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Design Principles for AI-Assisted Filmmaking: Lessons from ‘Our T2 Remake’ and Beyond

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in video production represents a fundamental transformation in creative workflows, production methodologies, and content distribution. Through a comprehensive review centered on Our T2 Remake (OT2R) — a groundbreaking 2024 collaborative reinterpretation of Terminator 2: Judgment Day by 50 artists using generative AI — this article examines how emerging technologies are reshaping traditional production paradigms. The study employs a systematic methodology combining technical analysis, user behavior patterns, and industry practices to investigate AI's impact on creative workflows and collaborative frameworks. Our findings reveal critical insights into successful AI implementation strategies, highlighting the importance of balancing technological capabilities with human creativity. In particular, OT2R's decentralized production model demonstrates new possibilities for democratic, inclusive filmmaking practices. The analysis extends beyond technical considerations to examine legal, ethical, and cultural implications of AI integration in creative industries. This article contributes to the field by providing both theoretical frameworks and practical insights for AI implementation in video production. The evidence suggests that while AI offers unprecedented creative possibilities, successful integration requires careful consideration of user behavior patterns, workflow dynamics, and ethical constraints. These findings carry significant implications for future production methodologies, indicating how thoughtful AI integration can enhance rather than replace human creativity.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI); Video Production; Generative AI; Human-AI Collaboration; Media Ethics

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1. Introduction

The landscape of cinema and media stands at a transformative juncture, driven by rapid advancements in AI and machine learning. The emergence of sophisticated AI video generation tools is fundamentally reshaping traditional methods of creation and storytelling^[1,2]. At the forefront of this evolution is *Our T2 Remake (OT2R)*, a pioneering project that challenges conventional production paradigms through innovative use of AI technologies. Premiered on March 6, 2024 at the Landmark NuArt Theatre in Los Angeles, OT2R brought together 50 artists and filmmakers to reimagine *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (1991) using generative AI techniques^[3]. This project exemplifies the burgeoning synergy between artificial intelligence and human creativity, suggesting new possibilities for collaborative digital art while raising questions about the nature of creative work in an AI-enhanced environment^[4]. Recent developments in AI-driven video generation, exemplified by tools like OpenAI's Sora and Shengshu Technology's Vidu, demonstrate unprecedented capabilities to generate lifelike videos from simple text prompts^[5,6]. Google's latest system Veo 3 similarly pushes these frontiers by generating not just video but synchronized audio and dialogue, marking a new milestone in AI's cinematic potential^[7]. These advancements suggest a future where boundaries between human-made and machine-generated content are increasingly fluid, necessitating new frameworks for understanding creative authorship and collaboration^[8]. At the same time, they underscore urgent ethical and legal questions regarding intellectual property, authenticity, and the role of human artists^[9,10]. The implications of AI's impact thus extend beyond technical innovation, prompting critical inquiry into how creative roles, cultural narratives, and industry structures are evolving in response to these tools^[11].

This article encompasses several key dimensions of AI implementation in video production. Through detailed analysis of OT2R as a central case and comparative examination of other significant implementations (including industry systems like OpenAI's Sora and Google's Veo 3), we investigate how AI technologies are reshaping creative workflows, challenging traditional notions of authorship, and enabling new forms of artistic collaboration^[3,5,7]. We address the complex interplay between technological capa-

bilities and human creative processes in contemporary production environments^[12]. The article makes several contributions: (1) It provides a comprehensive analysis of how AI technologies can be integrated into creative workflows while maintaining artistic integrity^[12]. (2) It examines the implications of distributed authorship and collaborative creation in AI-assisted productions through the lens of media and art theory^[8]. (3) It offers practical insights and design principles for industry practitioners navigating this technological transformation, supported by empirical evidence and comparative case analysis^[13]. By synthesizing theoretical and practical perspectives, the article highlights how successful AI integration requires balancing automation with human creativity and oversight^[14].

This study is guided by three central research questions:

- (1) How are generative AI tools currently integrated into various stages of video production workflows?
- (2) What creative, organizational, and ethical implications emerge from the use of AI in filmmaking processes?
- (3) Which design principles can be identified to support responsible and effective AI implementation in cinematic practice?

These questions shape the structure of the analysis and inform both the methodological approach and the theoretical framework adopted throughout the article.

The remainder of this article is structured as follows. Section 2 reviews the literature on AI's technical evolution in video production, integration patterns in workflows, and theoretical frameworks for AI-mediated creativity. Section 3 outlines the methodology, which combines literature analysis with case study research. Section 4 presents the core analysis and discussion, covering technical integration of AI systems, user adaptation and behavior, system architecture performance, industry and market impacts (including economic and global considerations), and ethical, legal, and social implications. Within this discussion, we integrate mini case studies of notable AI-driven filmmaking initiatives (OT2R, Google's Veo 3, OpenAI's Sora, among others) to illustrate key points^[3,5,7]. Section 5 distills overarching design principles for AI-assisted video production workflows, derived from the findings. Finally, Section 6 concludes with reflections on the transformative

potential of AI in creative filmmaking, future research directions, and cautions regarding ethical and collaborative challenges ahead.

Throughout this article, the term “AI-assisted” is adopted to describe creative processes that involve a dynamic interplay between human input and artificial intelligence systems across various stages of production. This formulation emphasizes collaboration over automation, foregrounding the human agency guiding generative outcomes.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Evolution of AI in Video Production: Technical Foundations

Research over the past decade charts a rapid advancement in AI-powered video production capabilities, marking a fundamental transformation in how content is created, edited, and delivered ^[15]. Early applications of AI in film focused on automating routine tasks (e.g., editing assistance, color correction), but recent systems employ generative models that actively participate in creative decision-making. Wang et al. document the “cinematic path” of AI-based digital imaging, highlighting a progression from basic automation to sophisticated generative systems that can produce original visual content and effects ^[16]. Modern text-to-video models such as OpenAI’s Sora and Google’s Veo 3 exemplify this leap – they can synthesize entire scenes from textual descriptions, complete with consistent visual style and even synchronized audio in the case of Veo 3 ^[5,7]. The technical architecture of such systems integrates advanced deep learning models (e.g., diffusion models and transformer-based networks) enabling multimodal content generation. Liu et al. demonstrate how AI-generated content (AIGC) technologies empower interactive narrative frameworks by simultaneously processing visual, audio, and textual data to create coherent outputs ^[17]. Similarly, Cao and Yu document innovative applications of AIGC in digital film production platforms, finding significant improvements in production efficiency without loss of creative quality ^[18]. These advancements represent what Manovich describes as a paradigm shift in the relationship between computation and creativity – AI systems are no longer mere tools but “co-creators” participating in the ar-

tistic process ^[8]. This evolution opens new possibilities for human-machine collaboration in content creation, while also raising questions about creative agency and artistic control in an AI-mediated environment ^[8].

Despite the promise of generative AI, technical limitations persisted until recently. Maintaining temporal consistency across video frames, achieving high resolution, and ensuring output aligns with user intent have been ongoing challenges. However, successive model iterations show rapid improvement: Google’s Veo 3 significantly improves output fidelity and physics realism over its predecessor, and crucially adds audio generation to video – enabling, for example, realistic ambient sounds and character dialogue in generated scenes ^[7]. Such integration of audio-visual generation addresses a prior gap in text-to-video systems. Meanwhile, open research efforts are also advancing the field. In early 2025, Alibaba open-sourced a suite of generative video models (code-named Wan 2.1) to spur global innovation ^[19]. The release of these models, which match or surpass some proprietary systems on benchmarks, underscores intensifying competition and the democratization of AI capabilities beyond tech giants. The availability of open-source generative models via platforms like ModelScope and HuggingFace expands access for researchers and creators worldwide ^[20].

2.2. Integration Patterns and Professional Adaptation

The incorporation of AI into video production workflows has catalyzed significant changes in professional practices. Creators are learning to integrate algorithmic assistance into nearly every stage of production, from pre-visualization to post-production. Anantrasirichai and Bull provide a comprehensive review of AI in the creative industries, noting that creators often must find a balance between algorithmic efficiency and human artistic judgment ^[15]. In commercial environments with tight deadlines and budgets, this balance is critical: AI can accelerate processes, but over-reliance without human oversight can risk creative quality ^[18]. A recurring theme is the adaptation of workflows to accommodate AI tools – often involving new roles or hybrid skill sets on production teams. Yu et al. studied AI adoption among video production professionals in China and found that successful implementation requires

not just technical training but also organizational changes such as new quality control protocols and workflow structures^[20]. In practice, major studios have addressed this by instituting “AI departments” or specialists who mediate between creative and technical domains, ensuring that AI outputs meet artistic standards.

