CyberLink

ActionDirector

User's Guide

CyberLink

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International Headquarters

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Chapter 1:

Introduction

This chapter introduces CyberLink ActionDirector, outlines its key features, and reviews the minimum system requirements for the program.

Note: this document is for reference and informational use only. Its content and the corresponding program are subject to change without notice.

Welcome

Welcome to the CyberLink family of digital media tools. CyberLink ActionDirector is a digital video editing program designed specifically for action camera enthusiasts like you, as it helps you quickly create high-impact, pro-looking videos that showcase the action.

When you launch the program from the start menu, or the CyberLink ActionDirector shortcut on the desktop, you are prompted to choose one of the following editing modes:

- **Storyboard**: select this option to edit your video on the storyboard. Storyboard editing is a flexible and very intuitive way to quickly create your video. See Storyboard Window for an overview of the storyboard and the editing features it includes.

- **Theme Designer**: in the Theme Designer you can use theme templates to create impressive, professional looking videos with style, almost instantly. See Using the Theme Designer for more information and detailed steps on using this feature.

Note: you can also quickly access your saved ActionDirector projects in the Welcome window. See Opening Saved Projects for more information.

DirectorZone

DirectorZone is a free web service that lets you search for and download theme templates, title templates, and transitions created by CyberLink and other users of CyberLink software.

To access the benefits of DirectorZone, you can sign in by:

- clicking the **Sign in to DirectorZone** link in the top right corner of the CyberLink ActionDirector window.

- clicking the ⚙ button at the top of the window to open the ActionDirector preferences, and then on the **DirectorZone** tab. See [DirectorZone Preferences](#) for more information.

Also, be sure to periodically click the 🔔 button to check out the latest **DirectorZone Bulletin** and view the **Popular templates on DirectorZone**. Just click in either of these sections in the Notifications window to view the bulletin or download these templates. Or go to http://directorzone.cyberlink.com to find out more information on the features and benefits of the DirectorZone web service.

ActionDirector Versions

The features that are available to you within CyberLink ActionDirector are completely dependent on the version you have installed on your computer.

To determine your version of CyberLink ActionDirector, click on the CyberLink ActionDirector logo in the top left corner or select **? > About CyberLink ActionDirector**.

Updating ActionDirector

Software upgrades and updates (patches) are periodically available from CyberLink. CyberLink ActionDirector automatically prompts you when either is available.

Note: you can prevent CyberLink ActionDirector from auto checking for updates/upgrades in [General Preferences](#).

To update your software, do this:

1. Click the 🔔 button to open the Notifications window.

2. Check the **New Updates** and **Upgrade Info** sections.

3. Select an item in these sections to open your web browser, where you can purchase product upgrades or download the latest patch update.

Note: you must connect to the Internet to use this feature.

System Requirements

The system requirements listed below are recommended as minimums for general digital video production work.

System Requirements	
Operating System	• Microsoft Windows 10, 8.1/8, 7, Vista (SP2).
Screen Resolution	• 1024 x 768, 16-bit color.
CPU Processor	• Intel Core i3 or AMD A6.
Graphics Card	• ATI/AMD: Radeon HD 7000 series. • NVIDIA: GeForce GTX 600 series. • Intel HD Graphics.
Memory	• 2 GB.
Hard Disk Space (Installation)	• 2 GB for installation.
Internet Connection	• Required for program activation, online services and activation of some import/export formats.
Other	• Windows Media Player 9 or above.

Note: please consult the CyberLink web site (http://www.cyberlink.com) for the most recent system requirements information.

Chapter 2:

ActionDirector Projects

When working on a new video production, click the 💾 button to save it as a .acs file, a project file format that is used exclusively by CyberLink ActionDirector. These project files can be imported directly into the storyboard, if required. See Importing ActionDirector Projects for more information.

> *Note: a CyberLink ActionDirector project (.acs) file essentially contains a list of the media clips and effects used in your project, and a log of all the edits you want to make to your media. Project files do not include the media clips in them. If you want to save all your video production files in one place, use the Pack Project Materials function. To do this select, **File > Pack Project Materials** from the menu.*

Use the options in the **File** menu to save, create new, or open existing projects in CyberLink ActionDirector. When you create a new project, CyberLink ActionDirector resets your media library. If you want to create a new video production using the same media that's currently in your library, select **File > New Workspace**.

The changes you make to your media in CyberLink ActionDirector do not affect the original media you imported into the program. Since your edits are all saved in the project file, you can trim, edit, or remove clips, but still keep your original files on your hard drive, untouched. So let yourself get creative. If you end up changing things too drastically, you can always start over.

Setting Project Aspect Ratio

To set the aspect ratio for your project, and your outputted video, select **4:3**, **9:16**, or **16:9** from the aspect ratio drop-down at the top of the window.

The preview window changes according to the aspect ratio you select.

Opening Saved Projects

You can open previously saved projects at any time when in the storyboard window by selecting **Open Project** from the **File** menu. You can also open projects directly on the ActionDirector launch window.
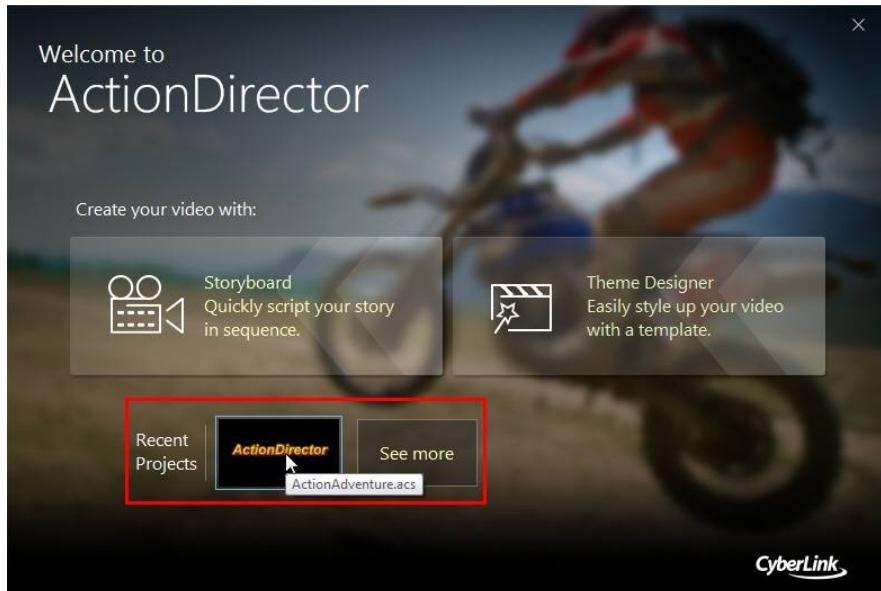
The most recent projects you were working on display at the bottom of launch window. Just click the project thumbnail to open it, or click **See more** to find another saved project.

Exporting Projects

You can export your CyberLink ActionDirector projects by packing all the materials in a folder on your computer's hard drive. Exported projects can then be imported into another computer running CyberLink ActionDirector.

To export your project to a folder select **File > Pack Project Materials**.

Chapter 3:

Storyboard Window

In the storyboard window is where you edit together your video production. The storyboard is a large graphical display of all the video clips and images in your video production. When you select **Storyboard** on the CyberLink ActionDirector launch window, the program displays as follows.
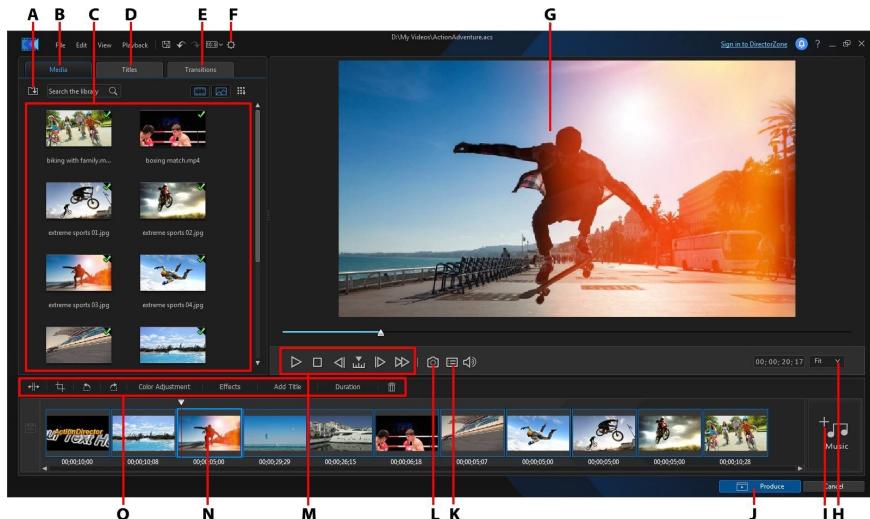
A - Import Media, B - Media Room, C - Library Window, D - Title Effects Room, E - Transitions Rooms, F - ActionDirector Preferences, G - Preview Window, H - Zoom In/Out, I - Add Background Music, J - Produce Video, K - Preview Quality/Display Options, L - Take Snapshot, M - Preview Player Controls, N - Storyboard Workspace, O - Function Buttons

Rooms

There are three rooms in the storyboard window of CyberLink ActionDirector:

- **Media room**: this room contains all the video files and images that you import into CyberLink ActionDirector. See Importing Media for information on importing media into this window, or Adding Video Clips and Images to the Storyboard to learn how to add media files to the storyboard workspace.

- **Title room**: this room contains a library of title effects that when applied to

your project, add credits or comments to your production. For more information, see Adding Title Effects.

- **Transition room**: this room contains transitions that you can use on or between clips in your project. Transitions let you control how media appears and disappears in your project, and changes from one clip to the next. For more information, see Using Transitions.

Library Window

The library window contains all of the media you in CyberLink ActionDirector, including your video files and images. When you are in other rooms (Title Room, Transition Room, etc.) it contains the effects, titles, and transitions you apply to your media.
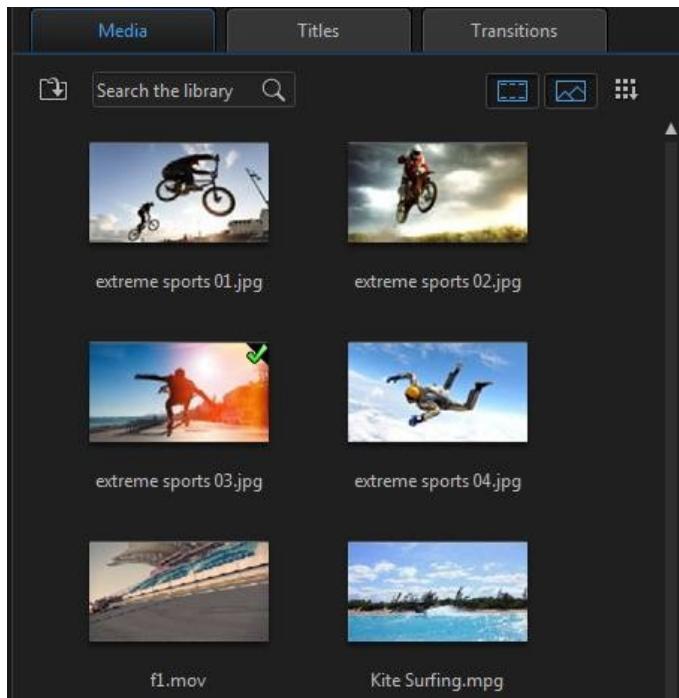
The media content and available buttons that display in the library window depend

on the room you are currently in.

> **Note**: *if you cannot see all of the media or content in a specific room, you can resize the library window to display it. See [Expanding the Library/ Preview Window](#) for more information.*

Searching the Library

If you are looking for specific media files, effects, or templates in a library window, use the search function to find them.

To search in the library, do this:

1. Enter in a keyword in the search field located on top of the library window.
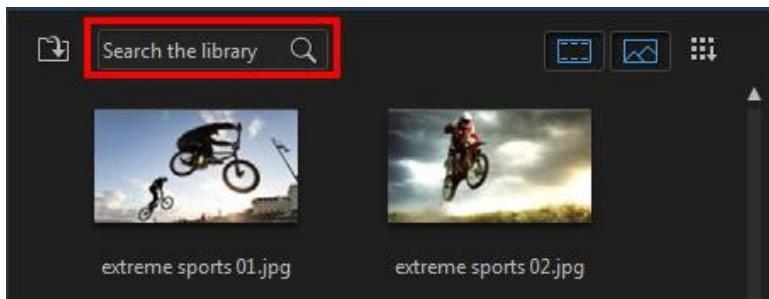
2. CyberLink ActionDirector filters the content in the library window based on the keywords entered.
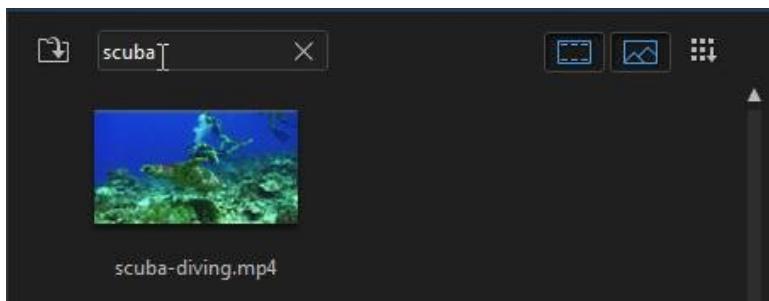
> **Note**: *click on ⊠ to clear the search results.*

