

Art 384: Introduction to 3D Animation

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Lecture 7

Schedule

- Roll
- The writing assignment
- Intro to After Effects
- Animation practice

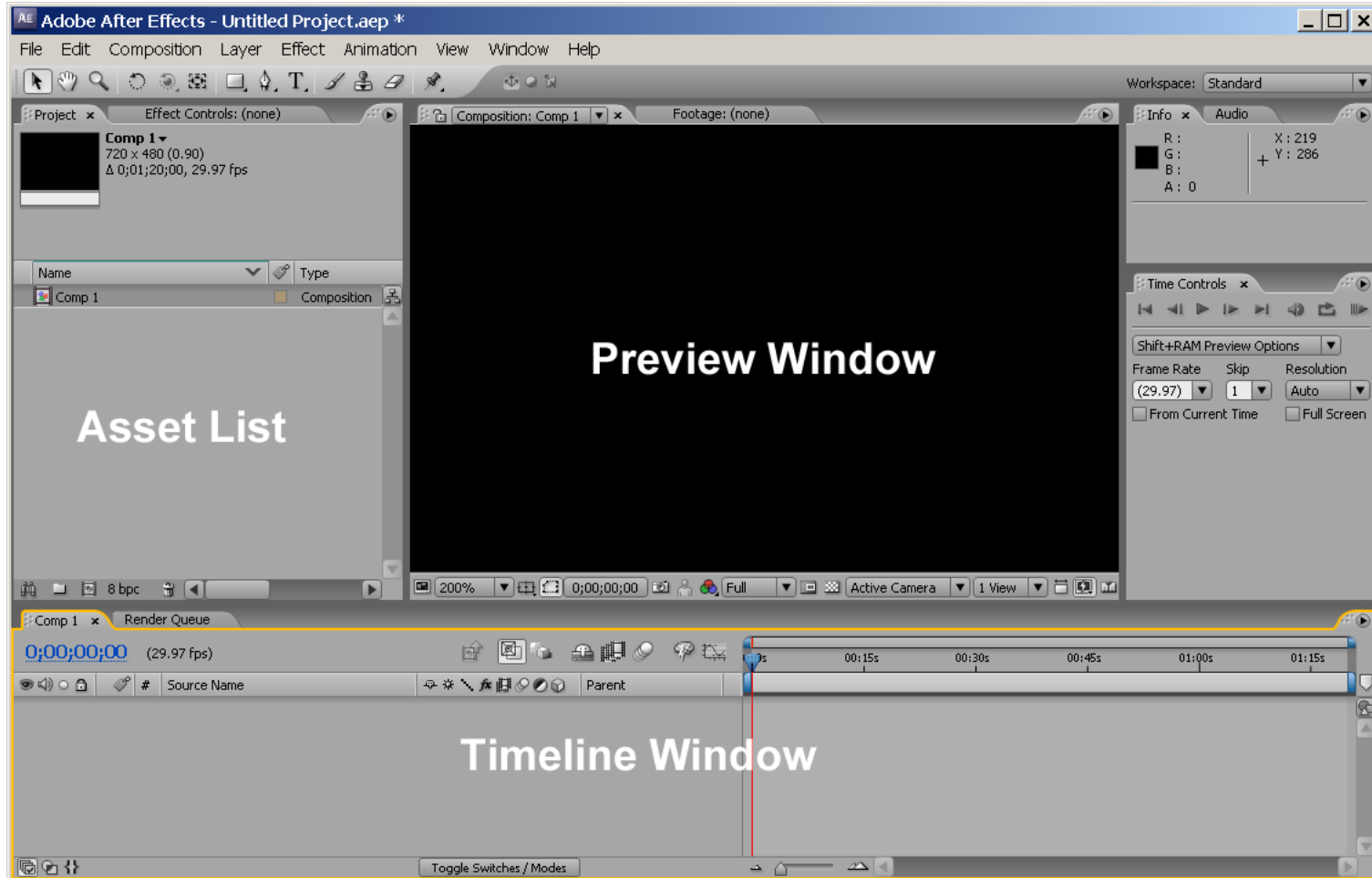
Writing Assignment A

- Questions?
- Due next time

Intro to After Effects

- AfterEffects is awesome
- **Its real job:**
 - **it makes all kinds of movie files**
- Animation system in its own right
- Photoshop capabilities
- Compositing
- Lighting effects... (next semester)

