

Photo Essay Celebration
February 21, 2008
Judges' Overall Comments

- It was evident the photo essay was a new venture and a new blending of several skills for some makers
 - Creating a photo essay uses all the skill categories defined at the Academy Awards
 - Screenplay (the story) directing editing, sound etc.
 - There has to be just enough images to make the story happen
 - In some of the shows there were not enough, but in many there were too many
- The challenges are different technically than producing a slide essay previously with one or two projectors and timing needs
 - The new technology gives the opportunity for better presentations
 - However, the technology should be invisible, and not intrude on the story
 - Is not a reason to use minimally acceptable images
 - Some images would not have been justified for entry into still image competitions
 - Review all images for sharpness unless it is evident they are meant to be soft.
- Choose a theme or story, then move the slides around in the light box or timeline to make the story
 - Keep to one theme; some presentations had two or three different themes- maybe 1 _ would have been outstanding – keep to one idea,
 - Less is more, don't use too much variety
 - The interest has to be immediately apparent.
 - Titles are important, they create an expectation of what the viewer will see, so it has to relate to the images
 - First and last images should be the strongest.
 - Different sizes are disconcerting,
 - If you have to mix Horizontals and Verticals, put them together in groups
 - The maker needs an objective eye (Partner?) to critique
 - Do not fall in love with an image.... be critical, discard images that are unrelated to the story
 - Edit out the "Photodex Icon" at the start
 - The ending should not be abrupt, neither should it be necessary to include "The End" text
 - Time spent on creating the essay shows.
- Narration for travelogues may or may not be necessary
 - Make sure the background music is faded out when the narration is present
 - Not every slide needs narration
- Music should be appropriate
 - Music tempo should match the image tempo
- Overall, the entries were commendable.
 - Many very strong and interesting images; original ideas; good use of technology; use of movement, masking and fading