Filtering Media in the Library

You can filter the media files that are in the library by file type, using the two buttons above the library window. Click these buttons to hide media so you can more easily find what you are looking for.
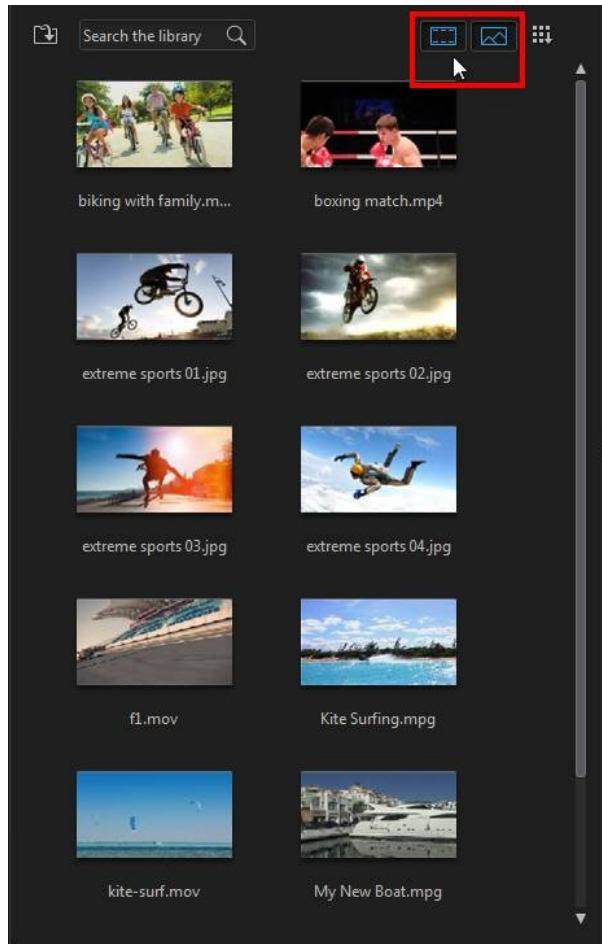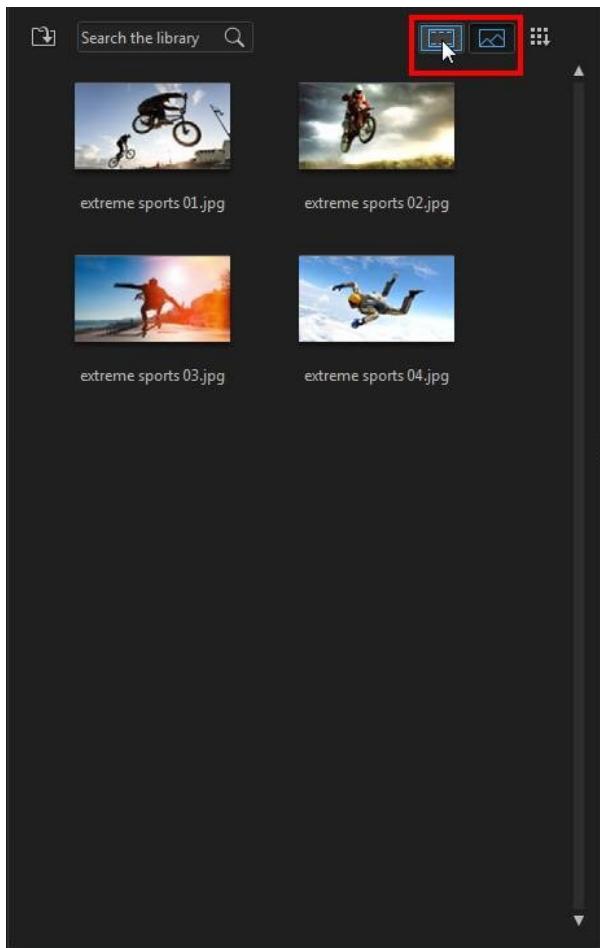
Library Menu

Click on ![icon] to access the library menu. In the library menu you can sort the content in a room by name, date created, file size, and more. You can also select all the content in the room or change the media/effect thumbnail display size. Other options that are available in the library menu, but are dependent on the specific

room you are in.

Preview Window

While creating your video production, you can preview it in the preview window using the available player controls.

Note: you can resize the preview window to fit your personal preference. See Expanding the Library/Preview Window for more information.

Preview Player Controls

With the player controls you can preview your production as you edit, including playing your project from the current storyboard position, or pausing and stopping playback.

Use the ▼ button to select a seek by method (frame, second, minute, segment) and then use the buttons on either side of it for a more precise step through of your current video production. You can also click and drag the playback slider, or enter in a specific timecode in the time field, and then press the enter key on your keyboard to quickly find a specific scene.

Taking a Screen Snapshot

While previewing your project, you can take a still screen snapshot and save it as a

JPG image file. To do this click the button on the player controls.

Preview/Display Options

CyberLink ActionDirector includes some preview and display options that help

make your editing experience easier. Click on to set the preview quality or display grid lines on the preview window.

Preview Quality

Click , select **Preview Quality**, and then a preview quality from the list (Full HD*, HD*, high, normal, low) to set the resolution/quality of the video used when previewing your video in the preview window. The higher the quality you select, the more resources that are required to preview your video project.

> *Note: Full HD and HD preview resolution are only available when CyberLink ActionDirector is installed on a 64-bit operating system.*

Grid Lines

When you place media on the storyboard, use the grid lines to help with the precise

placement on your video project's image. Click the button, select **Grid Lines**, and then select the number of lines you want to display in a grid over the video image. Use this grid to more precisely place the title text or PiP media on the video image.

Once enabled, media and title effects will snap to the grid lines on the preview

window.

Zoom In/Out

When you place media on the storyboard, use the **Fit** drop-down underneath the preview window to zoom in or out on the video. Zooming in is useful for precise placement of media on the preview window.

Expanding the Library/Preview Window

You can expand the size of the library and the preview window to fit your personal preference.
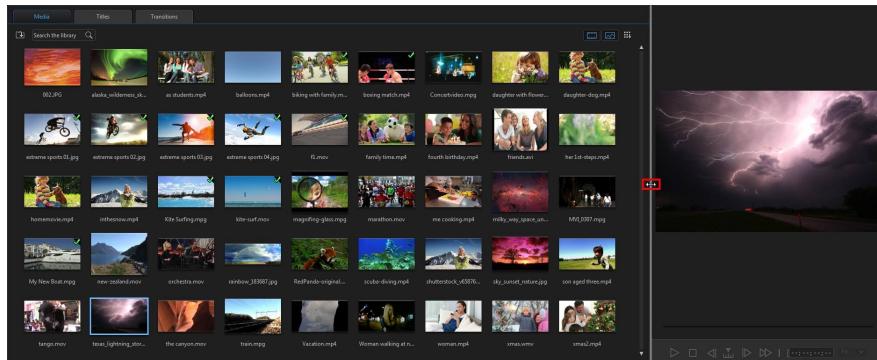
Simply drag the border between the library window and the preview window to resize them to your liking. This allows you to get the most out of your display device space by customizing the size of the preview window, or increasing the amount of content you can view in the media, title, or transition room.

Function Buttons

When you select media that is on the storyboard, whether it's a video clip, image, effect, title effect, etc., several function buttons display above the storyboard. These buttons let you perform a variety of tasks or gain access to some important features of CyberLink ActionDirector.

The function buttons that are available depend on the type of media content you select. However, whenever you select media, the ![trash icon] is always displayed. Click ![trash icon] to remove the selected media content from the storyboard.

Chapter 4:

Importing Media

The first step when using CyberLink ActionDirector is to import your video clips and photos into the media room library. You can import videos and images one by one, or import the entire contents of a folder into the program.

*Note: media you import is saved in the current CyberLink ActionDirector project you are working on. You can also select **File > New Workspace** to create a new project, while maintaining the current media in the library.*

Importing Media Files

If you already have video and image files that you want to use in your production on your computer's hard drive, you can import the files directly into CyberLink Action Director's media library in the Media Room. You can also import media files that are on a removable device.

Note: if you import media files that are on a removable device into the media library, they will be removed if the removable device is disconnected. For best results, it is recommended that you copy the media to your computer's hard drive before importing.

CyberLink ActionDirector supports the following file formats:

Image: Animated-GIF, BMP, GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF

CyberLink ActionDirector also supports the import of the following camera RAW image formats, which are then converted to JPEG once imported: ARW (SONY), CR2 (Canon), DNG (Ricoh), ERF (Epson), KDC (Kodak), MRW (Konica Minolta), NEF (Nikon), NRW (Nikon), ORF (OLYMPUS), PEF (Pentax), RAF (Fujifilm), RW2 (Panasonic), SR2 (SONY), SRF (SONY)

Video: 3GPP2, AVCHD (M2T, MTS), AVI, DAT, DivX**, DV-AVI, DVR-MS, DSLR video clip in H.264 format with LPCM/AAC, FLV (H.264), MKV, MP4 (XAVC S), MOD, MOV , MOV (H.264), MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 AVC (H.264),   MVC (MTS), TOD, VOB, VRO, WMV, WMV-HD, WTV in H.264/MPEG2 (multiple video and audio streams).

*Note: ** to enable, you must download the DivX codec online. Available on Windows 32bit only.*

PowerPoint files: CyberLink ActionDirector supports the import of PowerPoint files

in the PPT and PPTX formats. During import, each of the PowerPoint slides are converted to PNG image files, which are then added to the media library.

To import media into CyberLink ActionDirector, click 🔁 and then select one of the following options:

- **Import Media Files**: import media files individually.

- **Import a Media Folder**: import the entire contents of a folder that contains the media files you want to use in your current project.

Note: you can also drag and drop media onto the CyberLink ActionDirector window to import it into the program.

Importing ActionDirector Projects

CyberLink ActionDirector projects (.acs files) you worked on and saved previously can be imported and then directly inserted into your video production's storyboard.

To do this, select **File > Insert Project** from the menu. All of the media in the original project will be imported into the current project's media library, and also inserted at the current position of the storyboard slider.

Downloading Effects and Templates from DirectorZone

If you are looking for additional title effects or transitions for your library, you can click **Download Templates** to download them directly from the DirectorZone web site in to the Title Room or Transition Room.

Visit the DirectorZone web site for more information: www.directorzone.com.

Chapter 5:

Adding Video Clips and Images to the Storyboard

To start creating your video production, begin adding video clips and images to the storyboard. To add a media clip to the storyboard, just select it in the media room and then drag and drop it on the storyboard.
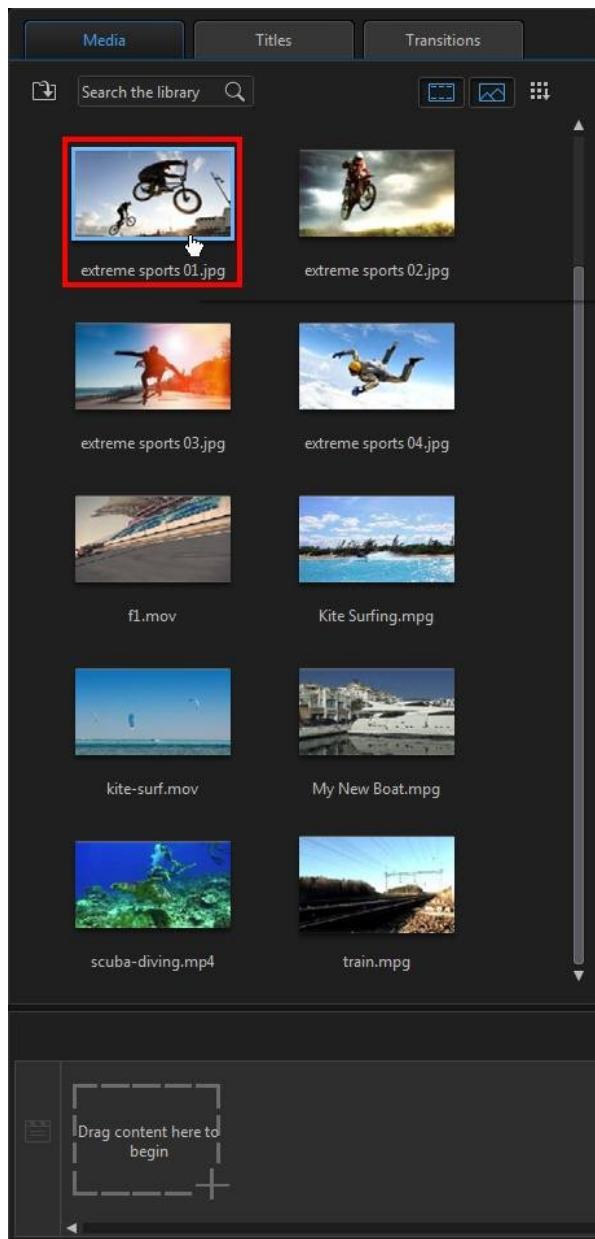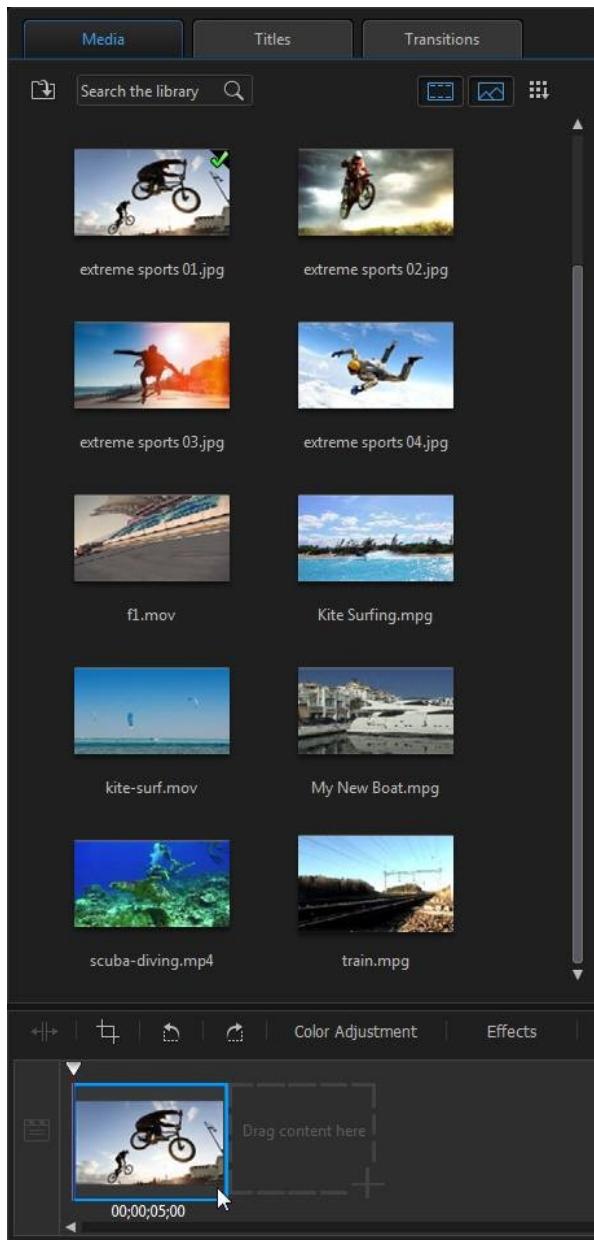
Repeat this process to continue adding your media clips to the storyboard. You add the media clips in the order that tells the story you want to tell.
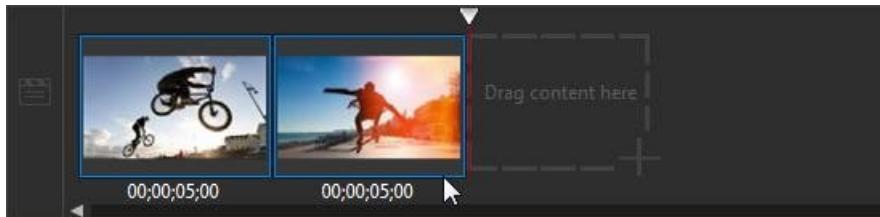
You do not have to add the media clips after the last clip on the storyboard. They can also be dragged and dropped between two existing clips.
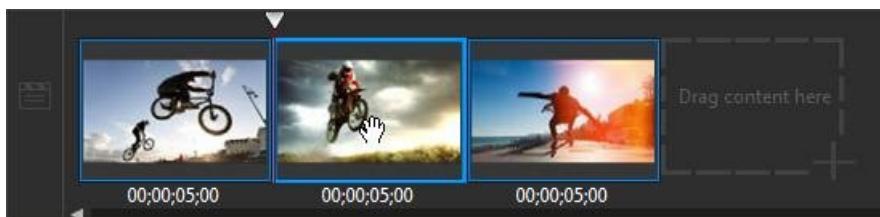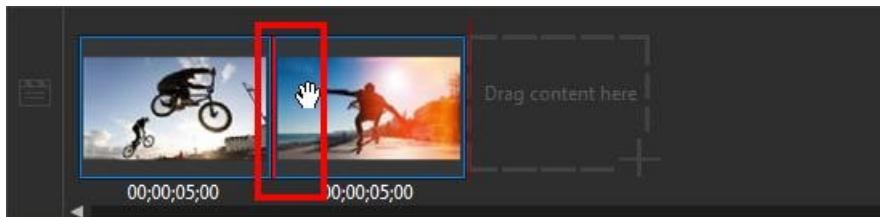
If the media clips are not in the correct sequence on the storyboard, you can click and drag them to different positions.