Let's look at AfterEffects



How to work in AfterEffects

- Make your frames in Maya, Photoshop, Illustrator, whatever
- Import them into AfterEffects
 - to the asset list
- Make a composition
- Add to render queue
- Tweak output settings
- Render to a movie file

The Asset List

- You work in AfterEffects by arranging assets in a timeline, then rendering the timeline
 - different "render" than in Maya
 - same time-consumption connotations
- AfterEffects works with GB of files, but it only loads them as needed
 - imagine working with IMAX films: 10k x 7k
 - AE loads only a few frames at a time

Importing

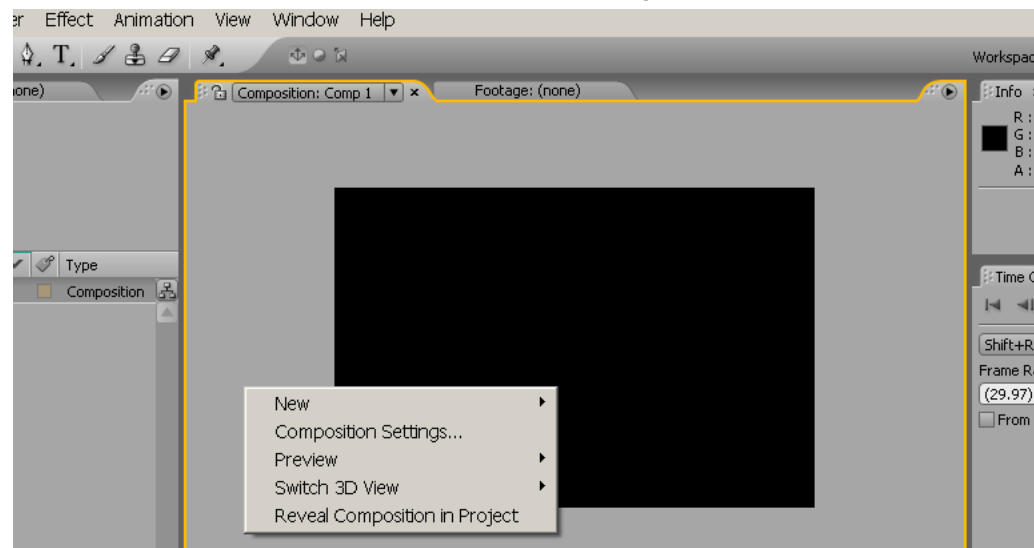
- The "assets" in the asset list are just links to files, not the files themselves
- When you save an AfterEffects project, it only saves an arrangement of assets
 - so, to move from machine to machine, you have to move the .aep ***AND the assets***

Making a new composition

- AE dorks call them "comps"
 - like there's a whole AE community that needs its own jargon
 - feh
 - Anyway, "comps", sure, whatever.
- **Setting composition settings is how you set resolution, frame rate, and duration of the final movie**

