout my academic career is an experience worth capturing. It is another “spice” to add into my life as a young student.