extreme sports 02 00;00;05;00
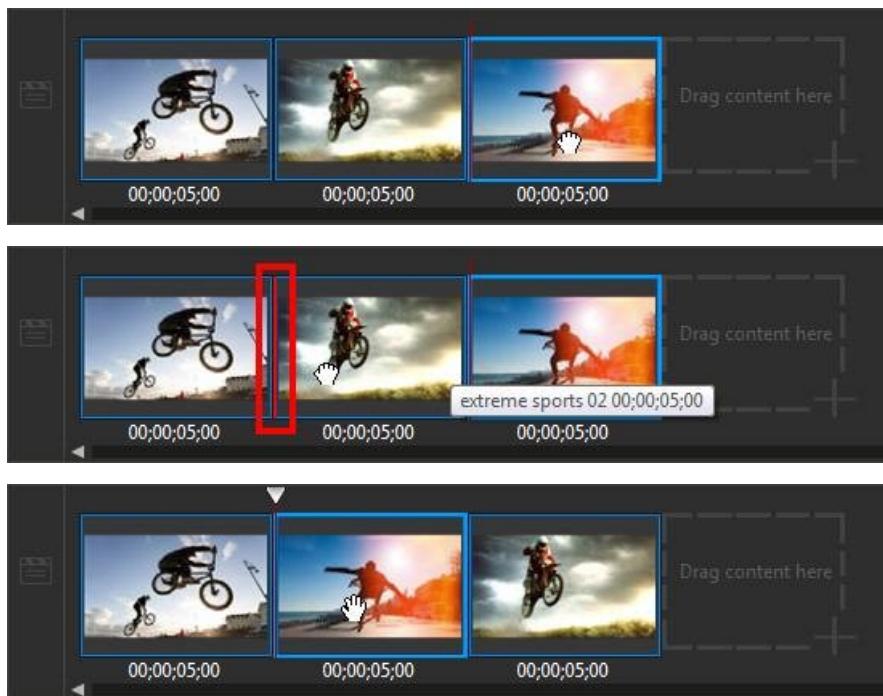
Chapter 6:

Editing Media on the Storyboard

Once you have your video clips and images on the storyboard you can start editing them. Editing is a broad term that encompasses a number of different functions, including splitting, trimming, applying fixes, and much more.

This section describes all of the editing processes you can perform on your media clips.

Splitting a Clip

You can quickly split a media clip that is on the storyboard into two separate clips. To do this, move the playback slider (or use the player controls) to the position in

the clip where you want to split it. Next, click the ⊣⊢ button above the storyboard to separate it into two clips.
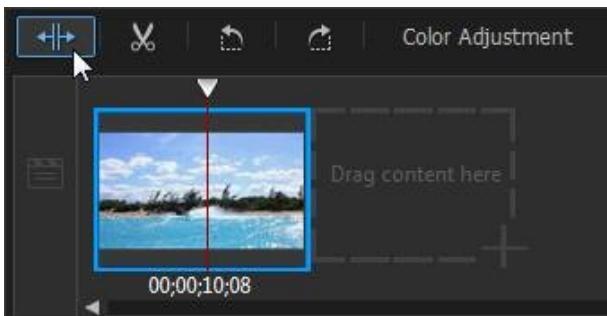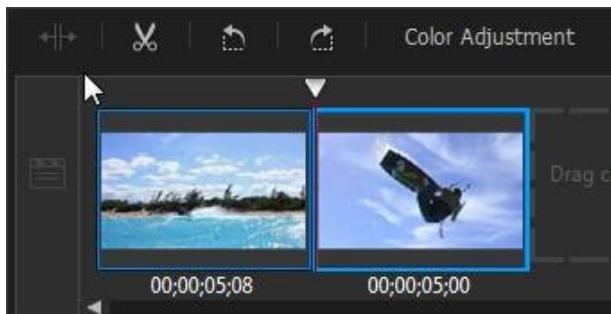
You can also use it to quickly remove unwanted portions of a media clip, or if you want to insert other media between the two portions.

Trimming Video Clips

Use the trim functions to remove unwanted portions from the beginning and/or ends of a video clip.

Note: *when you trim video clips, the program does not delete any of the original source media's content. It just marks the requested edits on the clips and then applies the edits when it renders the final video during production.*

To trim a video clip, select it on the storyboard and then click the [icon] button above the storyboard.
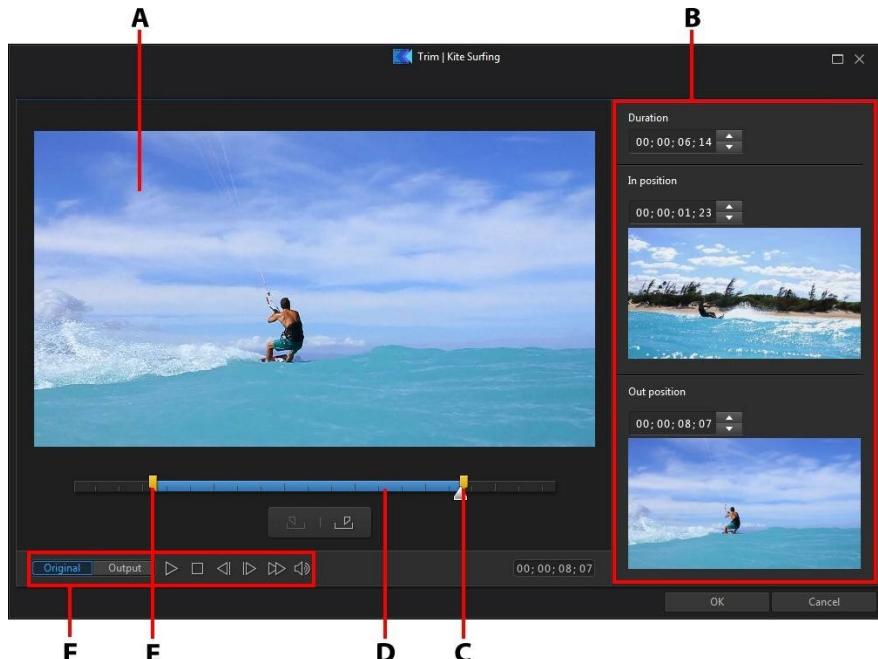
A - Preview Area, B - Marked Positions in Clip, C - Mark Out Position Slider, D - Selected Content, E - Mark In Position Slider, F - Player Controls

To trim a video clip, do this.

1. Select the video clip on the storyboard you want to trim, and then click on the ✂ button above the storyboard.

2. Use the player controls to find where you want the trimmed clip to begin, and then click 🔲 to set the mark in position or drag the mark in position slider to this position.
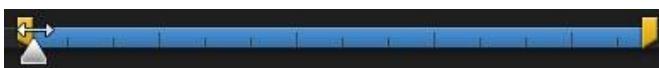
3. Use the player controls to find where you want the trimmed clip to end, and then click 🔲 to set the mark out position or drag the mark out position

slider to this position.
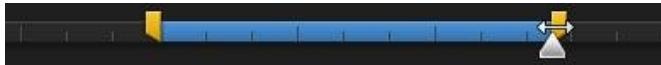
4.   If required, you can preview what the trimmed clip will look like by clicking **Output** and then clicking the play button on the player controls. Click **Original** if you want to play the original video.

5.   Click **OK** to set your changes and trim the clip.

Note: you can reenter the trim window to refine the trimmed clip at any time.

Cropping Images

You can completely customize the aspect ratio of the images in your video production or crop out unwanted portions of a photo, using the crop image function.

To crop an image, do this:

1.   Select the image on the storyboard and then click the ⊞ button above the storyboard. You can also right-click on the image and then select **Crop Image**.

2.   Set the aspect ratio or size of the crop area by selecting one of the following:

   - **4:3**: gives the crop area, and the resulting cropped image, a 4:3 aspect ratio.

   - **16:9**: gives the crop area, and the resulting cropped image, a 16:9 aspect ratio.

   - **Freeform**: select if you want to manually resize the crop area on the image and give the resulting cropped image a custom aspect ratio.

   - **Custom**: select if you want to set a custom aspect ratio for the cropped image using the **Width** and **Height** fields.

   - **Crop size**: similar to custom, you can manually enter the image size you want in the **Width** and **Height** fields.

3.   If required, drag the crop area to the position on the photo you want to keep. All areas outside the crop area will be removed from the image.

4.   Click **OK** to set your changes and crop the image.

Rotating Media Clips

If the orientation of a media clip is incorrect, you can quickly rotate it in the storyboard. To rotate a media clip, select it on the storyboard and then click [icon] to rotate it 90 degrees counterclockwise. Click [icon] to rotate it 90 degrees clockwise.

Making Color Adjustments

Select a video clip or image on the storyboard and then click **Color Adjustment** to adjust its exposure, contrast, saturation, sharpness, and more.

*Note: enable the **Compare adjustments in split preview** option for a before and after comparison in the preview window.*

In the Color Adjustment panel, the following options are available:

- **Exposure**: use on media clips that are over or underexposed. A lower value darkens all the colors in the clip, while a higher value lightens them.

- **Brightness**: use to increase or decrease the brightness of the media clip's image.

- **Contrast**: use to adjust contrast, or the difference between light and dark areas of the media clip.

- **Hue**: use to fine tune the shade or purity of the colors in the media clip.

- **Saturation**: use to adjust the saturation of the colors in a media clip. A smaller value moves the colors towards black and white, while a higher value increases the overall intensity of color in the clip.

- **Vibrance**: use to make the colors in a media clip brighter and more vivid, by enhancing the duller colors.

- **Highlight healing**: is applied to areas of media clips that are overexposed to recover detail in the highlights and brighter areas.

- **Shadow**: use to enhance detail in dark sections of the media clip by lightening shadows and underexposed areas.

- **Sharpness**: use the slider to adjust the amount of sharpness applied to the

media clip.

> **Note**: *if required, you can select the **Apply to All** button to apply the adjustments you made in the Color Adjustment panel to all of the clips on the storyboard.*

When you are done adjusting the color in your clip, click ✖ to close the Color Adjustment panel.

Fixing Video Clips

Select a video clip on the storyboard and then click the **Fix** function button to stabilize shaky video, adjust video white balance, or add color presets. You can also use lens correction to remove fisheye distortions and vignettes.

Lens Correction

Select the **Lens Correction** option to import lens profiles to auto correct distorted videos, or use the controls to manually correct them if they have a fisheye distortion or vignette effect.

When you enter the Action Camera Center, manually select the lens profile, using the **Maker** and **Model** drop-downs, that matches the camera your video was shot with. Once selected, CyberLink ActionDirector will auto correct the video.

> **Note**: *if none of the lens profiles match your camera, you can download more from DirectorZone or manually fix the distorted video using the controls in this window. See more details below.*

Downloading Lens Profiles from DirectorZone

If your video camera's lens and profile are not available in CyberLink ActionDirector you can click the 🌐 button to download more lens profiles from DirectorZone.

Once downloaded, click the 📥 button to import it. CyberLink ActionDirector should auto detect the imported profile and then correct the selected video.

