

AS

照常

Usua 1

Love cannot stop departure,
but departure cannot undo love.



ICCT 2026 · RESEARCH PRESENTATION

TEAM6: LIU MENGZHU XIE YITONG DENG XINRUI BOWEN SHARA NUWENG

SUPERVISOR: Prof. Zhou Jia Ni ASSISTANT: HUA HETENG



PROJECT OUTLINE

- Film Title: "As Usual"
- Genre: Drama Short / Family
- Production Period: July 1-16
- Duration: 6m57s
- Language: Mandarin
- Research Focus: Cross-shot continuity
- Format: AI short film; 1.85:1 aspect ratio
- Visual Style: Realistic, contrast of warm and cool tones

照常

As Usual

SYNOPSIS

'As Usual' is a **short family drama** set against the backdrop of near-future AI companionship technology.

After Grandma passes away, the father, trying to comfort his son, orders a **'family companion service'** that can replicate Grandma's appearance, voice, and daily habits. AI Grandma returns home, and life seems to go back to normal.

But when the child gets hurt, the father realizes: technology can copy looks, voice, and habits, but it can't replicate real love. Faced with a renewal prompt, he **has to choose between maintaining the illusion of reunion or accepting a true farewell.**



DIRECTOR'S INTENTION

Technology may preserve a person's appearance, but it can never preserve the emotional bond that makes us human.

If companionship could last forever, would we still know how to say goodbye?

By placing AI within the smallest routines of family life, the film allows technology to fade into the background while human emotion takes center stage.

What truly defines our relationships is not perfect companionship, but the love, loss, and connection that can never be replicated.



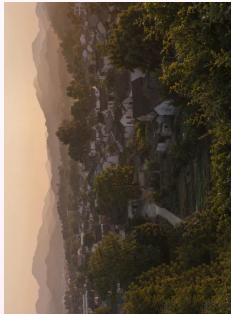
Family space: warm, restrained, and lifelike

Night scene: cold and warm

Cemetery setting: quiet, blank space, farewell feeling



DAILY LIFE / RENEWAL /
MEMORY / FAREWELL



M o v i e s t i l l

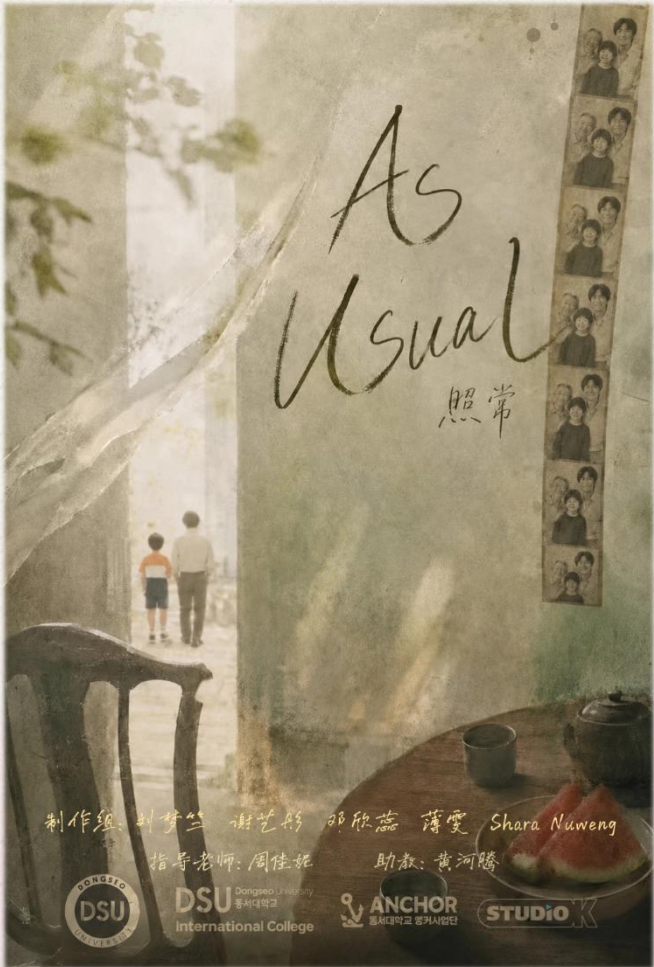


Still Image

Tone, light, time, texture, etc.

Living room kitchen bedroom cemetery yard etc.