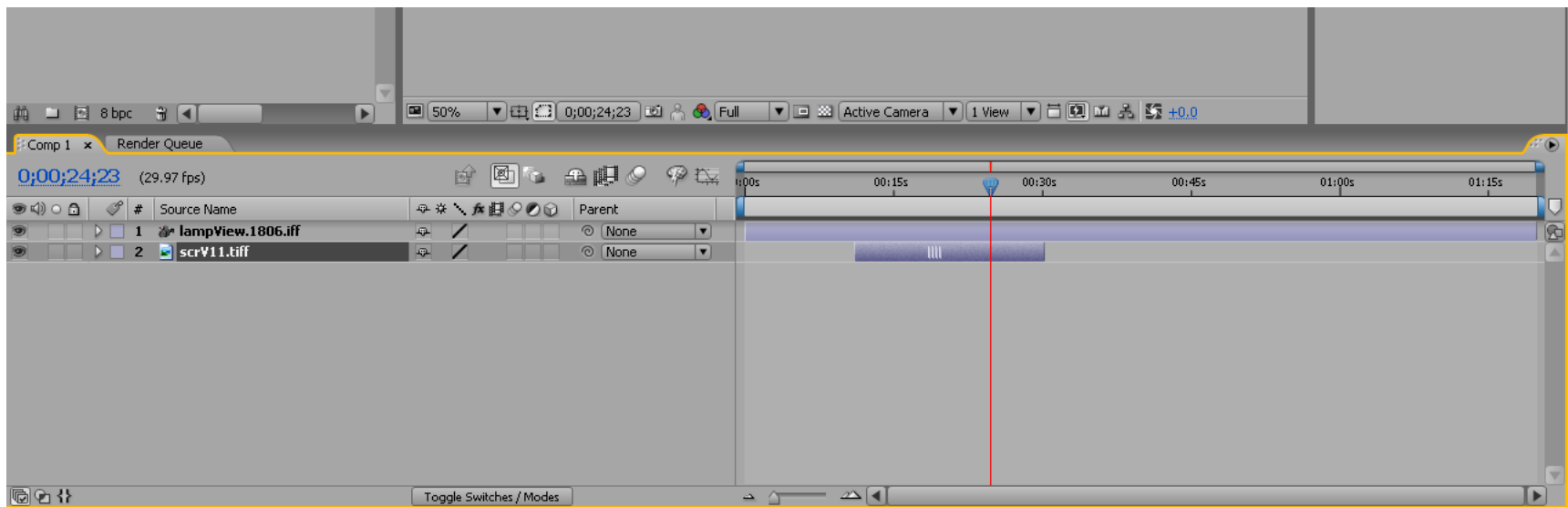
Setting composition settings

- when you create the composition
 - which you never get right
- right-clicking in the **BACKGROUND** of the view window of the comp
 - seem obfuscated? it is. sorry.



Arranging assets in a composition

- Drag assets from the asset list onto a composition
- you get "layers"
 - The top layer is visible, the ones below, more or less hidden