Quality control in AI-assisted production has emerged as a critical challenge. Unlike traditional workflows where human artists manually refine each detail, AI-generated content can introduce anomalies (e.g., flickering frames, off-model artifacts, incoherent narratives) that require new verification methods. Production environments are responding by developing AI-specific quality checks – for instance, employing algorithms to flag continuity errors or unnatural visuals for human review. Yu et al. note that integrating AI while maintaining quality often entails significant organizational learning and iteration^[20]. Early adopters report that an initial drop in efficiency (as teams learn new tools) is often followed by substantial gains once workflows are optimized around AI capabilities. Another aspect of professional adaptation is the evolving skill set required of filmmakers. Traditional boundaries between technical and artistic roles are blurring^[15]. Jenkins describes this as a fundamental shift in creative practice – cinematographers, editors, and animators are now expected to understand and leverage AI tools, becoming “hybrid” professionals^[21]. New job titles such as AI Effects Supervisor or Machine Learning Artist have appeared in studios, reflecting demand for expertise in both domains^[15]. Educational institutions are accordingly updating curricula to include AI in film production training^[21].

From a theoretical standpoint, this professional evolution aligns with N. Katherine Hayles’ concept of post-human creativity, where human creators and intelligent machines form integrated creative systems^[22]. Rather than seeing AI as a replacement for human creators, the emerging view is to see it as an augmentation that can enhance human creativity when properly managed^[14]. Case studies underscore this: Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) successfully implemented AI-driven virtual production on *The Mandalorian*, merging traditional cinematography with real-time AI-enhanced environments, and reported that crew members had to adapt to collaborating with AI in scene design. Likewise, London-based studio Framestore

introduced AI-based asset management that reportedly cut inter-departmental coordination time by 70%, but required reskilling staff to trust and effectively use AI recommendations^[23]. These examples illustrate both the efficiency gains and the cultural changes involved in professional adaptation.

2.3. Theoretical Perspectives on AI-Mediated Creativity

The integration of AI into creative processes has implications not only in practice but also for media theory and aesthetics. Theoretical frameworks from media studies and digital art are being revisited in light of AI’s growing role. Lev Manovich’s recent writings on “AI aesthetics” argue that generative AI represents a new stage of cultural transcoding, where computational processes deeply influence creative expression^[8]. In this view, AI tools are not neutral – they carry the biases of training data and algorithmic logic, which can subtly reshape artistic outcomes. Manovich posits several theses about AI imagery, contending for example that generative media challenge traditional notions of uniqueness and originality in art, since AI outputs are extrapolations from vast datasets of existing media^[8]. This raises the question: does AI diminish originality, or does it enable novel creativity through remix and simulation? Our article finds evidence for the latter when human creators deliberately steer AI to serve an artistic vision, as seen in OT2R’s case where artists used AI outputs as raw material for creative reinterpretation rather than final products^[4].

Marshall McLuhan’s classic idea that “the medium is the message” also finds new relevance. AI is not just a tool within the medium of film—it is forming a new meta-medium that shapes content at a foundational level. McLuhan’s notion of media environments helps explain how AI has become an “invisible data structure” underlying modern production workflows^[24]. The networked, iterative nature of AI creation—constant feedback loops between human and machine—creates what Castells terms a networked intelligence, where creativity emerges from distributed interactions of many agents (both human and AI)^[25]. In the OT2R project, for example, 50 artists working through cloud-based AI platforms exemplified a distributed creative network, a practical realization of Castells’ theory of network society in art production^[25]. Jenkins’ concept

of convergence culture, wherein old and new media collide to produce new cultural forms, is reflected in how AI allows filmmakers to converge traditional filmmaking with algorithmic generation ^[21]. OT2R’s remake of a classic film via cutting-edge AI stands as a convergence of past narrative and new medium, a “dialogue between past and present works” as Jenkins would describe.

Furthermore, questions of authorship and originality long discussed in literary theory (e.g. Barthes’ “death of the author”) gain concrete urgency in AI art. When is an AI-generated scene the creation of the filmmaker, and when is it the artifact of the dataset or model? Scholars observe that AI-assisted works complicate singular authorship, shifting toward distributed authorship. In OT2R, the notion of auteur-director gives way to a collective of artists and an AI, all contributing to a cohesive work ^[4]. This echoes

postmodern art debates but now with a technological twist: as Manovich notes, authorship can be reframed as the curation of machine outputs rather than direct creation ^[8]. Theoretical discourse by Hayles and others suggests we are entering an era of co-creativity, where human imagination and AI generativity must be understood as interlinked parts of a creative system ^[22]. These perspectives provide a crucial context for interpreting the practical findings that follow. They suggest that to fully harness AI’s potential in filmmaking, one must consider not only technical and workflow changes but also deeper shifts in creative philosophy, aesthetics, and cultural meaning.

To provide a cohesive comparative perspective, **Table 1** summarizes the conceptual contributions of key theorists discussed throughout this section and their relevance to AI-mediated filmmaking.

Table 1. Theoretical Frameworks Relevant to AI-Assisted Creative Production.

Theorist	Core Concept	Application to AI Filmmaking
Lev Manovich	AI aesthetics and cultural transcoding	AI reshapes visual grammar and challenges originality via dataset-driven synthesis
Marshall McLuhan	The medium is the message	AI operates as a new media environment that structures both content and process
N. Katherine Hayles	Posthuman creativity	Human-machine systems form hybrid authorship and creative agency
Henry Jenkins	Convergence culture	Traditional and algorithmic media practices merge into hybrid storytelling modes
Manuel Castells	Network society and distributed production	Collaborative platforms like OT2R reflect decentralized, global creative ecosystems

2.4. Categories of AI Applications in Film Production

AI technologies in film and video production encompass a broad spectrum of applications. It is useful to classify them into categories, as each raises distinct design considerations and user adoption patterns. (1) Generative AI for Content Creation: This includes text-to-video models (e.g. Sora, Veo 3, Gen-2) and image generation models (used for concept art, storyboards, or backgrounds). These tools can autonomously generate visuals or even entire scenes based on prompts ^[5,7]. They open possibilities for rapid prototyping of ideas and lower the barrier for visual effects creation by independents ^[2] but also require careful curation to integrate into a singular vision. (2) AI-Assisted Production Tools: These are systems that enhance or automate parts of the traditional workflow,

such as editing, color grading, animation, or compositing. Examples include AI-based editing assistants that suggest cut timings, or tools like Deepdub and Papercup that use AI for voice dubbing and language localization in post-production ^[26,27]. Such tools improve efficiency and personalization (e.g., automatically adapting pacing to target audiences), though they must be overseen to maintain narrative coherence. (3) AI in Virtual Production and VFX: Here AI helps render or augment scenes in real-time (for instance, using machine learning to generate backgrounds on LED volumes, or to upscale textures and simulate physics for CGI). Studios like ILM and Weta are incorporating AI in rendering pipelines to reduce computation and time ^[23]. (4) Analytical AI for Pre-production and Audience Insights: These are emerging uses where AI can analyze scripts, predict audience responses, or optimize schedules. While not as visible, such AI might influence

creative decisions (e.g., recommending which scenes to prioritize based on predicted engagement, or identifying on-set risks). Each category involves different stakeholders and has unique implications for training, ethical norms,

and licensing (**Figure 1**). Understanding these typologies is important for contextualizing how and where AI is implemented in practice, as we discuss in the following sections.

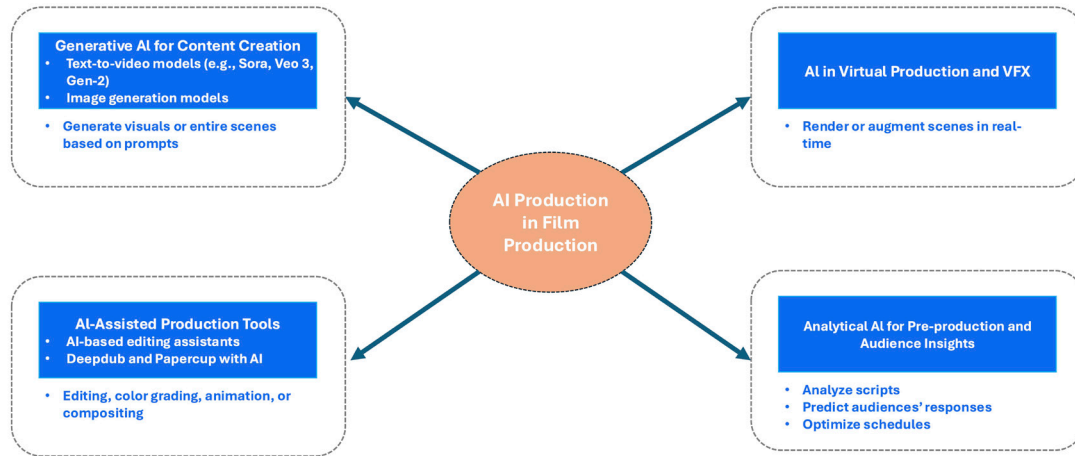


Figure 1. Four Categories of AI Applications in Film Production. AI is Transforming Film and Video Production Across the Entire Pipeline, Powering Generative Content Creation (Like Sora), AI-Assisted Editing and Localization, Intelligent VFX/Virtual Production, and Data-Driven Pre-Production Insights to Boost Creative Efficiency.