TEAM & CHARACTERS



Creative Team	Character	Character Description
LIU MENGZHU	Grandma	The emotional core of the family reappears in the form of 'family companionship services'.
XIE YITONG		
DENG XINRUI	Father	Holding back silence, struggling back and forth between renewing and saying goodbye.
BO WEN		
SHARA NUWENG		
Prof. ZHOU JIANI	Grandson	Innocently reliant, unaware that the grandma in front of them is an AI companion service.
HUANG HETENG		

RESEARCH QUESTION

How can independently generated shots form a coherent cinematic scene?

A convincing single image does not guarantee a coherent scene.

01 CHARACTER

Identity & appearance

02 SPACE

Eyelines & orientation

03 EMOTION

Sound & narrative rhythm

AI PRODUCTION PROCESS

01 Creative brainstorming /
finalizing the script
ChatGPT-assisted

02 Creating a text storyboard
Shot list

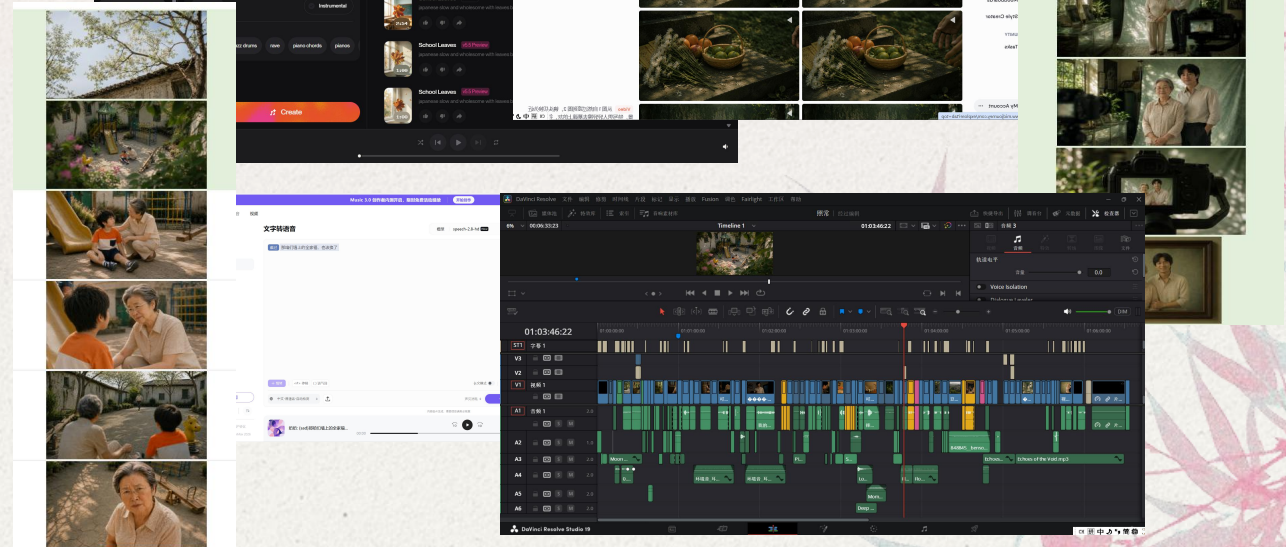
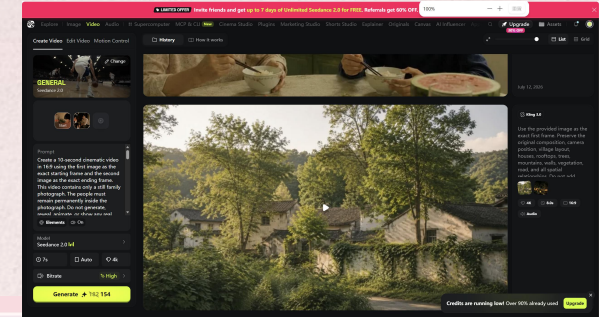
03 Generate Images
ChatGPT / Gemini / Midjourney

