

PRODUCTION JOURNAL

"Mr. Wayne in Seoul"

Dive into the creative genesis and technical journey behind "Mr. Wayne in Seoul," an experimental film exploring themes of existential detachment and displacement in a contemporary urban landscape. This journal captures the evolution from concept to completion, embracing both the challenges and breakthroughs of AI-driven filmmaking.



The Seed of Inspiration: Creative Motivation



Camus' L'Étranger

Translating emotional detachment into the vibrant, alienating backdrop of Seoul. Mr. Wayne embodies a drifting consciousness, a foreigner in both geography and identity.



A Foreign Landscape

Seoul itself becomes a character, enhancing the protagonist's sense of otherness and isolation. The urban sprawl serves as a metaphor for the inner void.



Steinbeck's Echoes

Subtle references to dust-blown exiles evoke a deeper sense of displacement and longing for a lost homeland, giving Wayne's journey a timeless resonance.



Navigating the AI Frontier: Experiments and Obstacles



Concept Image Generation

Initially, AI models produced overly "heroic" faces for Wayne. This was corrected through meticulous prompt reduction and incorporating references to soft realism.



Uncanny Animation

Early AI animation attempts resulted in unsettling distortions. Maintaining consistent frame references across different tools proved crucial for resolving these "uncanny valley" effects.



Technical Hurdles

- Face drift across AI video models
- Audio sync delays in Heygen
- Color mismatches between real and AI footage
- Memory limitations impacting consistent lighting



Breakthroughs & Artistic Evolution

Unlocking Wayne's Essence

- Wayne's strength emerged in stillness; dynamic animation proved less effective.
- Seoul's neon reflections ingeniously masked AI imperfections, blending realities.
- Midjourney lighting LUTs unified the tone between AI and real footage.
- Topaz AI was a savior for rescuing distorted frames, preserving visual integrity.
- Embracing existential stillness rather than forcing dynamic animation became a core aesthetic.



Final Reflection: Human Longing, Machine Memory

"This project revealed the strange resonance between human longing and machine-generated memory. If an algorithm begins without a homeland, perhaps its very blankness mirrors the human condition of searching for one."

The journey of "Mr. Wayne in Seoul" became an exploration of embracing imperfection, working within constraints, and discovering new artistic expressions at the intersection of human creativity and artificial intelligence.