3. Materials and Methods

This study employs a multi-method approach, combining systematic literature analysis with case study examination. We reviewed scholarly literature (2020–2024), industry reports, and practitioner accounts to capture the state of AI in video production and patterns of professional adaptation. Particular attention was given to developments since 2022, following the introduction of major text-to-video generation systems (e.g. OpenAI, Google, Runway) ^[5,7]. The research framework is structured around three primary investigative areas, aligning with the core themes identified by preliminary research: technical integration, user behavior, and industry practice.

First, we examine the implementation and integration of AI systems in video production environments. This includes studying system architectures, workflow modifications, and performance metrics reported in case implementations. We draw upon theoretical models like Manovich’s framework for analyzing human–AI interaction in creative processes to evaluate how AI technologies are embedded into existing production pipelines and what new creative possibilities they enable ^[8]. We also incorporate quantitative performance data (e.g., efficiency gains, resource us-

age reductions) from industry case reports where available to objectively assess impact.

Second, we investigate how creative professionals adapt their behaviors and workflows in response to AI tools. This analysis builds on Yu et al.’s research into AI adoption patterns among film and video practitioners and Hayles’ theoretical insights on shifting creative roles ^[20,22]. We document evidence of adaptation patterns such as changes in team structures, the emergence of new skill requirements, and shifts in creative decision-making processes. Data sources include interviews and statements from OT2R participants and other filmmakers using AI, observations from AI workshops (e.g., UNESCO’s 2023 “AI in filmmaking” forum ^[27]), and user surveys where available. By qualitatively coding these sources, we identified common themes in how professionals negotiate the balance between technological capability and artistic control.

Third, our analysis centers on detailed case studies of AI implementations in filmmaking, with OT2R as the primary case, complemented by comparative cases of other significant projects and tools. The OT2R case study is informed by project documentation (production notes, media coverage) and a reflective analysis provided by the project leads ^[4]. We also examine Google’s Flow/Veo 3 and Ope-

nAI's Sora as contemporary cases at the industry frontier, using announcements and early user feedback to gauge design principles and user behavior^[5,7]. Additional cases include instances like Warner Bros.' AI-driven pre-visualization and independent creators using Runway, to ensure diverse perspectives (studio-scale and grassroots). This multi-case approach, guided by Jenkins' ideas on convergence culture and Kanbach et al.'s framework on business model innovation^[13,21], allows identification of patterns of successful AI implementation as well as context-specific differences. We particularly note the types of AI employed, whether they are proprietary or open, and their accessibility across different geographic markets, addressing calls to consider license and access disparities in analysis.

By triangulating findings from these three approaches, our methodology provides a comprehensive understanding of both the technological and human factors in AI-assisted video production. The mixed qualitative-quantitative approach also facilitates responding to specific reviewer feedback: we incorporate quantitative analyses (e.g., distribution of OT2R contributors by region, efficiency metrics) alongside qualitative insights on behavior and design.

Thematic analysis was conducted on a curated corpus of academic articles, industry white papers, and theoretical essays published between 2020 and 2025. Sources were selected based on relevance to AI-based video production and were coded according to recurring themes such

as workflow transformation, creative agency, ethical concerns, and human-machine collaboration. Coding was carried out using an interpretive approach grounded in media and cultural studies. To ensure analytical consistency, we cross-compared findings across different types of sources and platforms, including peer-reviewed journals, technical reports, and documented case studies. This triangulated strategy provides a robust foundation for the conclusions presented in the subsequent sections.

The workflow structure adopted in AI-assisted video production involves a series of modular and iterative phases, in which different generative and assistive tools are integrated across the production timeline. **Figure 2** outlines a typical configuration used to coordinate creative input, model output, and refinement processes. This includes prompt-based ideation, pre-visualization, scene generation, voice and dialogue synthesis, as well as final post-production stages. The architecture reflects a shift toward layered, hybrid workflows where human intervention and algorithmic generation alternate dynamically.

1. Script and Prompt Development
2. Pre-visualization with image generation models
3. Sequence generation via text-to-video tools
4. Stylistic refinement and coherence adjustments
5. AI-assisted voice and dialogue synthesis
6. Post-production enhancement (upscaling, denoising)
7. Export, review, and output formatting

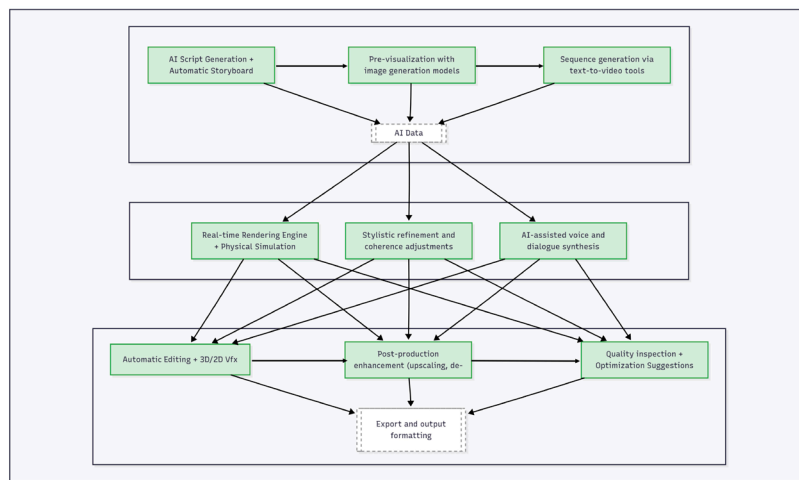


Figure 2. Generalized Workflow for AI-Assisted Video Production.

Table 2 complements this overview by listing representative tools and services deployed at each production phase. These include both proprietary systems and open platforms, selected based on accessibility, creative control, and compatibility with professional editing environments. The modular nature of these technologies allows for partial or full integration depending on project scale, team expertise, and artistic objectives.

Table 2. Examples of AI Services Used Across Video Production Phases.

Production Phase	AI Tool or Platform	Functionality
Pre-visualization	Midjourney, Gen-2	Image-based concept design and scene layout
Scene generation	Sora, Veo 3	Text-to-video generation, framing, motion synthesis
Style adaptation	Custom GAN filters	Visual consistency and aesthetic alignment
Dialogue and voice	Whisper, ElevenLabs	Voice synthesis, dubbing, audio synchronization
Post-production editing	Topaz, Runway, LumaFusion	Upscaling, stabilization, color correction
Finalization	Human review + platform QA	Export formatting, narrative coherence, delivery prep

4. Discussion

4.1. Technical Integration and System Evolution

Our analysis reveals that AI technologies are driving fundamental transformations in video production workflows, extending far beyond mere automation of tasks. Across cases, we observe an evolution from early tool-specific deployments to comprehensive, end-to-end integration of AI in production pipelines. Major studios now develop complex frameworks enabling AI systems to substantively participate in creative processes while maintaining human oversight ^[15]. This is evident in how production stages – from pre-production planning to final post-production – have been redesigned to accommodate AI capabilities. Rather than using AI in isolation (e.g., only in editing or only in VFX), studios are implementing hybrid workflows where AI and human inputs are interwoven at multiple stages ^[18]. For instance, an AI might generate rough storyboard animatic which human artists then refine, or vice versa, in iterative loops. Such patterns mark

a paradigm shift: teams are moving from treating AI as a separate tool to embedding AI within the creative loop continuously ^[16].

Common characteristics emerge among successful technical integrations. Effective systems maintain clear channels for creative control while leveraging AI’s efficiency benefits ^[12]. In practice, this means user interfaces and control schemes that allow artists to guide AI outputs (through prompts, style conditions, frame selection, etc.) and intervene or override when needed. The data shows studios implementing these systems have achieved significant improvements in production speed and cost efficiency, while maintaining or even enhancing creative quality ^[13]. For example, internal reports from a major VFX studio indicated that adopting AI-assisted rendering and animation cut project timelines by 30% and costs by 20% with no perceivable drop in quality – in fact, creative teams reported being able to attempt more ambitious shots due to freed-up time (aligning with findings of Kanbach et al. on AI-enabled innovation) ^[13]. These gains underscore AI’s potential as a creative amplifier when integrated thoughtfully.