04 AI video generation
Higgsfield / Kling / LibTV /
Seedance / Midjourney

05 Sound Production
Suno for background music
Minimax for lines and character
voices

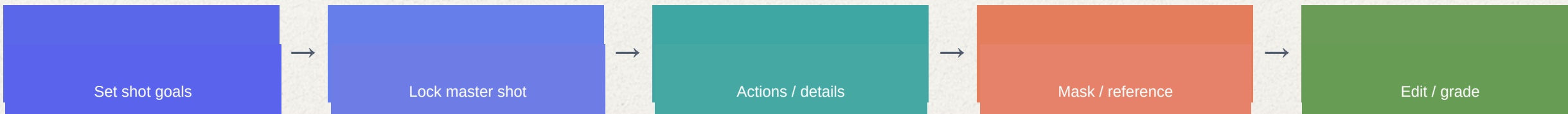
06 Post-Production
Davinci Vmake Topaz

序号	镜头号	景别	画面内容	时长	备注
1	1	全景	清晨，阳光洒在古朴的街道上，石板路反射着柔和的光。	10s	背景音：轻柔的晨风声，远处隐约的鸟鸣。
2	2	中景	一位穿着传统汉服的男子，手持一把油纸伞，缓缓走在石板路上。	10s	背景音：脚步声，伞面摩擦声。
3	3	近景	男子停下脚步，抬头仰望，阳光透过树叶的缝隙洒在他的脸上。	10s	背景音：树叶沙沙声，鸟鸣。
4	4	特写	男子的手轻轻抚摸着伞柄，眼神深邃而宁静。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐弱。
5	5	全景	镜头拉远，男子的身影融入在清晨的薄雾中，整个画面笼罩在一种朦胧的美感。	10s	背景音：晨雾弥漫声，悠扬的笛声响起。
6	6	中景	男子转身，背影在晨光中显得格外孤独而坚韧。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声。
7	7	近景	男子回头，目光与镜头交汇，仿佛在与观众进行无声的对话。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐强。
8	8	特写	男子的眼神中闪过一丝不易察觉的波澜，嘴角微微上扬。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐弱。
9	9	全景	镜头再次拉远，男子的身影在晨光中渐行渐远，直至消失在街道尽头。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声，悠扬的笛声渐弱。
10	10	全景	画面定格在清晨的街道上，阳光洒在石板路上，一切归于宁静。	10s	背景音：晨风声，鸟鸣，悠扬的笛声渐弱。
11	11	中景	画面切换，男子出现在一个热闹的市集，周围是各种摊位和叫卖声。	10s	背景音：市集嘈杂声，叫卖声。
12	12	近景	男子在市集中穿梭，目光在琳琅满目的商品上停留。	10s	背景音：叫卖声，脚步声。
13	13	特写	男子的手拿起一个精致的小物件，仔细端详。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐弱。
14	14	中景	男子放下物件，继续在市集中漫步，阳光透过树叶洒下斑驳光影。	10s	背景音：市集嘈杂声，鸟鸣。
15	15	全景	镜头拉远，男子的身影在市集的喧嚣中显得格外渺小。	10s	背景音：市集嘈杂声，风声。
16	16	近景	男子停下脚步，抬头仰望，阳光透过树叶的缝隙洒在他的脸上。	10s	背景音：树叶沙沙声，鸟鸣。
17	17	特写	男子的手轻轻抚摸着伞柄，眼神深邃而宁静。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐弱。
18	18	全景	镜头拉远，男子的身影融入在清晨的薄雾中，整个画面笼罩在一种朦胧的美感。	10s	背景音：晨雾弥漫声，悠扬的笛声响起。
19	19	中景	男子转身，背影在晨光中显得格外孤独而坚韧。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声。
20	20	近景	男子回头，目光与镜头交汇，仿佛在与观众进行无声的对话。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐强。
21	21	特写	男子的眼神中闪过一丝不易察觉的波澜，嘴角微微上扬。	10s	背景音：心跳声，环境音渐弱。
22	22	全景	镜头再次拉远，男子的身影在晨光中渐行渐远，直至消失在街道尽头。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声，悠扬的笛声渐弱。
23	23	全景	画面定格在清晨的街道上，阳光洒在石板路上，一切归于宁静。	10s	背景音：晨风声，鸟鸣，悠扬的笛声渐弱。
24	24	全景	画面切换，男子出现在一个热闹的市集，周围是各种摊位和叫卖声。	10s	背景音：市集嘈杂声，叫卖声。
25	25	近景	男子在市集中穿梭，目光在琳琅满目的商品上停留。	10s	背景音：叫卖声，脚步声。
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27	27	中景	男子放下物件，继续在市集中漫步，阳光透过树叶洒下斑驳光影。	10s	背景音：市集嘈杂声，鸟鸣。
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32	32	中景	男子转身，背影在晨光中显得格外孤独而坚韧。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声。
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35	35	全景	镜头再次拉远，男子的身影在晨光中渐行渐远，直至消失在街道尽头。	10s	背景音：脚步声，风声，悠扬的笛声渐弱。
36	36	全景	画面定格在清晨的街道上，阳光洒在石板路上，一切归于宁静。	10s	背景音：晨风声，鸟鸣，悠扬的笛声渐弱。



CREATIVE CHALLENGES

——Early Stage



01 | Local Edit Contamination

- **Issue:**
Full-image changes, facial drift, prop shifts
- **Solution:**
Single-target edits, best-version backup, masking
- **Key Point:**
Generate first, stabilize in post



02 | Sensitivity and Compliance

- **Issue:**
Child-injury keywords, filter triggers, generation failure
- **Solution:**
Completed bandaging, family care no blood
- **Key Point:**
Describe care, not injury



03 | Local object variations, etc.

