Understanding Green Screen

1. Understanding Keying

The term “keying” in video production refers to replacing all of a certain color in a video with something else. This is commonly referred to as Green Screen because that is the most popular color used. Green is used because it differs distinctly from most skin tones. Blue is another color that is commonly used. Most people are familiar with how the weather person on the news uses Green Screen to show you the weather forecast; we are doing the same thing and we hope that you use this format to your advantage and interact with the content as much as possible.

2. Getting Ready

When producing a Green Screen video, it is important to remember that we will remove all of the green (and other colors that are close to green) out of the video. Therefore wearing a green shirt is not the best wardrobe choice, as you will look like a floating head. Furthermore, similar colors to green on the spectrum may appear different on video after the green has been taken out.

This color spectrum to the left illustrates what colors might be removed or altered from a video. The colors inside the circle will be removed and as you can see, there is some yellow and light blue that might be eliminated. Keep this in mind as you pick out your wardrobe for a shoot.

3. Make it Worth the Effort

The process of creating a composited video will eliminate the option to change the background in the future. At this time, efficiency is of the upmost importance; therefore we produce these videos in real time. We do not shoot the layers independently and then add the background later, we do it live. This means the only video that is captured and saved is the final product. What this means for you is that the option to change out a single slide in the future is gone. Therefore, it is extremely important that the content you are using as the background is 100% completed and accurate. Don’t worry, we can still cut and re-take shots, but once we are done for the day, it’s done. If you notice any mistakes upon review, you will have to reshoot the lecture.
4. GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE SET UP

Using the Green Screen can be a bit tricky. You are essentially interacting with an invisible image that is behind you. To add a further challenge, when you see yourself on the preview monitor it is not like looking at yourself in the mirror, and it takes some getting used to in order to move/gesture in the correct direction. Some people find this very difficult and need practice. Even if you gesture in the correct direction, it still may be harder to point exactly where you intend to, therefore, we ask that you come in and practice before you record. You will have reference monitors in the studio for you to see yourself layered over your slides, and be able to see where you are standing and gesturing. It is best to try different set ups and find what works best for you.