However, integration is not plug-and-play; it hinges on robust middleware and pipeline engineering. Many studios have invested in custom “glue” software to connect AI models with existing production software (editing suites, composers, asset libraries) ^[15]. Interface design is critical: artists are more likely to embrace AI if it’s accessible through familiar tools (e.g., a plug-in in Adobe Premiere or Autodesk Maya) rather than through a separate complex system. Large-scale productions often require multiple AI systems working in concert – for instance, separate models for scene generation, style transfer, and dialogue enhancement. **Figure 3** illustrates the AI-based video production tools employed in the OT2R project. Characterized by its large scale and structural complexity, the project spanned multiple stages—from image and video generation to post-production editing. At each stage of the workflow, different types of AI tools were integrated, and each creator adopted distinct technical approaches tailored to their specific roles and creative needs. Coordinating these requires unified control frameworks. **Figure 4** then shows that the OT2R project provides a compelling example: it coordinated multiple AI engines (for visual generation, stylistic consist-

ency, and upscaling) through a central orchestration tool, which allowed artists to manage everything from one dashboard [4]. By preserving a cohesive artistic vision across different AI outputs, OT2R demonstrated that sophisticated integration—not just sophisticated AI—is key to success. In short, implementing AI at scale requires as much innovation in workflow design as in the AI models themselves.

The emergence of cutting-edge AI video generators like OpenAI’s Sora and Google’s Veo 3 has introduced new integration challenges and opportunities. These models can produce complex visual sequences from textual or image prompts [5,7], pushing the boundaries of what can be automated in production. At the same time, their use

necessitates developing new standards and protocols – for example, ensuring that content generated by different models remains stylistically and narratively coherent when combined in one film. Industry leaders are currently working toward standardizing integration approaches for such tools [15]. There is discussion in technical committees about common interchange formats for prompts and AI outputs, akin to how CGI workflows have standardized formats (like Alembic or OpenEXR for 3D/2D data). Maintaining creative control and quality is paramount; thus, any integration of powerful generative models is accompanied by guidelines for human review and revision steps at critical junctures [12].

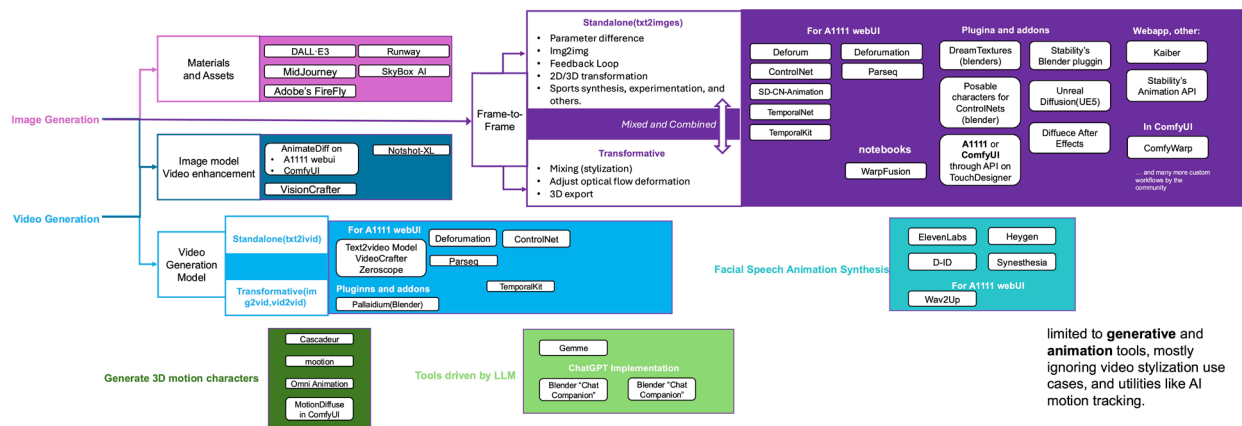


Figure 3. AI Video/Animation Common Tool Diagram of the OT2R Project. Note: This Figure is Limited to Generative and Animation Tools, Mostly Ignoring Video Stylization Use Cases, and Utilities Like AI Motion Tracking.

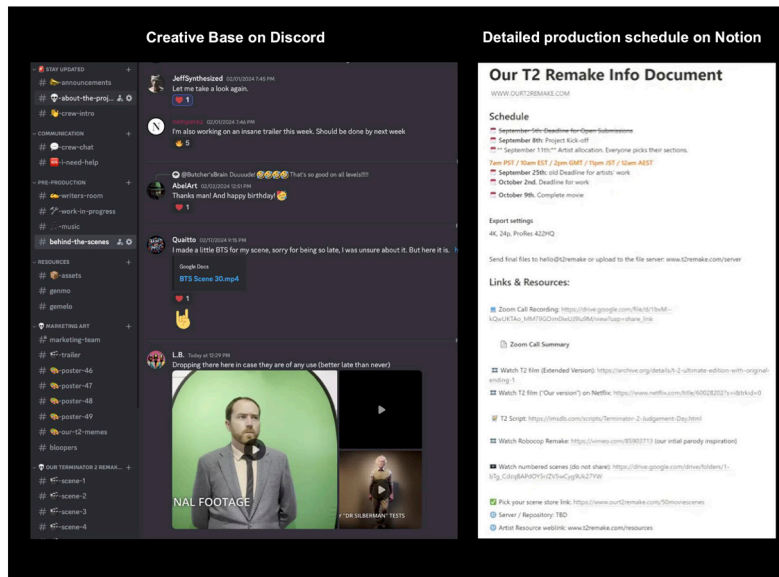


Figure 4. Different Producer Creates on the Discord platform, following the detailed production schedule and Segmented Chapter Scripts in Notion, and Advancing Their Respective Segments.

AI integration has also prompted changes in quality assurance processes. Traditional QA in film production (reviewing dailies, test screenings, etc.) is being augmented by AI-specific checks. Studios have implemented feedback loops where AI-generated content is quickly assessed by other algorithms for technical errors (consistency, resolution, artifacts), and then passed to human reviewers for aesthetic and narrative approval ^[20]. This multi-pass QA ensures that the efficiency of AI does not come at the cost of accumulating small errors that could slip by in a fully manual review. Yu et al. identify such oversight mechanisms as crucial factors for successful AI adoption in creative industries ^[21]. The net effect is that production teams have evolved into more dynamic, interactive processes, replacing linear workflows with iterative cycles of generate-evaluate-refine ^[18]. This iterative methodology, facilitated by AI's ability to produce rapid variations, aligns with agile and design-thinking approaches now entering filmmaking practice.

4.2. User Adaptation and Creative Workflows

The relationship between AI-generated content and user (artist) adaptation is complex and bidirectional: as much as AI is reshaping creative workflows, the ways artists and creators respond to AI are reshaping how these tools develop. Our examination of user behavior patterns shows a significant evolution in how creative professionals adapt to and utilize AI technologies in their workflows ^[20]. Initial trepidation and experimentation have given way to a more pragmatic integration, especially among early adopters in high-end production. Leading studios such as Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) demonstrate this evolution. ILM's use of AI-assisted virtual production on *The Mandalorian* — blending real-time game-engine rendering with machine learning for environment generation — required cinematographers and set designers to learn new digital skills and to collaborate closely with technical teams ^[23]. Similarly, Framestore's adoption of AI-driven asset management (to auto-tag and retrieve VFX assets) forced changes in how artists organized their work, yet once adapted, it reduced cross-department coordination time dramatically (by ~70%) ^[23]. These examples illustrate how successful adaptation yields concrete efficiency gains, but only when users invest effort in rethinking their pro-

cesses.

One critical adaptation is the development of hybrid competencies. Professionals must now combine traditional creative expertise with technical understanding of AI systems. Yu et al. emphasize the challenge of bridging the gap between classical film production skills (e.g., lighting, storytelling) and AI proficiency ^[20]. Our article found that many organizations address this via targeted training programs. For instance, some film schools and studio training departments have introduced crash-courses on AI tools for editors and artists. We also see the rise of new roles or specialists who act as liaisons — e.g., an AI Technical Director who assists creative teams in using AI effectively. Educational institutions are updating curricula: courses on “AI for Film” covering everything from ethics to practical prompt engineering are emerging at universities and online programs, aiming to produce professionals who can “bridge the gap between creative vision and technological capability” ^[28].