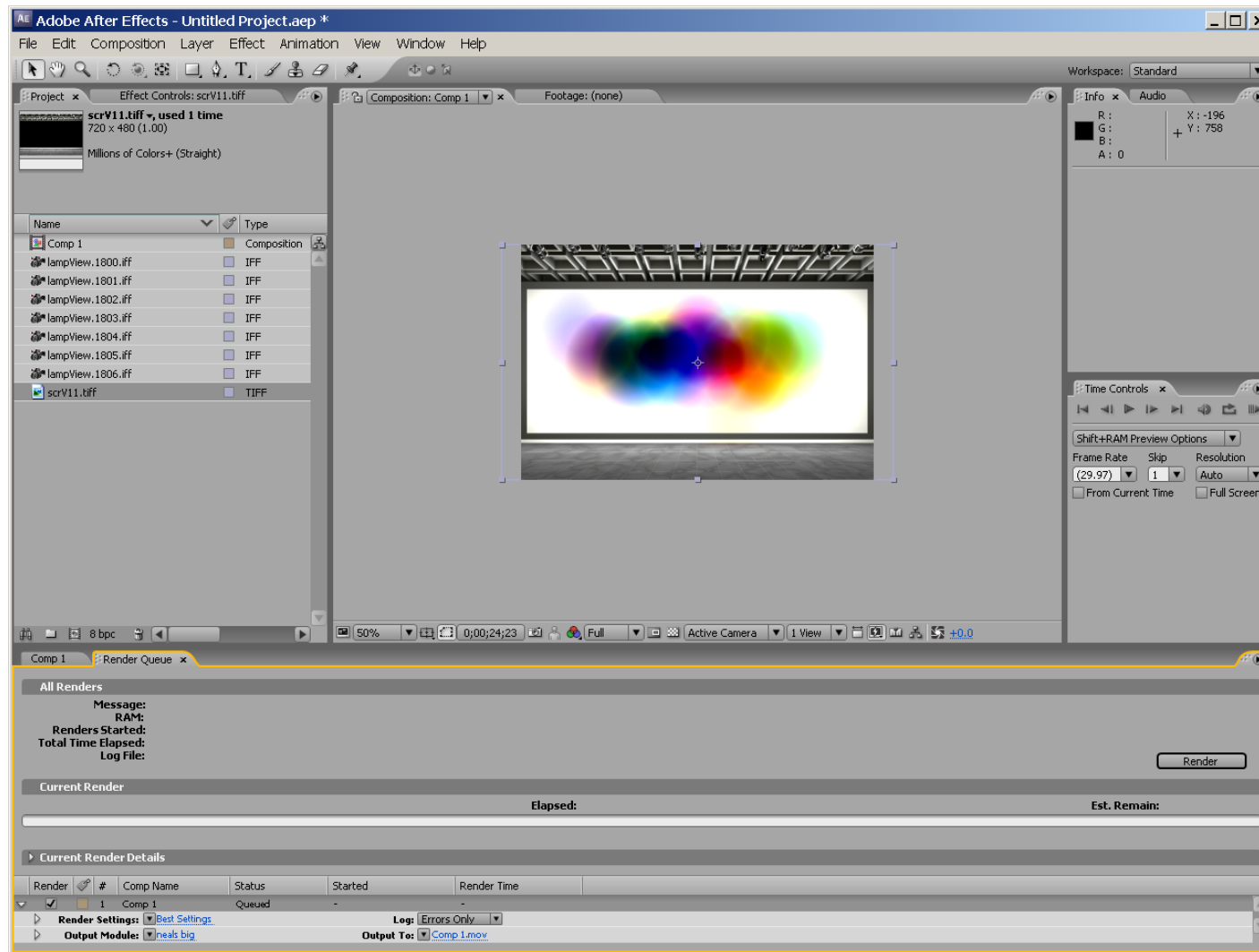
Arranging in time

- Drag ends of purple bars to crop from beginnings and ends
- Drag purple bars left and right to move them forwards and backwards in time
- If the bar ends, the layer "ends" and becomes invisible
- Images default to being visible the entire time-- kind of a pain

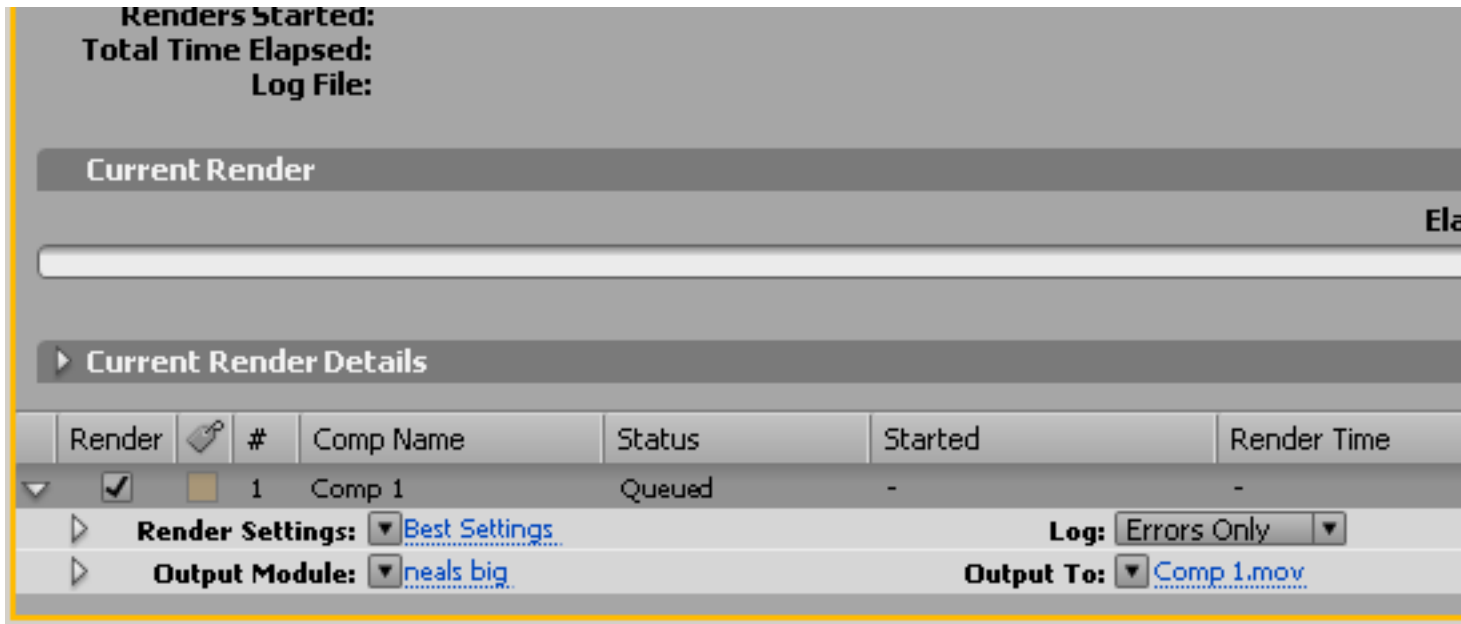
Adding to render queue

- You do not "Export" from AfterEffects to make a movie
 - another awesome UI fumble IMHO
 - depending on your user profile...
- Main menu->Composition->add to render queue
 - The "render queue" window comes up, even if you can't see it...

Peek-a-boo!



The blue, underlined words are buttons!



"Output module" selects compression

- Difference between QuickTime, AVI, image sequence
- Sets compression options
 - size vs. quality
 - maximum playback rate...

"Output to:" sets file name

- Standard file dialog, thank goodness!