- **Issue:**
Object deformation, material distortion, hand errors
- **Solution:**
Separate assets, reference locking local replacement
- **Key Point:**
Build reusable visual assets



04 | Space and Lens

- **Issue:**
Reversed positions, eyeline errors, prop shifts
- **Solution:**
Master wide shot, fixed camera positions, detail crops
- **Key Point:**
Build the space before the shots



Challenges In Later-Stage Creation

01 | Voice Mismatch

- Issue: Timbre and volume shifts
- Fix: EQ, compression, automation

02 | Color Mismatch

- Issue: Color and exposure shifts
- Fix: Node grading, shot matching

03 | Facial Artifacts

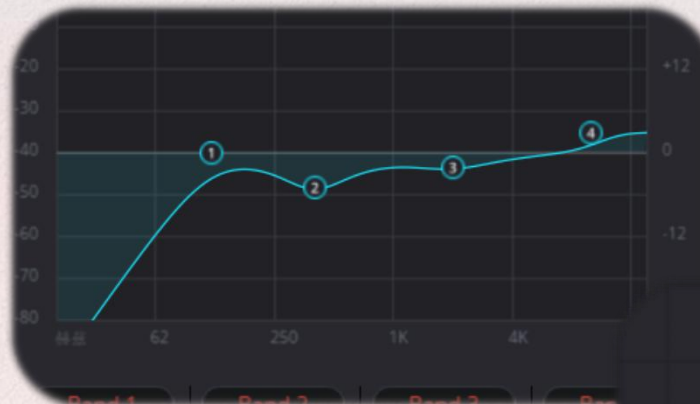
- Issue: Dirty texture, uneven skin tone
- Fix: Face refinement, local smoothing

04 | Rough Transitions

- Issue: Hard cuts, missing shots
- Fix: Cutaways, sound bridges

05 | Weak Emotion

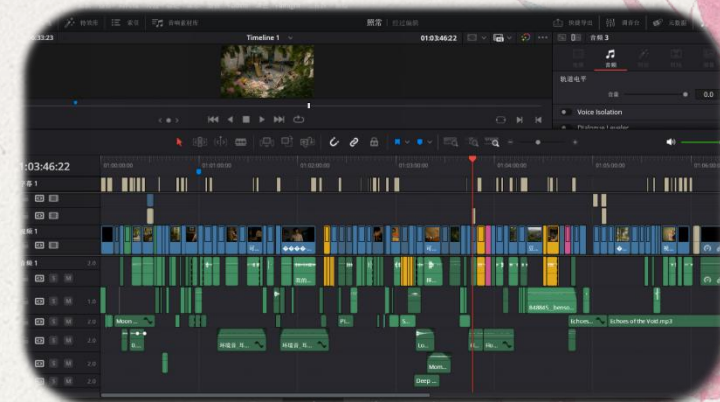
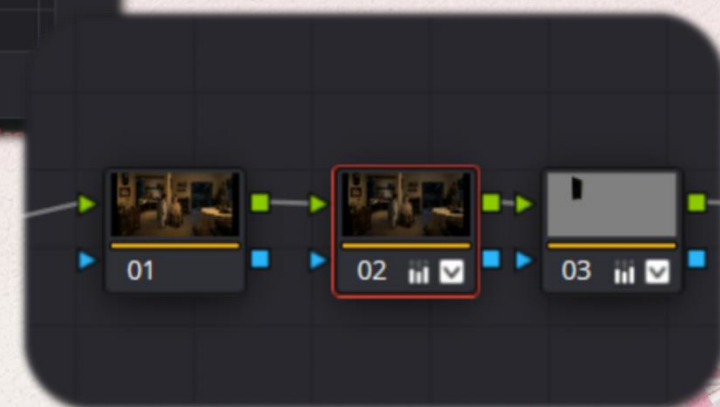
- Issue: Limited tension
- Fix: Ambience, drone, riser



Before



After



As Usual



Thank you
for
watching

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