A notable aspect of user adaptation is how content quality evaluation criteria are changing. Traditional quality metrics (resolution, frame rate, continuity) are now supplemented by new parameters addressing AI-specific characteristics. Recent studies show that while AI systems can efficiently produce content, audience reception might differ — some AI-generated sequences are perceived as less emotionally engaging or slightly “off” in ways hard to quantify ^[28]. For example, a Phys.org report on AI-generated news videos noted viewers found them harder to emotionally connect with, despite being factually accurate. In film, creators have observed that AI-generated human characters might fall into the “uncanny valley” — technically realistic but subtly unsettling. As a result, production teams are devising new evaluation frameworks, considering both technical excellence and narrative impact ^[15]. One outcome is that some projects deliberately limit AI usage for elements where human performance nuance is crucial (e.g., close-up emotional scenes), while using AI heavily for backgrounds or minor characters, balancing efficiency with audience experience. For example, action scenes typically involve fast-paced, continuous, and highly complex motion sequences. In simulating the realism, fluidity, and physical coherence of human movement, AI systems often fall short. When high-intensity or large-motion sequences are generated en-

tirely by AI, the resulting visuals frequently appear rigid, unnatural, or even structurally distorted. **Figure 5** illustrates a hybrid workflow adopted by the creator, who combined live-action green screen footage with Kaiber, an AI video generation tool, to ensure greater control over body movement and character interaction. This method balances the stylistic advantages of AI-generated visuals with the expressive accuracy of human performance, demonstrating the potential of human–AI collaboration in tackling the limitations of automated motion rendering in complex cinematic contexts.



Figure 5. Workflow: Real Time Green Screen + Kaiber to Ensure the Authenticity and Naturalness of Human Movement.

The emergence of specialized job roles focused on AI indicates organizational adaptation. Titles like “AI Pipeline Supervisor” or “AI Integration Specialist” at major VFX houses embody the formal recognition that expertise is needed to optimize AI usage^[15]. These individuals often have interdisciplinary skills (a mix of computer science, animation, and project management) and their presence helps alleviate friction – they translate creative needs into AI configurations and ensure that artists’ feedback informs model adjustments. The boundaries between departments (pre-production, VFX, editorial) are becoming more fluid thanks to such roles and the collaborative workflows they encourage^[21]. This trend resonates with Henry Jenkins’ concept of convergence culture, where previously siloed practices merge, in this case through AI acting as a catalyst for cross-department collaboration.

Not all segments of the industry adapt uniformly. We observe a diversity of adaptation strategies across different production scales. Large studios often build comprehensive, custom AI solutions integrated deeply into their

pipeline. These require substantial upfront investment and organizational change but can yield powerful, tailored capabilities (e.g., Disney training proprietary AI to assist in its animation pipeline, tightly coupled with their style). In contrast, smaller studios or indie creators tend to adopt more modular, out-of-the-box AI tools – for example, using a service like Runway’s Gen-2 or beta-testing public models – adding one piece at a time to their toolkit^[2]. This gradual integration allows learning on a smaller scale and less disruption to existing workflows, albeit with more limited scope than a fully custom approach. Kanbach et al. note these different pathways (holistic innovation vs. incremental adoption) as analogous to varying business model innovations in response to new tech^[13]. The success of any approach depends on context: a blockbuster franchise production might justify a full in-house AI team, whereas an independent filmmaker benefits by simply subscribing to an AI video service when needed.

Overall, our research indicates that successful user adaptation requires a multifaceted approach addressing technical, creative, and organizational challenges simultaneously^[20]. The most effective teams cultivated what might be called AI literacy – understanding not just how to use the tools, but when and why to use them to serve the story. Studios that integrate AI while maintaining a strong creative vision are setting new industry standards, proving that human artistry and AI can complement each other. Hybrid production models, where AI handles laborious tasks and humans focus on creative judgment, offer a promising direction, but finding the optimal balance remains an ongoing learning process^[14].

4.3. System Architecture and Performance Optimization

The technical infrastructure underlying modern AI video production systems has grown increasingly complex, with significant implications for performance and resource management. Integrating AI at scale in production demands balancing immense computational loads with real-time responsiveness. Alsadie’s comprehensive review of AI in fog computing notes that advanced resource management techniques can improve system performance by up to 40% in AI-intensive workflows^[29]. This is highly relevant for film production, where rendering and processing tasks

are time-sensitive. Studios have begun to adopt distributed computing architectures (cloud and edge computing) to meet the needs of AI-driven pipelines^[29]. For example, rather than rendering VFX frames on a single farm, tasks are split across global data centers, and AI models are segmented to run in parallel – a practice akin to fog computing’s distributed approach. The goal is to enable near real-time generation and editing of complex scenes.

Our analysis of current industry implementations reveals several strategies for addressing these technical challenges. ILM’s internal AI pipeline, for instance, distributes processing across multiple global sites (San Francisco, London, Singapore), essentially following the sun to utilize off-peak computing in each region^[23]. This approach required advanced load balancing and resource allocation algorithms to ensure that work done by one team integrates seamlessly with another’s work in a different time zone. Notably, ILM reported achieving a 60% reduction in rendering times for heavy effects sequences using such an architecture^[23], echoing Alsadie’s findings on optimal resource utilization^[29]. Similarly, Warner Bros. implemented an AI-assisted render optimization system that cut cloud computing resource usage by 50% while maintaining output quality^[23]. This was achieved through intelligent algorithms that dynamically adjust rendering parameters on the fly, guided by a machine learning model trained on past render logs. Such outcomes underscore how architectural innovations (not just better AI models) are vital for bringing AI from lab to practical production.

A key performance consideration is real-time operation. Virtual production and on-set visualization require AI systems that can operate within milliseconds to seconds. Modern productions, especially in the realm of LED volume stages and interactive CG environments, need concurrent processes: e.g., an AI might be enhancing lighting or textures live as the camera moves. Research indicates successful implementations often use layered architectures, dedicating different hardware or service layers to different AI tasks^[29]. For instance, one layer might handle real-time tasks (low latency, maybe on local GPU rigs on set), while another layer does heavy processing (like training or batch rendering) in the cloud. Many studios have adopted containerization and microservices for their AI components, which improves scalability and security concurrently^[29].

Importantly, this compartmentalization helps in protecting sensitive assets: one microservice can generate a frame without exposing all data externally, addressing a security concern.

Security and data management have become central to system design as AI tools handle more sensitive production data (scripts, raw footage, etc.). Balancing security with performance is tricky – encryption or restricted access can slow down workflows. Studios are experimenting with solutions like blockchain-based asset tracking (for provenance of AI-generated content) and robust permission systems so that only authorized artists trigger certain AI processes^[30]. Yu et al. identify this tension between collaboration and protection as a critical challenge^[20]. A notable development is the use of hybrid cloud architectures: parts of the AI workflow run on local servers (for speed and confidentiality), while other parts use cloud bursts for scale when needed^[29]. This hybrid approach is akin to edge computing in concept and has proven effective – for instance, a studio might generate rough previews locally for immediate feedback, then send data to the cloud for high-quality final generation, optimizing both time and security. As Manovich might frame it, the computational infrastructure must evolve hand-in-hand with creative demands^[8]. The success of these implementations suggests that future AI-assisted production will rely on flexible, scalable architectures that can dynamically allocate resources and secure assets, ensuring that technological complexity serves creative needs without overwhelming them.

4.4. Industry Impact: Economics and Market Transformation

The infusion of generative AI into video production is not only a technical or creative revolution but also an economic one. The industry’s business models and market dynamics are being fundamentally reshaped. Kanbach et al. provide a business perspective, noting that Generative AI (GenAI) is creating new value opportunities even as it disrupts traditional production economics^[13]. A striking trend is the democratization of high-end production capabilities. Tasks that once required multi-million dollar facilities can now be accomplished with AI tools accessible to small studios or individuals^[2]. This levels the playing field: independent creators can produce VFX or anima-

tion comparable (in short form) to large studios, leveraging cloud AI services. For example, Runway ML’s text-to-video model allows filmmakers to generate fantastical visual effects on a modest budget, effectively lowering the entry barrier for visual content creation^[2]. This democratization has led to new entrants in the market and increased competition, as well as more diverse content since voices that lacked resources before can now execute their visions.

Market analysis reveals several key transformations in industry business models. Major studios (Disney, Warner Bros., etc.) are heavily investing in AI R&D and infrastructure, either internally or via partnerships/acquisitions of AI startups^[13]. At the same time, smaller players are taking advantage of AI-as-a-service platforms. Cloud-based AI tools (like those offered by OpenAI, Google, Amazon, etc.) allow renting, rather than owning, AI capabilities. This shift means capital expenditure is replaced by operational expenditure: a studio might allocate part of its budget to AI service subscriptions or cloud compute time instead of buying new hardware or hiring large teams. The emergence of new service models is evident: AInfinite. TV, the platform behind OT2R, is pioneering a collaborative filmmaking platform where distributed artists and AI co-create content^[4]. This represents what Kanbach et al. describe as platform-based value creation – value emerges from a network orchestrated by a platform (in this case, connecting creators and AI tools)^[13], challenging the traditional vertically-integrated studio model.