Fisheye Distortion

The fisheye distortion section helps correct videos that appear distorted. Dragging the slider to the right straightens lines that bend away from the center, correcting barrel distortions. Dragging it to the left straightens lines that bend towards the center, fixing pincushion distortions in videos.

Vignette Removal

Use the following sliders to remove an unwanted vignette effect on videos that was caused by a camera lens or the lighting environment:

- **Vignette amount**: use this slider to adjust the level of vignette removal on the video.
- **Vignette midpoint**: drag the midpoint slider to the left to increase the size of the area (towards the center of the video) where the vignette removal is applied. Drag it right to decrease the size, towards the corners.

Video Stabilizer

Select the **Video Stabilizer** option to employ motion compensation technology to correct shaking videos. This tool is ideal for use with videos taken without a tripod or recorded while moving.

Once enabled, drag the **Strength** slider to increase or decrease the level of correction. Select the **Fix rotational camera shake** option if the clip has segments where the camera rotates from side to side.

Select the **Enhanced stabilizer** option to improve the output quality of some video clips. Using this feature requires more computing power, so it is recommended that you switch to non-real time preview or render a preview for the applied range.

White Balance

Select the **White Balance** option and then **Color temperature** to adjust the video's color temperature or create a specific atmosphere. Once enabled, use the slider to adjust the color of the video image. A lower value applies a colder temperature, while a higher value creates an atmosphere that is warmer. Use the **Tint** slider to

adjust the color level of the clip.

Select the **White calibration** option and then click to color correct the video image. By indicating which portion of the video image should be white, CyberLink ActionDirector automatically adjusts the other colors accordingly to be more vivid and true.

Color Presets

Select the **Color Presets** option to instantly transform the color and look of your video clips. To apply a color preset, just select it.

Setting a Media Clip's Duration

When you add images and title effect templates to the storyboard, you can set how long they are displayed in your video production. Unlike video clips which have a maximum length, these media clips can have any duration you want.

> *Note*: *to set the duration of a video, see* Trimming Video Clips.

To set a media clip's duration, do this:

1. Select the clip on the storyboard.

2. Click the **Duration** button (or right-click on the clip, select **Set Clip Attributes**, and then select **Set Duration**).

3. In the Duration Settings window, enter in the how long you want it to display in your video production. You can set the duration down to the number of frames.

4. Click on **OK**.

Changing the Shape of Media

CyberLink ActionDirector lets you change the shape of the media in your video production. Both videos and images added to the storyboard have freeform properties, so you can easily change their shape to create media that is different from the usual rectangle or square shape.

To change the shape of a media clip, do this:

1. Select a media clip on the storyboard. The media crosshairs will be displayed.

2. Use your mouse to click and drag the blue nodes in the corners of the media clip, changing it to the desired freeform shape.
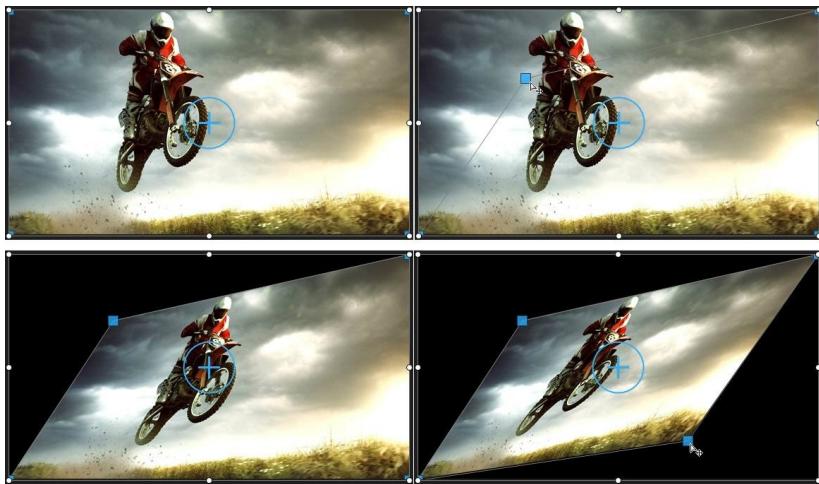
Chapter 7:

Adding Action Effects in the Action Camera Center

In the Action Camera Center you can add effects that highlight the action sequences in the video.

To open the Action Camera Center, select a video clip on the storyboard and then click the **Action Effect** button.
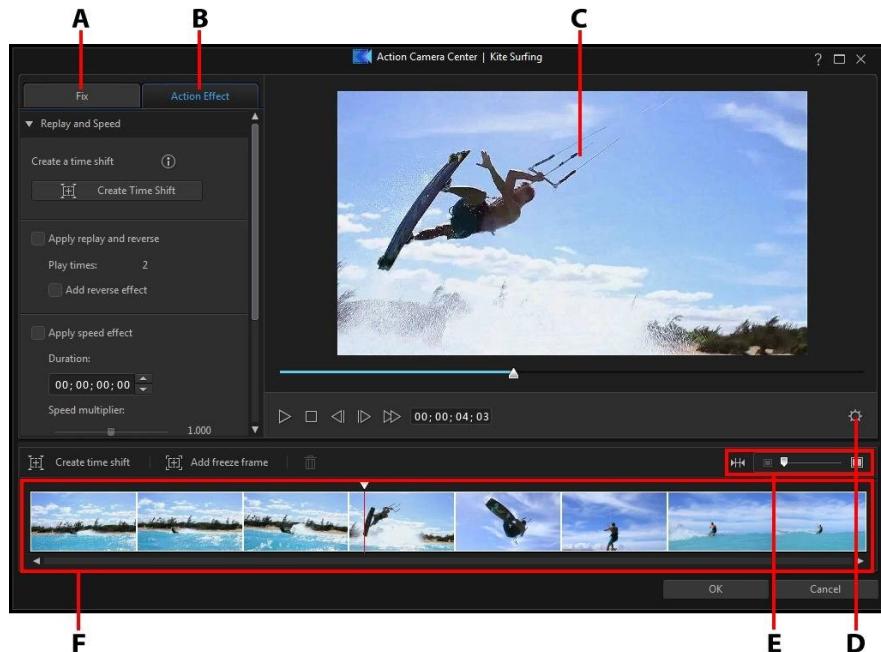
A - Fix Video Clips, B - Add Action Effects, C - Preview Window, D - Action Camera Center Settings, E - Zoom on Timeline, F - Action Camera Center Timeline

Once in the Action Camera Center, you can:

- Fix Video Clips

- [Create Action Effects](#)

When you are done editing the video clip, click the **OK** button to save your changes. Your changes are applied to the video clip and updated on the storyboard.

> *Note: to edit content created with the Action Camera Center, click on it on the storyboard and then click on the **Action Effect** function button above the storyboard.*

Creating Action Effects on Video Clips

Click on the **Effect** tab in the Action Camera Center to highlight action sequences in your videos clips with time shifts and freeze frames. Time shifts let you replay, reverse, or alter the speed of key moments in your videos, while freeze frames pause and zoom in on the action.

> *Note: before you finish creating your action effects, configure the [Action Camera Center Settings](#) to ensure the best output results.*

Creating Time Shifts

Time shifts let you highlight action in video clips by adding slow motion or replays on key moments. To create a time shift, do this:

1. On the **Effect** tab, use the player controls or drag the Action Camera Center timeline slider to the position in your video clip where you want the time shift to start.

   > *Note: use the zoom controls above the Action Camera Center timeline to zoom in on the video clip's timeline to more precisely add the time shift.*

2. Click on the **Create time shift** button. CyberLink ActionDirector will create the time shift, which is indicated in orange on the timeline.
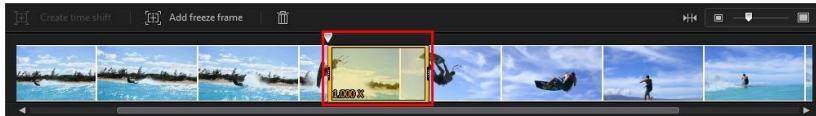
3. If required, drag each end of the time shift so that it covers the segment of the video you want to add the effect to.
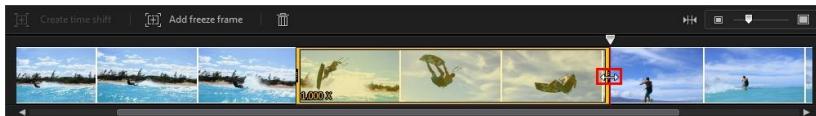
> *Note: the length of the original time shift is dependent on how much you have zoomed in on the Action Camera Center timeline.*

4. Apply the effect as required (see below) to the time shift segment.

> *Note: you can create more than one time shift on a video clip. Just repeat the above steps to add another.*

Replay and Reverse

Select the **Apply replay and reverse** option if you want to loop the selected segment of video in the time shift. Once selected, indicate how many times you want the segment to replay by setting it in the **Repeat times** field. Select the **Add reverse effect** option if you want the video to reverse forward and backward as it loops playback.

Speed Effect

Select the **Apply speed effect** option to speed up or slow down just the selected segment of video in the time shift. Once selected, you can enter a new **Duration** for the segment in the field provided, or use the **Speed multiplier** slider. Drag it left to slow down the segment, or right to speed it up.

When you apply a speed effect to a segment of video, by default the change in the speed in the video is instantaneous once the timeline slider enters the time shift. If you want it to be more gradual and look smoother, you can use the Ease in/out options. Select **Ease in** if you want the change of speed at the beginning of the time

shift to gradually speed up/slow down to the specified speed. Select **Ease out** if you want the video to gradually return to the original video speed at the end of the time shift.

> *Note: if you also selected the **Apply replay and reverse** option, in the **Apply effect to** drop down select whether to apply the speed effect to the first or last play of the time shift segment.*

Adding Freeze Frames

Add a freeze frame to pause a frame of video for a specified duration. To add a freeze frame, do this:

1. On the **Effect** tab, use the player controls or drag the Action Camera Center timeline slider to the position in your video clip where you want the freeze frame.

> *Note: use the zoom controls above the Action Camera Center timeline to zoom in on the video clip's timeline to more precisely find the frame.*

2. Click on the **Add freeze frame** button. CyberLink ActionDirector will add a freeze frame, which is indicated by the blue indicator.
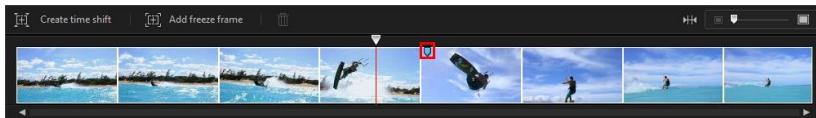
3. In the **Duration** field, enter how long you want the video to pause on this frame of video.

> *Note: you can add more than one freeze frame to a video clip. Just repeat the above steps to add another.*

Applying Zoom Effect

Select the **Apply zoom effect** option if you want to zoom in and out on the paused frame of video. Once selected, resize and align the focus box to the part of the video frame where you want the zoom to occur.

> **Note**: if you also selected the **Apply replay and reverse** option, in the **Apply effect to** drop down select whether to apply the freeze frame to the first or last play of the time shift segment.

Action Camera Center Settings

Click the ⚙ button in the Action Camera Center window to open the settings window. The available options are as follows:

Audio setting:

- **Remove audio**: select this option if you want to mute the audio in the entire video clip.

- **Keep audio**: select this option if you want to keep the audio in the edited video clip. Select the **Keep audio pitch (05X to 2X only)** if you are changing the speed of the video. Selecting this will stretch the audio to match the new video's length, minimizing the warping of the sound as the video speed changes.

Interpolation setting:

- **Apply interpolated technology when available**: select this option when reducing the speed of the video. CyberLink ActionDirector uses frame interpolated technology* to create a more advanced and smooth slow motion effect.

> **Note**: * optional feature in CyberLink ActionDirector. Check the version table on our web site for detailed versioning information.

Changing the Action Camera Center Content

Once you have created your action effects in the Action Camera Center and imported the resulting video clip into the storyboard, you can edit it like any other video clip on the storyboard. However, if you find that you want to edit or refine the effects more, you can do this by re-entering the Action Camera Center.

> **Note**: if you would like to view the individual clips created by the Action Camera Center so you can edit them directly on the storyboard, just right-click on the file and then select **Show Individual Clips**.

To edit content created with the Action Camera Center, click on it on the storyboard and then click on the **Action Camera Center** function button above the storyboard.

Editing Content

When you re-enter in the Action Camera Center, you can refine any of the fixes you made on the **Fix** tab. Click on the **Effect** tab to edit any action effects you created, or add new ones. To edit a created time shift, just select it on the video timeline,
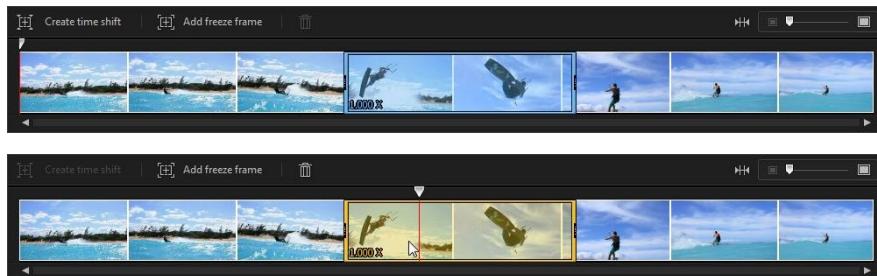
and then adjust its parameters as required.

For freeze frames, select the freeze frame indicator,
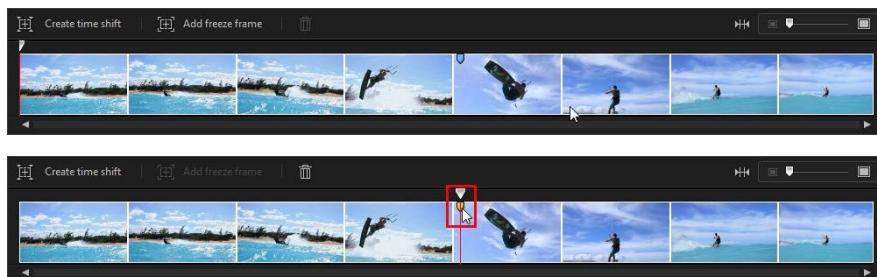
and then adjust the freeze frame settings as required.

