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TO: Doc Edit Student
FR: Peter Thompson
RE: Trial Scenes

Let's say that I'm interested in hiring you as the editor of a prospective feature documentary. I'd like you to edit two scenes from the film as a trial. Here's the info you'll need:

IN GENERAL:

• I shot over 100 hours of rushes. Since timecode deals with 24 hours of timecode address, the footage was digitized in series, A through F, each of which accounts for 24 hours of timecode (this is the reason for the *seemingly* out-of-order timecode progression on your dupe tape, as you will see below):

DUPE TAPE FOOTAGE ORDER:

(reel A3)	03:06:00:00	03:12:00:00	DonChabo's altar
(reel A10)	10:32:00:00	10:37:00:00	Don Chabo's altar statues
(reel B3)	03:21:30:00	03:23:00:00	Arrival in Merida at apartment of Don Chabo's oldest son and his family
(reel B4)	04:19:00:00	04:24:00:00	Manuelito is given a camera, Manuel is given a book
	04:29:00:00	04:34:00:00	Manuelito with his camera
(reel C4)	04:03:00:00	04:17:00:00	Don Chabo, mother, child at altar
	04:20:00:00	04:52:00:00	Don Chabo, mother, child, father at altar
(reel C5)	05:04:00:00	05:09:00:00	Don Chabo with second woman from another time and consultation.
(reel C15)	15:30:00:00	15:39:00:00	Hammock making (no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
	15:40:00:00	15:54:00:00	Hammock making(no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
	15:56:00:00	15:58:00:00	Hammock making (no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
(reel C16)	16:21:00:00	16:23:00:00	Hammock making (no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
	16:28:00:00	16:31:00:00	Hammock making(no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
	16:37:00:00	16:39:00:00	Hammock making (no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)
(reel C23)	23:01:00:00	23:02:00:00	Still photos (no timecode burn-in on dupe tape)

SCENE ONE: DON CHABO PERFORMS HEALING RITUAL ON INFANT

- This scene was shot with one camera. *I would like you to edit the scene so it looks as if it were shot with TWO cameras.* This means that you might need to take some liberties with the chronology of the scene.

- Below is footage you might consider for this scene. Total time of footage: approx: 61 minutes. Feel free to add other footage as needed. A more detailed log accompanies this memo:

(reel A3) 03:06:00:00 03:12:00:00 altar shots
(reel A10) 10:32:00:00 10:37:00:00 altar statues
(reel C4) 04:03:00:00 04:17:00:00 Don Chabo, mother, child at altar
04:20:00:00 04:52:00:00 Don Chabo, mother, child, father at altar
(reel C5) 05:04:00:00 05:09:00:00 Don Chabo with second woman from another time and consultation.

- The characters in this scene speak Yucatec Mayan—this language has no relationship to Spanish except for occasional borrowings such as the latter’s numbering system. You will therefore need to surmise what is being spoken by my general description of this scene, below, and by the more detailed log accompanying this memo, and by the actual gestures and interactions between the characters in the scene.

- The main characters:

Don Chabo	80, (labeled “DC” in the expanded log)
Mother	20
Father	20
Infant	1

- The scene represents a young couple coming to Don Chabo, a Yucatec Maya shaman, to have him to cure their infant’s infected bellybutton (which in Mayan is “tuucho”—be on the lookout for that word).

- Don Chabo will perform a “saantiguuar”—a healing ritual on the child. In Yucatec Mayan culture, the doctor/shaman-patient relationship proceeds as follows: the patient presents herself with an ailment but does not describe what she is feeling. The shaman consults his crystals for the diagnosis of the ailment and then discusses his findings with the patient for verification. The shaman then takes flowers and asks the patient to sit before his altar. He then brushes the patient with flowers while chanting healing prayers. At the end of the ceremony, the patient leaves the altar and sits to one side while the shaman prepares medicines and wraps them in paper. The shaman then explains how they are to be administered. The patient pays and leaves.

- Edit this scene long enough to give the audience a good idea of the totality of this healing ritual and its length of time (approximately 8-12 minutes for the brushing before the altar, another few minutes for the preparing of the medicines and the discussion).

SCENE TWO: MERIDA HOMECOMING

- The speakers in this scene speak both Spanish and Yucatec Mayan . If you do not speak Spanish you will need to surmise what is being spoken by gestures and interactions between the characters in the scene. Refer to the detailed log accompanying this memo.
- In general terms, the scene represents the arrival of an anthropologist and a filmmaker at the apartment of their friends, Don Chabo's oldest son, and his family in Merida, Yucatan. News is exchanged, a camera is given to the son, Manuelito, by the filmmaker, a book written by the anthropologist about Don Chabo is given to his son, Manuel, and Manuel and his family then weave two hammocks over the course of six days.
- The characters are as follows:

Will	Anthropologist, 45	(labeled "Will" in the expanded log)
Peter	Filmmaker, 50	(labeled "PT" in the expanded log)
Manuelito	Grandson of Don Chabo, 14	(labeled "Ito" in the expanded log)
Manuel	Oldest son of Don Chabo, 35	(labeled "Man" in the expanded log)
Margotte	Manuel's wife, 35	(labeled "Mar" in the expanded log)
Lette	Granddaughter of Don Chabo, 16	(labeled "Lette" in the expanded log)
- I would like you to edit this scene to bring out the relationships between the two North Americans and the family, and to give the audience a good sense of how a Mayan hammock is woven.
- This is the log of the footage you might consider for this scene. Total time of footage: approximately 44 1/2 minutes. Feel free to add other footage as needed. A more expanded log accompanies this memo:

(reel B3)	03:21:30:00	03:23:00:00	Arrival at Merida apartment
(reel B4)	04:19:00:00	04:24:00:00	Manuelito's camera present, Will's book given to Manuel
(reel B4)	04:29:00:00	04:34:00:00	Manuelito' with camera
(reel C15)	15:30:00:00	15:39:00:00	Hammock making
	15:40:00:00	15:54:00:00	Hammock making
	15:56:00:00	15:58:00:00	Hammock making
(reel C16)	16:21:00:00	16:23:00:00	Hammock making
	16:28:00:00	16:31:00:00	Hammock making
	16:37:00:00	16:39:00:00	Hammock making
(reel C23)	23:01:00:00	23:02:00:00	Still photos taken of Manuel's family in Merida

We'll compare your version and mine when you finish. Good cutting!