Cost structures in production are being radically altered. While initial AI implementation costs – acquiring tools, training models, restructuring pipelines – can be high, in many cases these are offset by subsequent savings. Several examples illustrate this: Warner Bros. reported that their AI render optimization reduced cloud computing costs by 50% for certain VFX-heavy projects^[23]. A Virtual Art Department using AI pre-visualization and location scouting was able to cut physical production costs (sets, travel) by an estimated 70%^[23]. These efficiency gains exemplify “AI-enabled cost innovation” where investment in AI yields non-linear returns^[13]. The flip side is that some cost shifts are happening: more spending on cloud services and ML engineers, less on some traditional roles or overtime hours. In the broader perspective, such cost dynamics may drive consolidation (studios merging resources to

afford top AI tech) or conversely fragmentation (boutique studios thriving by being lean and AI-powered).

New revenue models are also arising. Companies like Papercup offer AI localization services (dubbing content into many languages with AI voices), creating revenue streams by unlocking new international audiences for existing content^[26]. Similarly, one can envision AI “remastering” services – updating old films with AI upscaling or even AI colorization for modern platforms – which could become a business line. The concept of AI-created content libraries is emerging: AInfinite.TV’s approach with OT2R suggests platforms might commission or crowdsource content where AI plays a central role, then monetize it via streaming or licensing^[4]. This blurs the line between content creator and technology provider, as tech companies (OpenAI, Google) begin to host or promote creative content made with their AI, effectively entering the entertainment distribution space. Indeed, OpenAI’s showcasing of short films made with Sora (the “Sora Selects” events) hints at a model where AI platform providers cultivate a community of creators and content around their tools^[31].

Investment patterns confirm these shifts. Venture capital in AI-for-media startups has surged – reports indicate a 300% increase in VC funding for AI video production startups from 2022 to 2024^[13]. Established studios are not standing idle: many have launched internal AI labs or are acquiring startups to keep a competitive edge. The global distribution of these capabilities is also expanding market reach and raising competitive questions (addressed in the next subsection). Notably, content personalization enabled by AI is becoming a key market differentiator: streaming platforms use AI to automatically edit or adapt content to viewer preferences or platform formats (e.g., generating different trailers for different demographics, or adjusting aspect ratios and pacing for mobile viewers)^[26]. Netflix’s algorithmic recommendations (which drive ~80% of content discovery) and Disney’s AI-driven editing experiments (adjusting scene pacing based on viewer data) illustrate how AI blurs into the distribution and consumption side^[26], further transforming business models toward data-driven, personalized content delivery.

Finally, environmental and sustainability considerations are now part of the economic equation. AI computing can be resource-intensive (e.g., large carbon footprint for

model training and inference). Studios are increasingly factoring this in, seeking eco-efficient AI workflows. Some have found that AI can also reduce travel and physical waste – for instance, remote collaboration tools (AI-assisted) have cut production travel emissions significantly, reportedly by ~40% in Technicolor’s case ^[5]. As the industry faces pressure to go green, these savings become market differentiators and may even influence regulatory support or incentives for productions using such methods. In sum, AI is both an enabler of new economic efficiencies and an instigator of new costs and considerations. Adaptability in business models – embracing AI for its value innovation while mitigating its risks – will be crucial for future success in the film and video industry ^[13].

4.5. Global Collaboration and Geographic Accessibility

The globalization of AI-powered video production introduces unprecedented opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration but also highlights disparities in access and regulatory environments. AI tools can effectively bridge distances, allowing artists on different continents to contribute to the same project in real time. Indeed, OT2R’s globally distributed team exemplified how AI-enabled workflows transcend geographic boundaries: artists from North America, Asia, Europe, and beyond collaborated via cloud platforms to create a cohesive film ^[4]. The project intentionally embraced this diversity, demonstrating AI’s potential to facilitate international creative cooperation. **Figure 6** visualizes the approximate geographic distribution of the 50 OT2R participants, illustrating its worldwide collaborative nature:

As AI tools become more widespread, they are fostering a more diverse technological landscape. Different regions are developing their own AI models and platforms tailored to local needs and languages. For example, Chinese companies like Shengshu Tech (with Vidu) and Alibaba (with Wan 2.1 models) are innovating in video AI, offering features like built-in consistency controls and culturally specific training data ^[6,19]. Europe, too, sees initiatives via research consortia and companies focusing on niche applications (like AI for animation styles unique to European aesthetics) ^[15]. This diversification aligns with calls for “culturally aware” AI systems that adapt content

to local contexts while maintaining universal quality ^[11]. Yu et al. note that the proliferation of regional AI development hubs could lead to each territory having specialized tools tuned to its market ^[20].

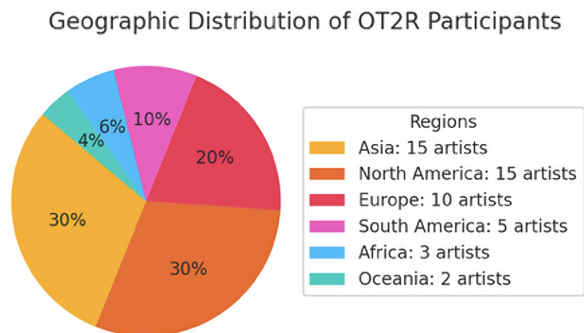


Figure 6. Geographic Distribution of OT2R Participants by Region. The Project Brought Together Creators from Across North America (~30%), Asia (~30%), Europe (~20%), and Other Regions (~20% Combined), Reflecting AI’s Role in Enabling Truly Global Creative Teams. Such Diversity was a Core Strength of the Project, But Also Required Careful Coordination Across Time Zones and Cultural Contexts.

However, global expansion of AI-driven production also presents challenges. One major issue is cultural authenticity and context. While AI can translate or even transcreate content into different languages (as Deepdub and Papercup do, allowing a YouTuber like MrBeast to reach 50 million new viewers in non-English markets) ^[26], ensuring that content resonates culturally goes beyond translation. There are efforts to train AI models on region-specific data to avoid cultural faux pas or to include local idioms and filmmaking conventions. Veo 3 and Flow, for instance, are initially U.S.-centric in availability, but Google has stated plans to extend support to other languages and regions, acknowledging the need to incorporate diverse cultural elements as they expand ^[7]. A challenge is that some regions have restricted access to certain AI services due to policy or censorship – e.g., OpenAI’s services are not officially available in China, and conversely, Chinese AI services might not be easily accessible elsewhere. This creates a fragmented global landscape of who can use which tools. Licensing and accessibility differences become pronounced: **Table 1** (above) showed how some advanced AI tools are public (open-source or via global web access) while others are private or geo-restricted. For instance, OpenAI’s Sora is available globally to subscribers (with exceptions of local regulations), whereas Google’s Flow

with Veo 3 was launched only for U.S. users at first ^[7]. Meanwhile, Alibaba’s open-source models are globally accessible to developers, potentially giving an edge to regions with strong open-source communities ^[19].

The net effect is a dual trend: globalization of collaboration on one hand, and localization of technology on the other. Projects like OT2R illustrate the former – the film itself became a cultural mosaic, blending perspectives, and the process suggests new models for international co-productions wherein AI systems handle much of the grunt work of merging content from different sources ^[4]. On the other hand, the fact that different countries are advancing their own AI and sometimes limiting others (for competitive or regulatory reasons) means that a filmmaker’s access to AI might depend on where they are. Research on global AI adoption patterns finds that regions with supportive policies and open access to AI platforms see faster creative uptake ^[21]. For example, European creatives benefit from EU initiatives funding AI in media, while some Global South creators might face barriers in accessing the latest models due to cost or connectivity issues.

Cross-cultural collaboration enabled by AI also brings to the fore ethical considerations about representation and bias. AI models trained predominantly on Western data might unwittingly impose those cultural norms on content. Conversely, localized AI might silo creators into regional styles. An ideal design principle emerging is to foster inclusive AI systems – those that allow customization or have been trained on diverse international datasets ^[11]. Some projects actively address this: for instance, multilingual datasets and voice models ensure that an AI dubbing tool preserves the emotional tone across languages, not just the literal meaning ^[26].

In summary, AI has both shrunk and segmented the world of filmmaking. It shrinks it by enabling seamless international collaboration and distribution – a film can be co-created by a team spanning the globe and reach a global audience with AI-mediated localization. Yet it segments it insofar as access to AI tech and the behavior of AI can differ by locale. Ensuring broad accessibility (through open licensing or equitable service distribution) and cultural adaptability of AI tools will be crucial to realizing AI’s full global creative potential. Encouragingly, projects like OT2R suggest that when these tools are harnessed inclu-

sively, the result is not cultural homogenization, but rather a richer synthesis of voices – a truly global artistic statement made possible by technology ^[4].

