SlideShow Production Helpful Links

Texture Labs - Great Source For Advanced Title Cards and Other Special Effects

- 3D Text Effects
- Texture Files (Free!)
- Photoshop Plugins
- Advanced Cinematic Still and Motion Effects

https://texturelabs.org/ (Main Site with downloads)
https://www.youtube.com/@Texturelabs (YouTube Channel with Tutorials)

ClipGrab - YouTube Video and Audio Downloader

- Mac Only
- Download YouTube Videos, Songs, Audio Effects
- Save as video (mp4) or audio only (mp3)
- Free

https://clipgrab.org/

TuneFab - Music Converter for Apple Music (and other services)

- Mac and PC
- Convert various music file types to easy-to-use MP3 files
- Batch processing
- Use responsibly
- Normally $30 currently on sale for $10 (Apple Music Version)

https://www.tunefab.com/

Audacity - Advanced Audio Editor

- Mac and PC
- Free
- Advanced audio editing but relatively easy to use
- Additional plugins (also free) needed to edit and export MP3
- **Built-in "Normalization" plugin helps adjust all tracks to a uniform volume**
- Edit out "ums, ahs, and other unwanted elements from narration
- Mix multiple tracks together
    - Cross fade music
    - Record narration with a backing track
    - Edit songs for time (or to make them "radio friendly")

https://www.audacityteam.org/

Helpful Tips and Tricks for Long Slideshows

1. Have a plan
2. Break it into chunks or "Chapters"
   - Work in 5-15 minute chunks
     - Separate Movie files will keep from bogging your computer down
     - You're less likely to accidentally mess up a "finished" section
     - Sample Breakdown
       - Movie 1 - Opening Titles
       - Movie 2 through 6 - Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, Electricity
       - Movie 7 - Closing Credits
   - Files can later be consolidated back into a single movie or presented via a "playlist" (Warning, some apps will display screen controls between files)
3. Organize, Sort, and Cull in Lightroom (See Lightroom Notes Below)
4. Build a music playlist outside of your project.
   a. Begin by gathering songs that fit your subthemes and to keep things easy, work with mp3 versions of them.
   b. Any movie is **HALF AUDIO**. Great photos + poor music choices = bad slideshow.
   c. Google is your friend! Searching for something like, "Songs about water" works really well.
   d. Apple Music and other services also have extensive curated playlists from specific genres, eras and themes that can be really helpful. Stand on the shoulders of giants.
5. Spice up your show with advanced title cards, humor, sound effects, short video clips, and more.
   a. Create better looking title cards in Photoshop
   b. Slo-Mo video from your smartphone makes for great short video segments
   c. iMovie has some built in sound effects but YouTube is a great resource for infinite possibilities
   d. A joke here and there helps lighten the mood. Avoid making fun of specific photos or photographers and make sure your humor "lands" otherwise it will come off as awkward. "Beta Test" your jokes before showtime.
   e. Pair a good strong entry from each photographer on their credit slide at the end of the presentation. Vertical images work better. Crop a horizontal if needed.
   f. Keep your transitions simple. This is a personal preference but I get tired of spin-outs, wipes, and other elaborate transitions. Crossfades, Crossdisolves, and fade to black or white work fine 100% of the time. Do have transitions, though. Flashing from one image to another is too jarring.
6. Consider using Pan & Scan ("Ken Burns Effect") for long shows. This isn't always the best choice and there are pros and cons, but for long shows there's a lot to gain from keeping the screen filled and offering viewers a sense of motion. I think some folks use fancy transitions as a way to provide some motion between static images and it gets old pretty fast. See below for some tips on doing "Kens Burns" well.
7. Pre-Watch Your Show and Pay Attention To It! - You Will Make Mistakes and that's the best way to catch them.

Organize and Sort in Lightroom

- Consider setting up a dedicated library with temporary copies of images in a location that's obvious (such as a clearly named folder on your desktop or a portable drive)
- Create folders and sub folders that make sense
  - Example from The Elements
    - Top Level Folders for each photographer
    - Sub Folders for each Element
    - If working with photos from multiple photographers add their name to the "Copy Name" metadata field
- Create Collections and Collection Groups that match your chapters
  - Example from Elements
    - AAA - Opening Titles
    - BBB - Fire
      - Fire Group 0 - Pre-Sorted
      - Fire Group 1 - Actual Fire
      - Fire Group 2 - Red Hot Things
      - Fire Group 3 - Shots with People
      - Fire Group 4 - Fire Colored Things
      - Fire Group 99 - Rejected
    - CCC - Earth
      - Earth Group 0 - Pre-Sorted
      - Earth Group 1 - Yellow Tones
      - Earth Group 2 - Orange Tones
      - Earth Group 3 - Brown Tones
      - Earth Group 4 - Green Tones
      - Earth Group 99 - Rejected
    - DDD…
  - Use Lightroom's color coding, star rating, and flags to keep track of what you've used, rejected, and to give yourself other useful hints.
  - Name your Collection Sets and Collections so that they naturally show up in show order. (See example above)
  - Sorting and Culling
    - Start by dumping all the related photos into a "pre-sorted" collection
    - From there use something like CMD-Select to grab candidates for your sub groups and drag them over. Once added to a sub group, delete from the "pre-sort" collection. Once pre-sort is empty move on to each sub group
    - Sort each sub group into show order
    - Create a "reject" collection for each collection set to move any deleted photos to. Give them a unique flag or color code to mean "not in show". (This is helpful later when you go back to the actual folders, it gives you a quick way to see if you've accidentally removed all of the photos submitted by a single photographer)
  - Once you have your sub collections sorted, export them to a temporary spot in a dedicated folder.
    - Give them a name that will maintain their sort order and give you useful information. For example, "AAA-Opening Titles-Img-[SEQ #]-[COPY NAME]-[ORIGINAL FILE NAME]"

Ken Burns Effect - Tips and Tricks

- Don't go too far too fast. The effect is less jarring when it's slow and almost unnoticeable.
- Pano images or thin verticals may have a lot of area to move across. Extend the slide duration to avoid zooming too quickly across the image.
- Think like tennis. If you start low on an image and pan up then on the next image start high and pan down. If you start on the left on an image and move to the right, then go the opposite way on the next slide.
- Change it up from slide to slide. Repeating the same pattern over and over is fatiguing
- Move through an image towards its strongest aspect. Combine panning and zooming to really focus on a strong element that might otherwise be missed.
- BE CAREFUL that your transition at the beginning and end doesn't interfere with seeing an important part of the image.
- For really strong images you can show it twice. First as a Ken Burns to highlight some key areas and then transition to a "Fit to Screen" version so people can see the entire image at once.
- Watermarks are problematic with Ken Burns Effect. They can be replaced with a subtle popup title (extra work) or with end credit cards that show off a photographer's strongest shot. It's not perfect but watermarks that are only half on the screen or left off completely might be worse.