> **Note**: *if you want to remove a time shift or freeze frame from a video clip, just select it on the Action Camera Center timeline and then click the* 🗑 *button.*

When you are done, click **OK** to save your changes and import the updated content into the storyboard.

Chapter 8:

Adding Video Effects

You can add stylish video effects to your video production to make it unique. Video effects can be applied to both video clips and images on the storyboard.

To add a video effect on a media clip in the storyboard, do this:

1. Select a video file or image on the storyboard.

2. Click the **Effects** button above the storyboard to open the Effects panel.

3. Find a video effect you like and then click it to instantly apply it to the selected clip.

   Note: the effect is applied for the entire duration of the selected clip. If you only want it applied to a portion of it, you can split the clip and then apply the effect to the portion you want. See Splitting a Clip for more information.

4. Once applied, you can preview it in the preview window.

   *Note: media clips on the storyboard that have an effect applied have an **i** icon in the bottom left corner of its storyboard thumbnail.*

5. To apply a different effect to this clip, ensure it is still selected and then click on the new effect.

   Note: only one video effect at can be applied to each media clip on the storyboard.

6. When you are done adding the video effect, click ⊠ to close the Effects panel.

   *Note: to remove an applied effect from a media clip, reenter the Effects panel, make sure the clip is selected, and then click on **No Effect** in the top left.*

Chapter 9:

Adding Title Effects

Title effects let you add text to your video production, such as open and closing credits. You add title effect templates to the storyboard the same way you add media clips, and they can be customized in the Title Designer.

To add a title effect template to the storyboard, do this:

1. Click on the **Add Title** button above the storyboard, or click the **Titles** tab to open the Title room.

2. Browse through the available title effect templates. You can click one to view a preview in the preview window.

3. When you find the title effect template you like, drag and drop it on the storyboard. See Adding Video Clips and Images to the Storyboard for more detailed instructions, since the process is the same.

*Note: the text in the title effect template cannot be added or modified in the storyboard or in the preview window. Click the **Title Designer** button to edit the text in the template.*

Once added to the storyboard, select the title effect template and then click the **Title Designer** button to edit it in the Title Designer. See Modifying Titles in the Title Designer for more information. For information on setting the amount of time the title effect appears in your video production, see Setting a Media Clip's Duration.

Modifying Titles in the Title Designer

In the Title Designer you can customize the title effects in your project. Title effects contain character presets, animation, and background options that you can modify to fit your video project.

To open the Title Designer, select a title effect on the storyboard and then click the **Title Designer** button.
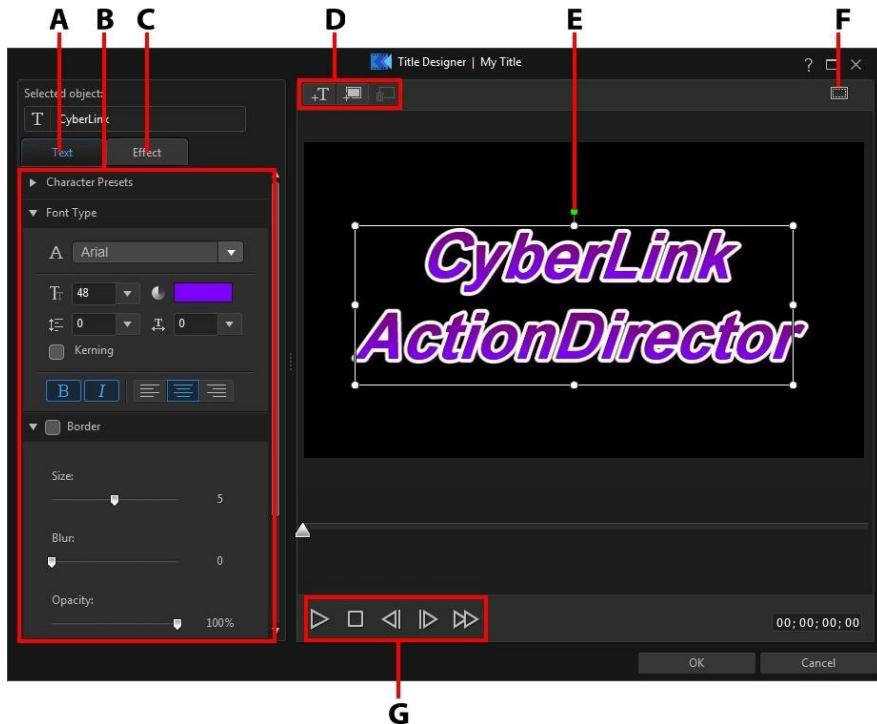
A - Text Properties Tab, B - Title Properties, C - Title Animation Effect Tab, D - Insert Text/Backgrounds, E - Title Text, F - TV Safe Zone/Grid Lines, G - Player Controls

Once you are done modifying the title effect in the Title Designer, click the **OK** button to close the window and set your changes in your video production.

> **Note**: if you'd like to perform additional editing after closing the Title Designer, just select the title again in the storyboard and then click the **Title Designer** button.

Adding Text and Backgrounds

Each title effect template can contain one or more title text boxes. It can also contain a background that the text displays over.

Adding Title Text

By default there is one title text box in the Title Designer when it's opened. To edit the text in the title text, just click in the box, ensure the default text is selected, and then type in your text.

You can also add additional title text boxes. To add new title text, click on the [+T] button and then click in the preview window to add the title text box to the desired position. Type in the required text in the new title text box.

See Modifying Title Text Properties for more information on customizing the default title text properties to fit the title effect you are trying to create.

Inserting Backgrounds

Your title effect can consist of a background that the title text displays over.

To set a background, do this:

1. Click on the [ ] button.

2. Browse to and then select the image on your computer you want to use as the background, and then click **Open**.

3. When prompted, select the adjustment setting for the background that best fits your requirements.

note

Note: to remove the imported background image, just click the [ ] button.

Modifying Title Effect Position

You can change the position and orientation of the title text in a title effect, quickly and easily.

note

*Note: click on [ ] to use the TV safe zone and grid lines to help with the precise placement of the title effect on the master video. Select **Snap to Reference Lines** to have the title effect snap to the grid lines, TV safe zone, and boundary of the video area.*

To modify title text or orientation:

- click on the title text, and then drag it to a new position.

- click on ⬤ above the title text or image, and drag it right or left to change its orientation.

- click and drag a corner or side to resize the title text.

Modifying Title Text Properties

Click on the **Text** tab to change the properties of the selected title text.

Modifying Text Properties

Click on the **Text** properties tab to modify everything from the text size, style, color, as well as adding borders, and much more.

Applying Character Presets to Title Text

Select the **Character Presets** option to apply a defined character preset to title text. After you have applied a defined character preset you can refine it using the other properties on the tab, if required.

To apply a character preset to title text, ensure the text box is selected in the preview window and then click on a character preset in the list.

Note: once you are done customizing all of the text properties on the tab, click on ▤ to save the character preset to your favorites. To find and use saved character presets, select My Favorites in the Character types drop-down.

Customizing Font Type

Select the **Font Type** option to set the font type and size of the selected title text. You can also select the font face color, bold or italicize text, change the line and text spacing, and set the text alignment in the text box.

If the font type you are using supports it, you can select the **Kerning** check box to reduce the space between the letters in the title text.

Applying a Border

Select the **Border** option to add a border around the title text. Available options allow you to change the border's size, and add an opacity or blur effect.

You can customize the border color using the following options in the **Fill type** drop-down:

- **Uniform color**: select this option if you want the border to be one solid color. Click the colored square to open the color palette and select the desired border color.

- **2 color gradient**: select this option if you want the border color to change from one color to another using a gradient. Click the colored squares to set the beginning and ending colors, and then drag the **Gradient direction** control to set which way the color flows.

- **4 color gradient**: select this option if you want the border to consist of four colors. Click the colored squares to set the colors in each of the four corners of the border.

Opacity

Select this option to use the **Opacity** slider to set the level of transparency of the selected title text.

Applying Animation Effects to Title Text

Click on the **Effect** tab to apply animations to title text, such as text fades, text motion, or wipes.

To apply animation to text, do this:

1. Select the title text you wish to animate in the preview window.

2. Select the **Starting Effect** option and then select an animation from the available list.

3. Select the **Ending Effect** option and then select an animation from the available list.

Chapter 10:

Using Transitions

Click the **Transition** tab to open the Transition Room and access a library of transitions that you can use on or between image and video clips in your video production. Transitions let you control how media appears and disappears in your project, and changes, or transitions, from one clip to the next.

Adding Transitions to a Single Clip

By adding a transition to a single clip, you can control how the clip appears and/or disappears in your production.

To add a transition to a single clip, do this:

1. Click on **Transitions** tab to open the Transition Room.

2. Select a transition effect and then drag it to the beginning (prefix transition) of the first clip on the storyboard.
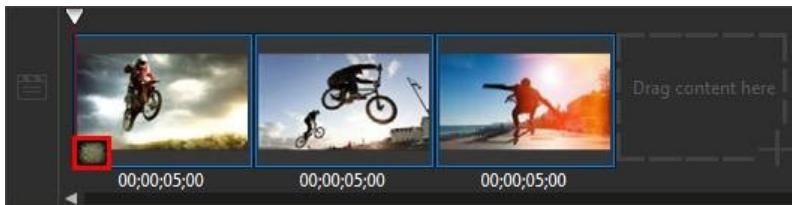
Note: if you only want a transition to be at the beginning of a clip, this can only be done by adding it to the first clip on the storyboard. Once added, you can then move the clip to another position on the storyboard.

3. Select a transition effect and then drag it to the end (postfix transition) of the last clip on the storyboard.

To change the duration of the transition, click on the **Duration** button above the storyboard. If you want to remove the transition from the clip, just click on it in the thumbnail and then press the Delete key on your keyboard.

Adding Transitions Between Two Clips

You can also add a transition between two image and video clips on the storyboard.

To add a transition between two clips, do this:

1. Click on **Transitions** tab to open the Transition Room.

2. Select a transition effect and then drag it between the two clips on the storyboard.
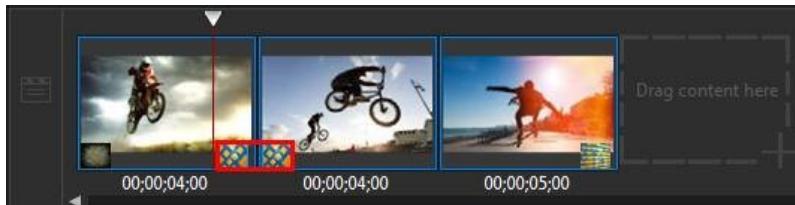
To change the duration of the transition, click on the **Duration** button above the storyboard. If you want to remove the transition from between the clips, just click on it in the first thumbnail and then press the Delete key on your keyboard.

Chapter 11:

Adding Background Music

You can easily add background music to your video production. To add background music, do this

1. Click on the **Music** button to the right of the storyboard. The Add Background Music window opens.

2. Click on the ⊞ button.

3. Browse to the music you want to add, select it, and then click **Open**. You can repeat this step multiple times, or select more than one music file to add more music.

4. In the **Trim audio** section you can trim the length of the music files you added as background music as follows:

    *   use the player controls to find the desired start point for the music, and then click ▣.

    *   use the player controls to find the desired end point for the music, and then click ▢.

    *   drag the markers on the music timeline to set the desired start and end times manually.

5. In the mix audio section:

    *   drag the slider left (towards **More music**) to increase the volume of the music in your video. Doing this will also reduce the volume of the audio in the video clip's on the storyboard.

    *   drag the slider right (towards **More video**) to increase the volume of the audio in the video clip's on the storyboard. Doing this will reduce the volume of the background music you added.

6. Select the **Loop playback** option if you want the music to play continuously during the entire duration of the video. When the music ends, it will loop back to the beginning.

7. Select the **Fade out** option to have the background music gradually fade-out at the end of the production.

8. Click **OK** to save your changes and add the background music to the video.

> **Note**: if you'd like to edit the background music after closing the Add Background Music window, just click on the **Music** button again.

Chapter 12:

Producing Your Project

When you are done creating your video production, and you are satisfied with the results after viewing it in the preview window, it's time to produce it. Producing simply means compiling (or rendering) the separate elements your project contains into a playable video file.

To begin producing your project, click the **Produce** button in the bottom right corner. In the Produce dialog you have two options:

- **Produce & Save**: select this option if you want to create a video file on your computer's hard drive. See Producing and Saving to a Video File for detailed information.

- **Produce & Share**: select this option if you want to render your video production and then have it uploaded to a social media web site such as Facebook, YouTube, or Vimeo. See Producing and Sharing to Online Media Sites for detailed information.

*Note: before you produce your project, you can also click **Go to Theme Designer** to use theme templates to add style to your video production. CyberLink ActionDirector will create a render preview of your finished video production and then import it into the Theme Designer. See Using the Theme Designer for more detailed information.*

Utilizing Intelligent SVRT

Intelligent SVRT (Smart Video Rendering Technology) is a proprietary rendering technology from CyberLink that assists in the output of your video productions by suggesting which video profile you should use.

Based on the format of original video clips in your project, what portions of the clips were modified (and therefore require rendering during production), and which portions of them were not changed (and thus can be skipped over during the rendering process), Intelligent SVRT suggests the video profile that will result in the best output quality possible, and save you the most time during production.

To utilize Intelligent SVRT, click the **Intelligent SVRT** button on the **File** tab.

In the Intelligent SVRT dialog that displays, CyberLink ActionDirector auto selects the video profile it suggests you use to output your video production, and some

other video profiles you can utilize.

To select a video profile, just select it in the Intelligent SVRT dialog and then click **Apply**. The selected video profile is auto highlighted and selected as you proceed to produce. The video profile you used is also saved in the dialog, and will always be available when utilizing Intelligent SVRT.

Producing and Saving to a Video File

You can output your video production as a video file, which you can watch on a computer, burn to disc, or output to a portable device.