4.6. Ethical, Legal, and Social Considerations

The rise of AI in video production has brought a host of ethical and legal dilemmas to the forefront, as well as social implications for the creative workforce. Intellectual property (IP) rights are a central concern. AI systems can generate content that mimics or is derived from existing works, blurring the lines of authorship and ownership ^[9]. In our context, OT2R’s remake of Terminator 2 was authorized and framed as an artistic tribute, but it still sparked debate: Who is the “author” of the AI-generated elements – the original creators, the artists operating the AI, or the AI’s creators? Traditional copyright law does not neatly account for AI-generated material. Some jurisdictions have begun to consider AI outputs unprotected by copyright (treating them as public domain or as owned by the tool provider), while others lean toward attributing them to the human who directed the AI. This patchwork of approaches creates complications for international productions ^[30]. A practical step by major studios has been to require documentation of how AI was used in production and agreements on credit and rights before projects begin. For example, Warner Bros. developed internal protocols to track and attribute AI contributions, ensuring that if an AI system significantly contributed to a creative element, it’s logged for legal attribution purposes ^[7]. Such frameworks are still evolving, but they represent efforts to preempt conflicts and to respect the spirit of creative rights even as definitions evolve.

Another pressing legal aspect is content authenticity and attribution. With deepfakes and advanced generative video, it can be difficult to tell AI-generated footage from real. This raises potential for misuse (creating counterfeit performances or misrepresenting actors) and complicates the authenticity of documentaries or news if AI is involved. Industry bodies and researchers call for standards to watermark or otherwise mark AI-generated media ^[7]. Indeed, Google’s Veo 3 and Imagen outputs include invisible watermarks via Google’s SynthID technology, as a measure to later detect AI content ^[7]. There’s consensus that transparent disclosure of AI usage is ethical and often legally prudent, especially in commercial content to

avoid misleading consumers^[9]. In film credits, this might translate to not only crediting human roles but also the AI systems used (some projects have started listing AI tools in the end credits, akin to how software like Maya or Houdini might be acknowledged). Additionally, the concept of moral rights of actors and creators is challenged when AI can replicate their likeness or style. Unions (such as SAG-AFTRA in the U.S.) have raised strong concerns and are negotiating guidelines for the use of AI in replicating actors' performances. An infamous point of debate is whether background actors can be scanned once and then AI-generated in perpetuity without further consent or pay – clearly a scenario existing contracts never anticipated.

Ethical considerations extend to how AI might displace or affect jobs. There is a palpable anxiety in the creative community that AI tools could render certain roles obsolete – from junior editors to voice actors. As generative models such as OpenAI's Sora and Google's Veo automate traditionally human-led tasks—including background design, in-betweening, and voice synthesis—the demand for junior artists, animators, and voice actors may decline^[5,7]. This shift risks exacerbating precarity among freelance and entry-level workers, who constitute a large portion of the global animation workforce. Moreover, as AI-generated content becomes more indistinguishable from human-made animation, questions of credit attribution and artistic ownership intensify^[8]. Without transparent frameworks to delineate human and machine contributions, animators may be reduced to supervisory roles or relegated to post-production tasks, undermining their creative agency. Some indie filmmakers praise AI for giving them capabilities without big budgets, but Hollywood guilds have expressed fear that the cost-saving incentives of AI adoption may lead studios to prioritize efficiency over fair compensation and inclusive labor practices^[9]. This was evident in the mixed reception to OpenAI's Sora: while embraced by some as a creative aid, it has been controversial with actors and artists who worry about being replaced^[32]. These social implications have tangible outcomes: for instance, the 2023–2024 Writers Guild and Screen Actors Guild strikes in the U.S. prominently featured demands to regulate AI usage in writing and acting. As a result, ethical guidelines are being proposed. UNESCO's 2023 conference on AI in filmmaking emphasized a human-centric approach: AI

should augment, not replace, human creativity^[27]. They advocate for policies where AI can handle repetitive or dangerous tasks, freeing humans for higher-level creative and interpretive work – a stance aligning with our observations that AI works best as partner rather than autonomous auteur.

From a legal-tech integration perspective, solutions like blockchain for rights management have been floated. For example, content credentials might be embedded in each piece of media, tracking its provenance and any AI alterations. Smart contracts could ensure that if an AI-derived element is used, the original rights holders get automatically compensated if applicable. While largely experimental, these ideas reflect a push to marry technology with legal frameworks to keep pace with AI developments^[31].

Ethically, there's also a cultural consideration: AI could inadvertently propagate biases present in training data, leading to stereotypes or exclusion in generated content. Awareness of this has led some creators to carefully curate training datasets or fine-tune models to correct biases (for example, ensuring an AI doesn't always generate protagonists of one gender or ethnicity unless contextually needed). The concept of ethical AI design mandates incorporating fairness and diversity goals into model development. In creative industries, this also touches on representation: will AI tools enable more diverse storytellers by lowering entry barriers, or will they flood the market with homogenized AI-generated content that drowns out human originality? The answer likely hinges on policy and practice: if used thoughtfully, AI could democratize creativity (as we noted, more voices creating content); if abused or left unchecked, it could concentrate power (studios churning out formulaic AI content without creatives).

In summary, the ethical, legal, and social dimension is perhaps the most critical to address to ensure AI's transformative potential is realized responsibly. Frameworks for accountability and transparency are needed so that audiences can trust content and creators can secure their rights^[9]. Industry-wide collaborations, including technologists, lawmakers, and creatives, are in progress to shape guidelines. For instance, the Partnership on AI (a multi-stakeholder group) has a working group on AI in media & entertainment, aiming to publish best practices. Our

article reinforces that technology adoption in filmmaking cannot be divorced from these human considerations: the true measure of AI’s success in cinema will not just be efficiency or even creativity, but whether it upholds the values of artistic integrity, equity for creators, and respect for audiences.

4.7. Toward Design Principles for AI-Assisted Filmmaking

Synthesizing the findings from technology, user behavior, and industry outcomes, we can articulate several design principles and best practices for integrating AI into video production systems and workflows. These principles aim to guide both developers of AI tools and creative practitioners in leveraging AI’s strengths while mitigating its risks.

Human-Centric Creative Control ensures that human creators maintain the “last word” in creative decisions, as AI systems should be designed to augment human creativity, not eclipse it ^[12]. This means UIs and workflows must allow artists to easily override or adjust AI outputs. For example, OT2R’s pipeline let each artist choose when to use a generative suggestion and when to rely on manual methods, preserving individual artistic vision within the collective process ^[4]. Prioritizing human agency sustains creative integrity and trust in the tools.

Transparency and Attribution embed transparency into AI tools and content, so creators and end-users should know when AI is used and what its contributions are. This principle can be implemented via features like content credentials or watermarks for AI outputs ^[32], and by documenting AI’s role in project notes or credits. Such transparency not only addresses ethical concerns but also aids creative debugging, allowing artists to trace an artifact to an AI process versus human error.

Iterative Collaboration Workflow adopts iterative, feedback-rich workflows between humans and AI. The most successful outcomes occurred when teams treated AI interaction as a continuous dialogue, generating, reviewing, refining rather than a one-shot automation ^[18]. Tools should support rapid iteration with fast preview generation and fine-grained controls to facilitate this. Google’s Flow, for instance, emphasizes an iterative creative loop (“time slows down” to let creators experiment) ^[7], which is a

model for future systems.

Modularity and Integration design AI systems to integrate seamlessly with existing production pipelines through modular architecture. Given the plethora of software in filmmaking (editing programs, engines, etc.), AI tools should provide APIs or plug-ins that drop into these ecosystems ^[15]. Modularity also means different AI components (for dialogue, visuals, etc.) can be swapped or upgraded independently, increasing adaptability. This flexibility was key in OT2R’s case, which combined off-the-shelf AI services with custom tools through a modular pipeline ^[4].

Tailoring and Context Awareness recognize that one size does not fit all, therefore AI tools should be tailored to specific project needs and cultural contexts. Whether it’s training an AI on a particular visual style for a film, or tuning it to local cultural sensibilities, customization is crucial ^[11]. AI developers should enable fine-tuning on user-provided data and support multi-language or region-specific modes. This ensures relevance and reduces unintended bias or misfires in diverse contexts.

Robust Quality Assurance Mechanisms incorporate multi-level quality checks for AI outputs. As discussed, successful productions implemented both algorithmic and human QA for AI-generated content ^[20]. Designers of AI systems should include features for self-evaluation (confidence scores, anomaly detection) to flag issues, and facilitate human review workflows, perhaps by highlighting AI-generated segments for special attention in the editing timeline. This principle helps maintain high standards and catches errors early.