> **Note***: if you're not sure which video file format you should output your production in, click the **Intelligent SVRT** button for assistance. See Utilizing Intelligent SVRT for more information on using this feature.*

You can output your project to one of the following formats:

- H.264 AVC (.MP4)

- Windows Media

To output your video production, do this:

1. Select a video file format by clicking it (**H.264 AVC (.MP4)**, or **Windows Media**).

2. Select the **Profile name/Quality** you want to use to create the file. This selection determines the video resolution, file size, and overall quality of the outputted file.

> **Note***: these video file formats support up to 4K resolution (Ultra HD). Before production, be sure to select the desired video resolution in the **Profile name/Quality** drop-down.*

3. Check the production details and that the file will be outputted to the folder on your computer where you want it. Click [⋯] to set another output folder.

4. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce your file.

5.   Click the **Start** button to begin producing your file.

Uploading Video to Online Media Sites

On the **Online** tab you can upload your video production to one of the following online media web sites:

- Facebook
- YouTube
- Dailymotion
- Vimeo
- Niconico Douga
- Youku

*Note: in some versions of CyberLink ActionDirector, you can produce and upload up to 4K resolution (Ultra HD) video to social web sites. Before production, be sure to select the desired video resolution in the **Profile name/Quality** drop-down.*

Uploading Video to Facebook

To upload your video to Facebook®, do this:

1.   Click the **Facebook** button.

2.   Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down list.

3.   Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on Facebook once uploaded.

4.   If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

5.   Click **Start** to begin.

6.   Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your Facebook account by following the steps in the Facebook Authorization windows.

7. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Uploading Video to YouTube

To upload your video to YouTube, do this:

> *Note: if the size/length of the your video exceeds the maximum allowed, CyberLink ActionDirector will separate the video into smaller/shorter videos, upload these videos, and then create a playlist for you on YouTube.*

1. Click the **YouTube Videos** button.

2. Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down. The quality you select will result in the corresponding quality option being available after the video is fully processed on YouTube.

> *Note: the quality option available on YouTube is also dependent on the original captured video quality and the bandwidth of the user who is watching the video.*

3. Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on YouTube once uploaded. Also select one of the **Video categories** and enter in some keyword **Tags** that users can search for to find your video.

4. Set whether you want the video to be **Public** or **Private** once it is uploaded to YouTube.

> *Note: sign in to DirectorZone and then select **Share video on DirectorZone** if you want to show others how you adjusted the clips in your video production. When selected, your uploaded video also displays on DirectorZone.*

5. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

6. Click **Start** to begin.

7. Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your YouTube account by following the steps in the YouTube Authorization windows.

8. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Uploading Video to Dailymotion

To upload your video to Dailymotion, do this:

> **Note**: if the size/length of the your video exceeds the maximum allowed, CyberLink ActionDirector will separate the video into smaller/shorter videos, upload these videos, and then create a playlist for you on Dailymotion.

1. Click the **Dailymotion** button.

2. Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down. The quality you select will result in the corresponding quality option being available after the video is fully processed on Dailymotion.

> **Note**: the quality option available on Dailymotion is also dependent on the original captured video quality and the bandwidth of the user who is watching the video.

3. Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on Dailymotion once uploaded. Also select one of the **Video categories** and enter in some keyword **Tags** that users can search for to find your video.

4. Set whether you want the video to be **Public** or **Private** once it is uploaded to Dailymotion.

> **Note**: sign in to DirectorZone and then select **Share video on DirectorZone** if you want to show others how you adjusted the clips in your video production. When selected, your uploaded video also displays on DirectorZone.

5. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

6. Click **Start** to begin.

7. Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your Dailymotion account by following the steps in the Dailymotion Authorization windows.

8. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Uploading Video to Vimeo

To upload your video to Vimeo, do this:

Note: if the size/length of the your video exceeds the maximum allowed, CyberLink ActionDirector will separate the video into smaller/shorter videos, upload these videos, and then create a playlist for you on Vimeo.

1. Click the **Vimeo** button.

2. Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down. The quality you select will result in the corresponding quality option being available after the video is fully processed on Vimeo.

Note: the quality option available on Vimeo is also dependent on the original captured video quality and the bandwidth of the user who is watching the video.

3. Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on Vimeo once uploaded. Also enter in some keyword **Tags** that users can search for to find your video.

4. Set whether you want the video to be **Public** or **Private** once it is uploaded to Vimeo.

*Note: sign in to DirectorZone you can select **Share video on DirectorZone** if you want to show others how you adjusted the clips in your video production. When selected, your uploaded video also displays on DirectorZone.*

5. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

6. Click **Start** to begin.

7. Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your Vimeo account by following the steps in the Vimeo Authorization windows.

8. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Uploading Video to Niconico Douga

To upload your video to Niconico Douga, do this:

Note: if the size/length of the your video exceeds the maximum allowed, CyberLink ActionDirector will separate the video into smaller/shorter videos, upload these videos, and then create a playlist for you on Niconico Douga.

1. Click the **Niconico Douga** button.

2. Enter your Niconico Douga **Username** and **Password**. If you don't have an account, click the **Sign Up to Niconico** link to get one.

3. Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down. The quality you select will result in the corresponding quality option being available after the video is fully processed on Niconico Douga.

Note: the quality option available on Niconico Douga is also dependent on the original captured video quality and the bandwidth of the user who is watching the video.

4. Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on Niconico Douga once uploaded. Also enter in some keyword **Tags** that users can search for to find your video.

5. Set whether you want the video to be **Public** or **Private** once it is uploaded to Niconico Douga.

*Note: sign in to DirectorZone you can select **Share video on DirectorZone** if you want to show others how you adjusted the clips in your video production. When selected, your uploaded video also displays on DirectorZone.*

6. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

7. Use the player controls in the preview window to find the frame of video in your production you want to use as the video's thumbnail on the Niconico Douga web site, and then click the **Set Thumbnail** button.

8. Click **Start** to begin.

9. Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your Niconico Douga account by following the steps in the Niconico Douga Authorization windows.

10. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Uploading Video to Youku

To upload your video to Youku, do this:

Note: if the size/length of the your video exceeds the maximum allowed, CyberLink ActionDirector will separate the video into smaller/shorter videos, upload these videos, and then create a playlist for you on Youku.

1. Click the **Youku** button.

2. Select the desired quality of your video from the **Profile type** drop-down. The quality you select will result in the corresponding quality option being available after the video is fully processed on Youku.

Note: the quality option available on Youku is also dependent on the original captured video quality and the bandwidth of the user who is watching the video.

3. Enter a **Title** and **Description** for your video in the fields provided. The text you enter is included on Youku once uploaded. Also select one of the **Video categories** and enter in some keyword **Tags** that users can search for to find your video.

4. Set whether you want the video to be **Public** or **Private** once it is uploaded to Dailymotion.

*Note: sign in to DirectorZone you can select **Share video on DirectorZone** if you want to show others how you adjusted the clips in your video production. When selected, your uploaded video also displays on DirectorZone.*

5. If required, select **Enable preview during production** to preview your video during production. Selecting this option will increase the time required to produce the file before upload.

6. Click **Start** to begin.

7. Click **Authorize** and then grant CyberLink ActionDirector permission to upload videos to your Youku account by following the steps in the Youku Authorization windows.

8. CyberLink ActionDirector proceeds to produce and upload the video file. Click **Close** when done to return to the program.

Chapter 13:

Using the Theme Designer

The Theme Designer lets you add style and a professional video look to your video production, with fully customizable theme templates. A theme may consist of one or more theme templates, or individual sequences from different theme templates.

As you customize the theme template, you can also fully customize how your media is displayed, giving you more creative control over your outputted movie.

To open the Theme Designer click **Theme Designer** on the ActionDirector launch window, or **Go to Theme Designer** in the Produce dialog.
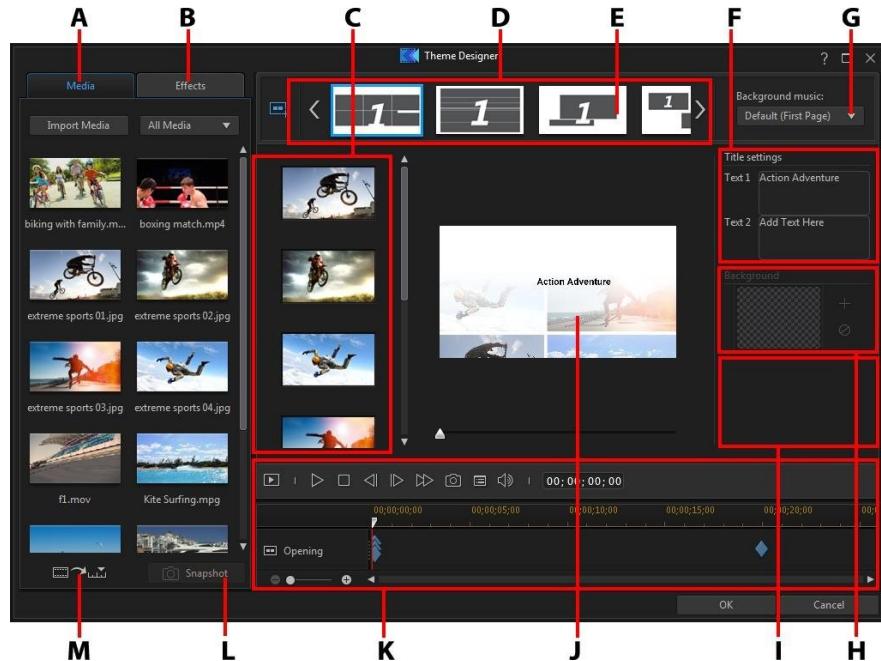
A - Media Tab, B - Effects Tab, C - Sequence Content Area, D - Added Sequences Area, E - Selected Sequence, F - Title Settings, G - Theme Background Music, H - Sequence Background Image, I - Transition Settings, J - Preview Window, K - Preview Controls, L - Take Snapshot from Video, M - Auto Fill Media Slots

Overview

Themes that you edit in the Theme Designer consist of theme templates and your media files. Your media files may consist of:

- images and video clips you import into the Theme Designer.

- a render preview of the video production created in the storyboard window.

- all the images and video clips you had in the media room in the storyboard window.

- snapshot images you create in the Theme Designer. See Taking Snapshots from Videos for more information.

What are Theme Templates?

Theme templates are used to create a video production, with a specific type of theme or style, and can be downloaded from DirectorZone. Theme templates consist of a number of sequences. Each of these sequences contain elements, some of which are customizable and some of which are not.

The customizable elements include the text and media (images, videos, and background music) you add to each sequence. You can add effects on this media and set how and when it is displayed. You can also set the background image on some sequences, and select the transition between each sequence in templates named "with transitions". Non-customizable elements include any animation included in the sequences.

When selecting a theme template to use in the Theme Designer, you can choose to add one or more theme templates, creating a more original production. You can even just select some of the sequences in a theme template, or mix and match the sequences used.

There are three types of sequences: opening, middle, and closing sequences. Opening and closing sequences usually contain text, while the elements in middle sequences are much more random.

Importing Media Files into the Theme Designer

There are two ways you can enter the Theme Designer in CyberLink ActionDirector, so the process for the initial import of media files depends on the path you take. If you entered the Theme Designer from the storyboard window, CyberLink ActionDirector will:

- create a render preview of your video production and then import it into the Theme Designer.

- import all of the video files and images you have in the media room, whether they were used in your production or not, into the Theme Designer.

> *Note: once the render preview and media files are imported into the Theme Designer, the Add Theme Templates/Sequences window displays. See Adding Theme Templates/Sequences for more information on the next steps.*

If you enter the Theme Designer from the launch window, you will see an import window that helps you import your media files.

> *Note: if you want to import additional media files into the Theme Designer after you have entered it, see Importing More Media Files.*

Importing Media Files

When you select **Theme Designer** on the ActionDirector launch window, you import your media files as below.

1. After selecting **Theme Designer**, the import media window displays.
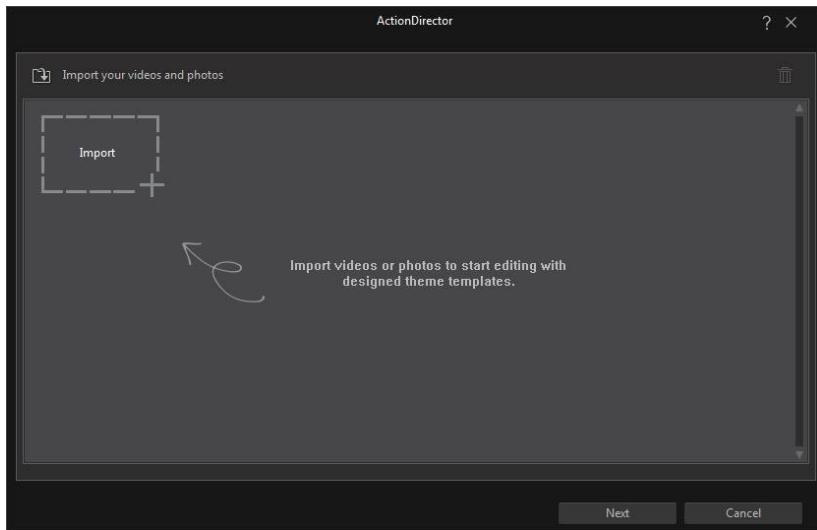
2. Click on ![icon] and then select one of the following options:

    *Note: you can also click on the **Import** icon if you just want to import media files individually.*

    - **Import Media Files**: import media files individually.

    - **Import a Media Folder**: import the entire contents of a folder that contains the media files you want to use.

3. Browse to and select the media files you want to import and then click **Open**.

4. Click on **Next** to import the media files into the Theme Designer and display the Add Theme Templates/Sequences window. See Adding Theme Templates/Sequences for more information on the next steps.

Adding Theme Templates/Sequences

In the Theme Designer you can use one or more theme templates, or just certain selected sequences, to create your video.

When you first enter the Theme Designer, you are prompted to select a theme template.
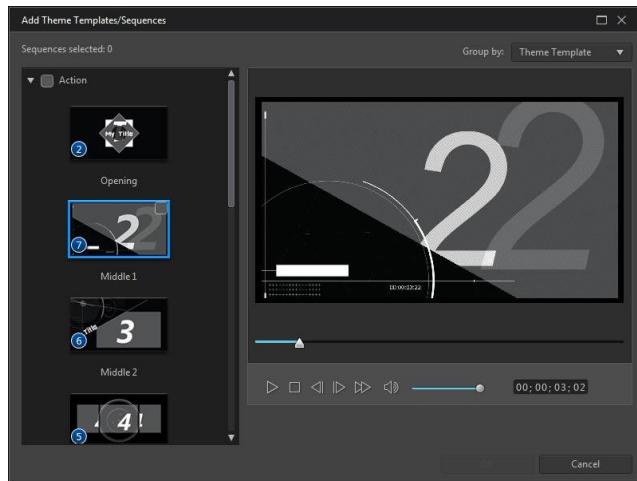
To add a theme template, just select it in the window and all of its sequences will be added.
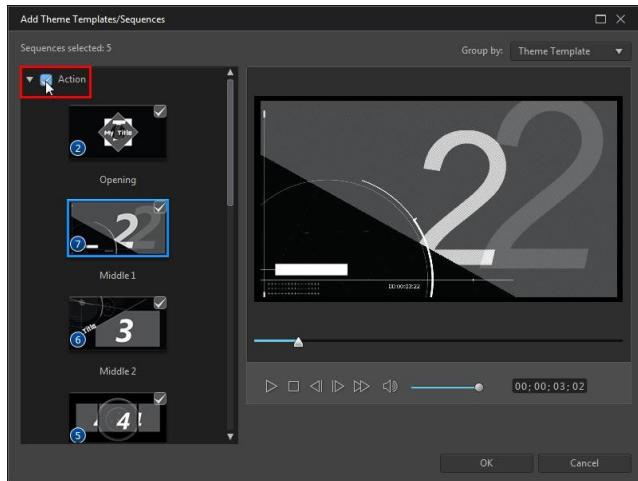
> **Note**: *you can preview a theme template in the preview window by selecting it and then using the available playback controls.*

If you don't want to use all the theme template's sequences, just deselect the ones you don't want to use.
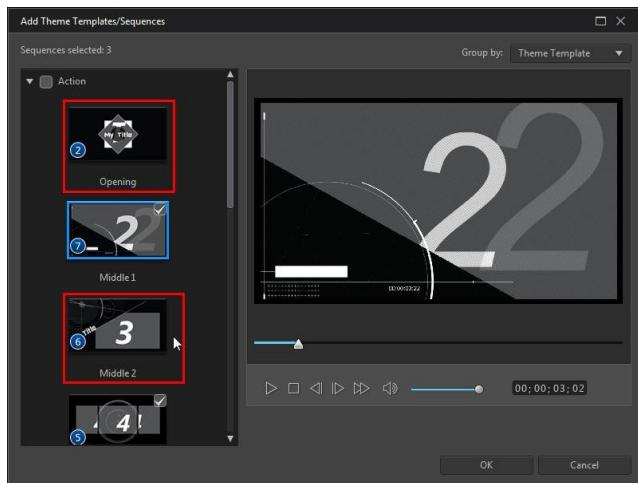
You can also select sequences from other theme templates and include them in your video. The Theme Designer will remember the order of your selections.
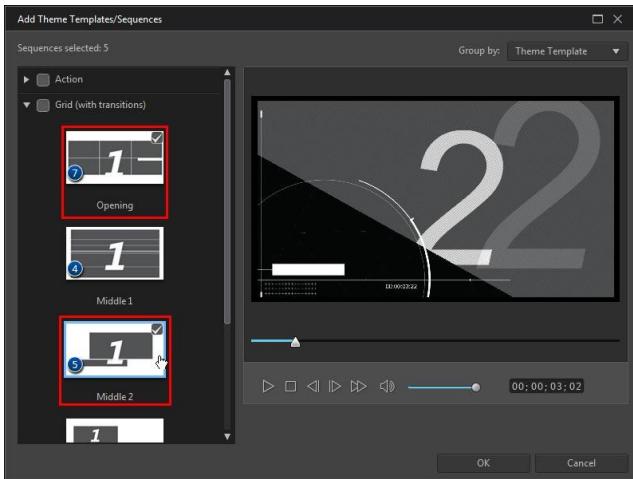
Click **OK** once you have selected all the sequences. They will be loaded into the added sequences area of the Theme Designer.

If you'd like to add more sequences, just click the button. You can drag and drop the sequences to reorder them, or right click to remove the selected one.

Adding Media Clips

Once you have selected the theme templates (and their sequences) that you want to use, you can start adding your images and video files to them.

 Note: the number of media files you can add to a sequence is dependent on its design.

To add media into the selected sequences, do this:

1. In the added sequences area, select the individual sequence you want to add media to. Note the number of media slots that are available in the sequence content area. The number of available slots varies from sequence to sequence.
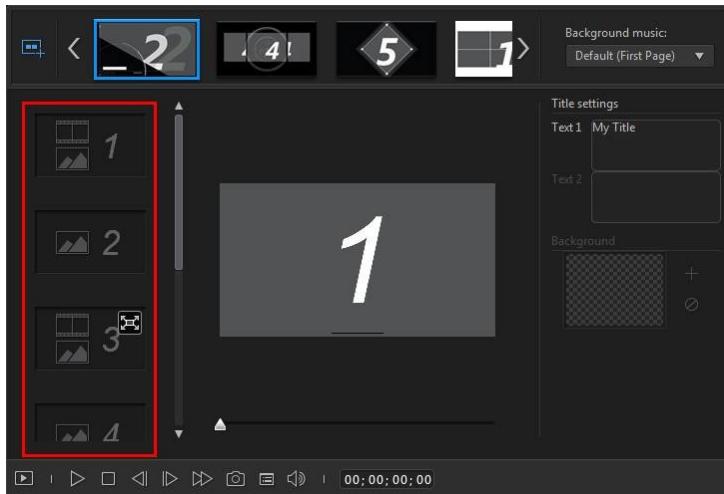
Note: some of the media slots in sequences allow you to add both images and videos into them, while others only allow one type of media.

2. Click on the **Media** tab and then drag and drop the media that you want in the sequence to the desired slot.

*Note: the media that is available on the Media tab are the videos and images you imported into the Media Room library. Click **Import Media** to import media from your computer's hard drive.*

3. Continue this process until all the media slots have been used.
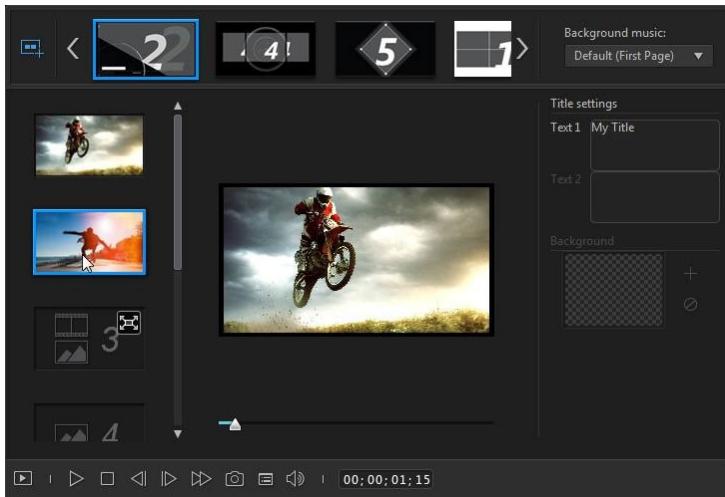
4.   Select the next sequence, and then repeat steps 2 and 3 until all the media
     slots have been filled.
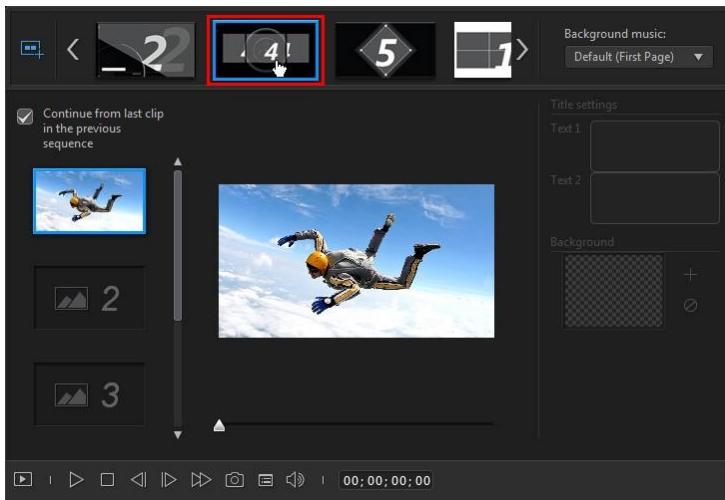
> **Note**: *if you want a media file to continue playing from one sequence to the next, ensure the **Continue from last clip in the previous sequence** is selected. The first media slot will be auto populated with the content from the last media slot on the previous sequence. Deselect this option if you want new media displayed in the next sequence.*

5. Continue selecting all the sequences in your video until all of the media slots and sequences contain media.

> **Note**: *when adding media you can also click the [ ] button to auto fill all the empty media slots in the sequences. Select **Auto Fill by Library Order** to fill by the created date, as displayed in the Media Room library. Select **Auto Fill Using Videos First** if you want to add the video clips first.*

Importing More Media Files

Once you are in the Theme Designer, there are two ways you can import more media files into the window.

- To import more video files and images located on your hard drive, click the **Import Media** button.

- To take still snapshots from videos in the Theme Designer, click the **Snapshot** button. See Taking Snapshots from Videos for more information.

Taking Snapshots from Videos

You can take a snapshot from a paused video and then import the image into the Theme Designer to use in your video production.

To take a snapshot, do this:

1. In the main Theme Designer window, select the video file you want to use and then click the **Snapshot** button.

2. In the Snapshot window, use the playback controls to find the video frame you want to take a snapshot of. Pause the video and use the ◁ and ▷ buttons to find the precise frame you want to capture.

3. Click the [ ]. The snapshot image is captured.

4. Repeat the steps to take as many snapshots from the video as you wish.

5. Click **OK** to close the Snapshot window and import the captured images into the Theme Designer.

Editing Media Clips

There are several editing options available for the media clips you want to use in the Theme Designer.

Note: the editing options in the Theme Designer are limited to video trimming, image duration, and adding effects. If you need to perform more complex editing on your media clips, it is recommended that you do this before importing the clips into the Theme Designer. See for Editing Your Media for more advanced editing options.

Trimming Video Clips

You can perform trims on the video clips used in the Theme Designer. To trim a video clip, right-click on it in the Theme Designer and then select **Trim**. Or hover your mouse over the video clip and click on ✂ in its thumbnail. See Trimming Video Clips for detailed information on trimming video clips.

Muting Video Clips

Some theme templates and sequences contain background music that will be used in your video. Because of this, you may want to mute the audio in the imported video clips, so that it doesn't conflict with the background music.

To mute the audio in a video clip, hover your mouse over the video clip and then click on 🔊 in its thumbnail.

Modifying Image Duration

To modify the duration that an image clip is displayed in your outputted video, do this:

1. Right-click on it in the Theme Designer and then select **Set Duration**. Or hover your mouse over the image clip and then click on 🕐 in its thumbnail.

2. In the Duration Settings window, enter in the how long you want it to display in your video production. You can set the duration down to the number of frames.

3. Click on **OK**.

Applying Zoom In on Media Clips

Some media slots in sequences allow you to zoom in on the media clip that was

added to it. If a zoom is available, then the icon is displayed in the top right corner.

To apply a zoom in on the media clip, click on the icon. Click to remove it if required.

Adding Video Effects to Clips

In the Theme Designer you can add special effects to your images and video clips. Each special effect has unique attributes that you can customize to help achieve the impression you want in your video production.

To add a video effect to a clip, do this:

1. Click on the **Effects** tab.

2. Select an effect and then drag and drop it on the clip.

3. If required, right-click on the clip and then select **Modify Effect Settings**. Use the available sliders and options to customize the video effect to your preference. Click on **OK** to save your changes.

See Adding Video Effects for more information on video effects.

Editing Background Music

You can customize the music that is used in your video. To edit the background music, select one of the following options in the **Background music** drop-down:

- **Default (First Page)**: select this option to use the background music that is included by default in theme templates.

> **Note**: *if you select sequences from more than one theme template, the Theme Designer uses the background music that is applied to the first sequence in the video.*

- **Imported**: select this option if you want to import your own custom background music from your computer's hard drive. Select the music you want to use and then click **OK** to set it as the music used.

- **No Music**: select this option if you don't want to have any background music in your video.

Background Music Preferences

You can trim the music used in your video or add fades. To do this, select **Preferences** in the **Background music** drop-down. Modify the music preferences as follows:

- if required, trim the background music using the player controls and the mark-in/mark-out indicators.
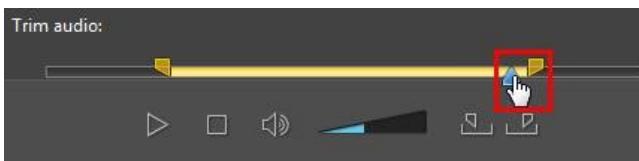
- if required, adjust the volume of the music using the available volume control.
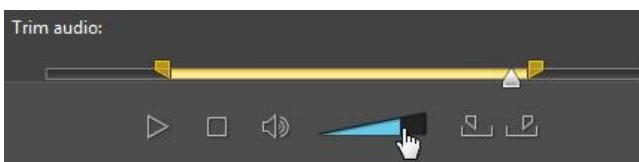
- if required, use the slider to mix the audio level, by deciding whether to have more background music or the original video's audio in the production.

Click **OK** to save your changes.

Editing Title Text

Some sequences contain title text that you can edit. If a sequence allows you to edit title text, the text fields in **Title settings** will become active when the sequence is selected.
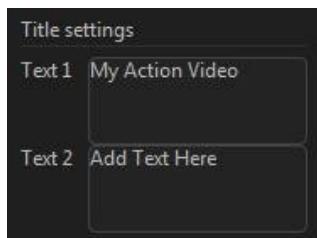
To edit the title text, just enter the text you want to use in the fields provided. If you don't want any text displayed in the selected sequences, just make sure the text field blank.

Replacing Background Images

Some sequences let you replace their background image. A thumbnail of the background image is displayed in the **Background** area if the sequence has a replaceable background image.
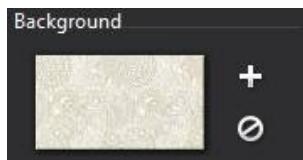
Click [+] to replace the background with an image from your computer's hard drive. Click [⊘] if you want to remove the background image from the sequence.

Adding Transitions Between Sequences

When viewing a video created with the Theme Designer, you will notice that there are transitions between the sequences in a theme template. These transitions are editable in theme templates named "with transitions". Transitions can also be added between sequences if you are using sequences from different theme templates.

Note: in theme templates not named "with transitions", the transitions between sequences are not editable. These theme templates use your media to make the transitions between the sequences.

If adding a transition is available for a sequence, the **Transition settings** area displays when the sequence is selected.
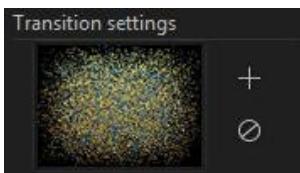
Click [+] to add a transition before the selected sequence. Click [Ø] if you want to remove a selected transition from the sequence. See <u>Using Transitions</u> for more information on transitions.

Previewing and Saving

As you are creating your video in the Theme Designer, you can preview your creation using the available preview controls.
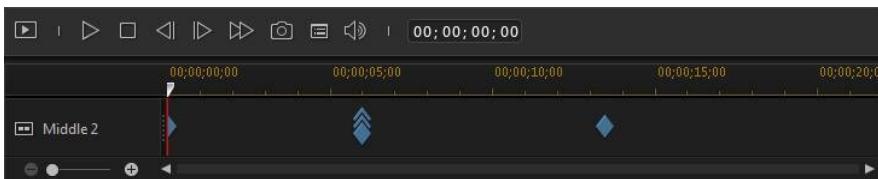
Click [▶] to preview the entire movie, or [▶] to preview just the selected sequence. Click [▤] to change the preview resolution, or [📷] to take a photo snapshot of your

movie.

The keyframe indicators on the preview timeline indicate where the media files in the sequence are in the movie. Hover your mouse over a keyframe to view the clip information.

Once you are done previewing your movie and you are satisfied with the results, click on **OK**. The Theme Designer will close, and you will be brought to produce window where you can do either of the following:

- On the **File** tab, you can render your production and create a video file on your computer's hard drive. See Producing and Saving to a Video File for detailed information.

- On the **Online** tab, you can to render your video production and then have it uploaded to a social media web site such as Facebook, YouTube, or Vimeo. See Producing and Sharing to Online Media Sites for detailed information.

Chapter 14:

ActionDirector Preferences

To set your preferences in CyberLink ActionDirector, just click the ⚙ button.

General Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **General** tab. The available options are as follows:

Application:

- **Maximum undo levels**: enter the number (between 0 and 100) of undos (Ctrl +Z) you would like to make available while you work on your video production. Setting a higher number consumes more CPU resources.

- **Always prompt me when aspect ratios conflict**: select this option to enable a warning message when you add a video clip to the storyboard whose aspect conflicts with that of the project.

Internet:

- **Automatically check for software updates**: select to periodically check for updates or new versions of ActionDirector automatically.

Language:

- **Use system default language**: select this option for the language display to be the same as the language of your operating system.

- **User defined**: select this option and then select the language from the drop-down list that you want to use.

DirectorZone Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **DirectorZone** tab. The available options are as follows:

Auto sign in:

- **Auto sign in to DirectorZone**: select this option and then enter in your e-mail

address and password to automatically sign in to DirectorZone when the program is opened. If you do not have a DirectorZone account, click on the **Get an Account** button.

Retrieve templates from DirectorZone:

- **Templates Downloaded from DirectorZone**: click this button when you have signed in to your DirectorZone account if you want to download and import all of the templates you previously downloaded from DirectorZone.

Privacy rules:

- **Allow DirectorZone to gather editing information**: select this option to allow DirectorZone to collect all of the names of the templates used in a finished project you upload to YouTube.

Editing Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **Editing** tab. The available options are as follows:

Durations:

- set the default durations (in seconds) for image files, transitions, and titles when placed on the storyboard.

File Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **File** tab. The available options are as follows:

Default locations:

- **Import folder**: indicates the last folder that media was imported from. To change this folder, click **Browse** and then select a new folder.

- **Export folder**: set the folder where captured media is saved. To change this folder, click **Browse** and then select a new folder.

Hardware Acceleration Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **Hardware Acceleration** tab. The available options are as follows:

Hardware acceleration:

Note: ensure you download and install the latest drivers, and any related hardware acceleration software, for your computer's graphics card to enable this feature in CyberLink ActionDirector.

- **Enable OpenCL technology to speed up video effect preview/render**: if your computer supports GPU hardware acceleration, select this option to speed up the rendering of some video effects by tapping into the multi-core parallel processing power of your computer.

- **Enable hardware decoding**: if your computer supports NVIDIA CUDA/AMD Accelerated Parallel Processing/Intel Core Processor Family technology, select this option to use hardware acceleration to decode the video during the editing process and when producing video.

- **Enable hardware encoding**: if your computer supports NVIDIA CUDA/AMD Accelerated Parallel Processing/Intel Core Processor Family technology, select this option to use hardware acceleration to encode the video when producing video.

Project Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **Project** tab. The available options are as follows:

Project:

- **Number of recently used projects**: enter the number (between 0 and 20) of recently used projects that you would like to make available in the File menu when you open CyberLink ActionDirector.

- **Automatically load the last project when ActionDirector opens**: select this option to automatically load the last project you were working on.

- **Automatically load sample clips when ActionDirector opens**: select this option to automatically load the sample image and video clips into your media

library when the program opens.

- **Auto save project every**: select this to automatically save your project every specified number of minutes, so you don't lose your changes by accident. If you want to set a specific location for the auto save files, click the **Browse** button and select a folder location on your computer.

Produce Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the **Produce** tab. The available options are as follows:

Produce:

- **Reduce video blocky artifacts (Intel SSE4 optimized)**: select this option to improve the production overall quality of produced video, if your computer supports Intel SSE4 optimization.

- **Reduce video noise when using H.264 software encoders**: select this option if you want CyberLink ActionDirector to auto apply video denoise when encoding H.264 video during production.

H.264 AVC:

- **Allow SVRT on single IDR H.264 video**: select this option if you want CyberLink ActionDirector to use SVRT to render a movie project when you only have one H.264 AVC clip on the storyboard. See Utilizing Intelligent SVRT for more information on SVRT.

- **Produce WMV video with Speed Mode**: select this option if you want CyberLink ActionDirector to use Speed Mode to render WMV videos more quickly.

Improvement Program Preferences

In the Preferences window, select the Improvement Program tab. The available options are as follows:

CyberLink Product Improvement Program

- **I want to participate**: select this item if you would like to participate in the

CyberLink Product Improvement Program for ActionDirector. Once enabled, CyberLink ActionDirector will collect information about the hardware and software configuration of your computer system, as well as your usage behavior and statistics related to the software. Click the **Read more information about the improvement program online** link to view more detailed information about the content collected.

Note: the CyberLink Product Improvement Program for ActionDirector will not collect any personal information for purposes of identifying you.

Chapter 15:

ActionDirector Hotkeys

CyberLink ActionDirector includes a number of keyboard hotkeys that can make the whole video editing process go more quickly and smoothly.

Hotkeys	Command
File	
Ctrl + N	Create new project
Ctrl + Shift + W	New workspace
Ctrl + O	Open existing project
Ctrl + S	Save project
Ctrl + Shift + S	Save project as
Ctrl + Q	Import media files
Ctrl + W	Import a media folder
Alt + P	Display project properties
Alt + F4	Exit CyberLink ActionDirector
Alt + C	Open user preferences window
Edit	
Ctrl + Z	Undo
Ctrl + Y	Redo
Ctrl + X	Cut
Ctrl + C	Copy
Ctrl + V	Paste
F2	Modify (selected title effect in Title Designer)
Ctrl + Alt + T	Open Trim window
Delete	Delete/Remove selected items
Ctrl + A	Select all media in media room
Ctrl + T	Split clip at current storyboard slider position

Hotkeys	Command
Ctrl + P	Take a snapshot of content in the preview window
[	Mark in Trim window
]	Mark out Trim window
Title Designer	
Ctrl + B	Make text bold
Ctrl + I	Make text italic
Ctrl + L	Left-align text
Ctrl + R	Right-align text
Ctrl + E	Center-align text
Up arrow key	Move object up
Down arrow key	Move object down
Left arrow key	Move object left
Right arrow key	Move object right
View	
F3	Switch to Media Room
F7	Switch to Title Room
F8	Switch to Transition Room
Playback	
Space	Play/Pause
Ctrl + /	Stop
,	Previous unit (seek by frame, second, etc.)
.	Next unit (seek by frame, second, etc.)
Home	Go to the beginning of clip/project
End	Go to the end of clip/project
Ctrl + left arrow key	Go to previous clip in storyboard
Ctrl + right arrow	Go to next clip in storyboard

Hotkeys	Command
key	
Alt + up arrow key	Next second
Alt + down arrow key	Previous second
Ctrl + G	Go to timecode
Ctrl + F	Fast forward
Ctrl + U	Adjust system volume
Ctrl + Backspace	Mute/Mute off
F	Full screen
System Hotkeys	
F1	Open help file
Delete	Delete/Remove selected items
Shift + F12	View hotkey list

Chapter 16:

Appendix

This chapter contains reference information to help answer questions you may have about the digital movie production process or about using CyberLink ActionDirector.

Intelligent SVRT: When Is Used?

Intelligent SVRT can be applied to video clips in the H.264 format. In the following conditions, clips (or portions of clips) do not require rendering during production, and SVRT can therefore be applied:

- The frame rate, frame size, and file format are the same as those of the destination production profile.

- The bitrate is similar to that of the destination production profile.

- The TV format is the same as that of the destination production profile.

If all of the above conditions are met, SVRT can be used. Any clips that do not meet the above criteria are fully rendered without SVRT.

In the following conditions, clips (or portions of clips) must be rendered during production, and SVRT can therefore **not** be applied:

- Adding a title or transition effect.

- Modifying the color of a video clip.

- Merging two video clips (clips within 2 seconds before or after the merged clips will be rendered).

- Splitting a video clip (clips within 2 seconds before or after the split will be rendered).

- Trimming a video clip (clips within 2 seconds before or after the trimmed clip will be rendered).

- If the total duration of the production is less than one minute and any portion of the video requires rendering, the entire production will be rendered for efficiency reasons.

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For a list of components of such nature, and to acquire the full source code of these licensed components, including any scripts to control compilation and installation of the object code, please see "List of Components" below.

Downloading Source Code

You can download the machine-readable source code of the corresponding licensed component from http://www.cyberlink.com/. Please read the copyright notice, the warranty disclaimer, and the license agreement accompanying these source codes.

List of Components

Component	License Information
cv.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
cvaux.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
highgui.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
OptCVa6.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
OptCVm6.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
OptCVw7.dll	Intel License Agreement for Open Source Computer Library
PThreadVC2.dll	GNU Lesser General Public License

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Version 2.1, February 1999

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This option is useful when you wish to copy part of the code of the Library into a program that is not a library.

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Chapter 17:

Technical Support

If you require technical support, then this chapter can help. It includes all the information you need to find the answers you are looking for. You may also find answers quickly by contacting your local distributor/dealer.

Before Contacting Technical Support

Before contacting CyberLink technical support, please take advantage of one or more of the following free support options:

- consult the user's guide or the online help installed with your program.
- refer to the Knowledge Base at the following link on the CyberLink web site: http://www.cyberlink.com/support/search-product-result.do
- check the Help Resources page in this document.

When contacting technical support by e-mail or phone, please have the following information ready:

- registered **product key** (your product key can be found on the software disc envelope, the box cover, or in the e-mail received after you purchased CyberLink products on the CyberLink store).
- the product name, version and build number, which generally can be found by clicking on the product name image on the user interface.
- the version of Windows installed on your system.
- list of hardware devices on your system (capture card, sound card, VGA card) and their specifications. For fastest results, please generate and attach your system info using the DxDiag.txt.

  *Note: here are the steps to generate the system info DxDiag.txt file: Click Windows (start) button, and then search for "dxdiag". Click **Save All Information** button to save the DxDiag.txt file.*

- the wording of any warning messages that were displayed (you may want to write this down or take a screen capture).

- a detailed description of the problem and under what circumstances it occurred.

Web Support

Solutions to your problems are available 24 hours a day at no cost on the CyberLink web site:

Note: you must first register as a member before using CyberLink web support.

CyberLink provides a wide range of web support options, including FAQs, in the following languages:

Language	Web Support URL
English	http://www.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Traditional Chinese	http://tw.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Japanese	http://jp.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Spanish	http://es.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Korean	http://kr.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Simplified Chinese	http://cn.cyberlink.com/cs-help
German	http://de.cyberlink.com/cs-help
French	http://fr.cyberlink.com/cs-help
Italian	http://it.cyberlink.com/cs-help

Help Resources

The following is a list of help resources that may assist you when using any of CyberLink's products.

- Access CyberLink's **Knowledge base** and **FAQ** (frequently asked questions): http://www.cyberlink.com/cs-resource

- View **video tutorials** for your software: http://directorzone.cyberlink.com/tutorial/

- Ask questions and get answers from our users on the **CyberLink Community Forum**: http://forum.cyberlink.com/forum/forums/list/ENU.page

Note: CyberLink's user community forum is only available in English and German.

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