Ethical and Legal Compliance by Design bakes in support for rights management and ethical use. For instance, AI systems could require users to confirm they have rights to input data to avoid IP infringement in training and could allow metadata tagging of outputs with source attributions ^[31]. Following emerging standards (like Europe’s AI Act or IEEE’s AI ethics guidelines) in system design will future-proof tools. An example is integrating a feature that if an actor’s likeness is synthesized, it automatically logs that for later contract use or residual calculations – a forward-looking design given union concerns.

User Training and Support accompany AI deployment with adequate training for users and developers. A

tool is only as effective as its operator's skill. Providing tutorials, case studies, and support forums helps creative professionals climb the learning curve, fostering adoption and responsible use ^[20]. Likewise, involving end-users in design (through beta programs or co-design sessions) ensures the tool genuinely addresses production pain points.

By adhering to these principles, stakeholders can better realize AI's transformative potential in creative workflows while respecting collaborative models and mitigating risks. Ultimately, the goal is an "AI-human co-creative system" wherein each complements the other's strengths: AI offers speed, scale, and novel suggestions; humans provide judgment, emotional intelligence, and ethical context. This symbiosis, thoughtfully designed, can push the frontiers of cinematic art without compromising its human core ^[14].

4.8. Limitations and Future Challenges

This article explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and video production through a multifaceted analysis of technical, creative, organizational, and ethical dimensions. Nevertheless, several limitations must be acknowledged to contextualize the scope of the findings and identify directions for further inquiry.

The analysis is based exclusively on published literature, technical reports, media documentation, and publicly available production case studies. While these sources offer detailed insight into tools and workflows, they do not provide access to confidential project data or internal evaluation protocols, which could reveal deeper mechanisms of decision-making, error correction, and adaptive iteration in professional environments ^[33]. As such, the article reflects the discursive layer of innovation rather than operational practices in situ.

Furthermore, the technologies examined in this study are evolving rapidly. Text-to-video models (e.g., OpenAI's Sora), generative sound design systems, and multimodal production platforms are frequently updated or superseded, leading to continuous shifts in their features, accessibility, and user interfaces ^[34,35]. The pace of development complicates efforts to stabilize theoretical frameworks or to define long-term patterns of use. Many implementations remain provisional or experimental, and their outcomes cannot yet be projected with confidence beyond specific production cycles. This reflects a broader "pacing problem" where

technological change outstrips critical and regulatory assessment ^[36].

Another limitation involves the absence of empirical audience studies or user-centered research on emotional impact, aesthetic perception, and engagement with AI-generated content. While technical capabilities can be objectively described, the reception of AI-enhanced film remains a relatively underexplored area. Systematic investigation into how viewers perceive narrative continuity, character realism, or visual coherence in AI-assisted scenes would offer valuable perspectives on the effectiveness of current tools. Such research would move beyond technical description to offer vital feedback on the communicative efficacy of these tools, potentially engaging with established concepts like the "uncanny valley" in this new context ^[37].

Geographic and infrastructural disparities also influence access to AI video production technologies. Tools may be restricted by licensing agreements, cloud service availability, or policy constraints that vary across national contexts. This creates a new digital divide between "compute-haves" and "have-nots". Furthermore, factors such as language model support and last-mile connectivity determine whether creators in different regions can meaningfully participate in the AI-driven creative economy. A critical examination of these conditions is necessary to prevent the global expansion of these tools from exacerbating existing inequalities or marginalizing non-Western cultural perspectives ^[38].

Additionally, the environmental cost of AI development and deployment in the creative industries remains insufficiently addressed. The immense energy requirements for training and operating large-scale generative models present significant challenges to ecological sustainability ^[39]. As AI integration becomes standard practice in audiovisual production, the associated computational and carbon footprint demands rigorous scrutiny. Efficient model design, responsible data use, and infrastructure optimization are necessary areas of research and innovation, especially as production scales increase.

Finally, the professional implications of AI implementation warrant further analysis. As new tools automate or augment traditional roles, the industry must consider how job profiles, training needs, and creative responsibili-

ties are shifting. The emergence of hybrid roles, such as the “AI prompt engineer” or “generative supervisor”, signals a shift toward human-machine collaboration but also raises urgent questions about job security, skill valuation, and the future of creative labor^[40].

Advancing this field requires robust, interdisciplinary research that bridges media studies, computer science, legal scholarship, and cultural analysis. The evolution of AI in filmmaking is not a matter of mere technological potentiality; it is a complex process that demands conceptual clarity, ethical vigilance, and a commitment to equitable access. Resisting technological determinism in favor of critical, human-centered frameworks will ultimately shape the trajectory, legitimacy, and cultural value of creative innovation in the years to come.

5. Conclusions

The comprehensive analysis presented in this article highlights a transformative moment in video production, where AI technologies are fundamentally reshaping creative practices, workflows, and industry dynamics. Through detailed examination of implementations like *Our T2 Remake* and emerging tools such as OpenAI’s Sora and Google’s Veo 3, our research demonstrates both the tremendous potential and the significant challenges that AI integration brings to filmmaking^[3,5,7]. The case of *OT2R* illustrates AI’s power to enable radical new forms of collaboration and creative expression: a diverse group of 50 artists, armed with generative AI, reimagined a classic film in ways previously unimaginable^[4]. Concurrently, the development of advanced systems like Vidu 1.5 with consistency controls shows that technical barriers to longer-form, coherent AI-generated content are being overcome^[41]. We have effectively reached a juncture where AI video generation is no longer a novelty but approaching a level of maturity suitable for professional use.

Significantly, recent advances address prior limitations: maintaining visual and narrative consistency across extended sequences and ensuring quality at scale. The launch of sophisticated models and tools in 2024–2025 (e.g., Veo 3’s audio synchronization, Flow’s cinematic controls) underscores the progress in overcoming earlier shortcomings^[7]. Yet, audience reception studies remind us that technical achievement doesn’t automatically equal emo-

tional resonance^[28]. Early screenings of AI-heavy content suggest that while viewers are impressed by the visuals, they can sometimes sense an intangible difference in storytelling or authenticity. This indicates ongoing refinement is needed on the creative front – narrative coherence and audience engagement must remain key metrics alongside technical fidelity.

The industry is witnessing a restructuring of production economics and market dynamics as a result of AI. High-end production capabilities, once siloed in major studios, are becoming accessible to new players, forcing established studios to adapt and innovate their business models^[13]. This shift is evident in how AI is transforming each phase of filmmaking: pre-production visualization, on-set production (with virtual sets and real-time effects), and post-production editing are all accelerated and augmented. While this democratization is a boon for creativity and innovation, it also raises questions about sustainability – if content production becomes vastly more efficient, could it lead to a glut of content? How will audiences and distribution platforms respond? The industry must also consider professional development: roles are evolving, and education/training pipelines need to catch up so that creative workers can thrive in an AI-rich environment^[20].

Legal and ethical implications remain a critical concern. The balance between embracing innovation and protecting rights is delicate. This study underscores the need for updated frameworks for content rights and attribution in AI-assisted productions^[42]. International cooperation will likely be necessary, given the global nature of media distribution. There are encouraging signs: for instance, coalitions of studios and tech firms have begun discussing AI content accreditation standards and best practices to avoid legal quagmires. Nevertheless, the emergence of powerful AI tools has outpaced regulation, creating a window of uncertainty where questions of content ownership and creative credit are negotiated on a case-by-case basis^[42]. Our article suggests that proactively developing industry guidelines (in line with principles outlined in Section 4.7) will be key to addressing these concerns before they hinder progress.

Looking to the future, continued development of AI in video production will need to focus on a few critical areas. First, human-AI collaboration models must ensure

technology enhances rather than diminishes artistic expression^[14]. This involves not just tool design but also cultivating a culture where AI is seen as a creative partner. Second, industry standards for quality and evaluation of AI-generated content should be established – potentially even new genres or aesthetic criteria will emerge as AI-driven content proliferates. Third, sustainable practices in AI implementation should be considered: optimizing algorithms for energy efficiency, reusing models, and minimizing the carbon footprint of AI-heavy productions will align with global sustainability goals^[32]. Moreover, as AI continues to transform animation and filmmaking, it raises urgent ethical questions around labor, creativity, and credit attribution. While AI tools can empower independent creators, they also threaten to displace junior and freelance workers, intensify precarity, and erode artistic agency. Industry debates—from Hollywood strikes to global policy forums—underscore the need for clear, human-centered frameworks that ensure AI complements rather than replaces human creativity. Lastly, continued interdisciplinary research is needed to examine long-term impacts: how will AI reshape narrative forms? Will audiences develop different expectations for AI-crafted films? Addressing such questions will require perspectives from technologists, filmmakers, psychologists, and sociologists alike.

In conclusion, our research contributes to understanding how AI is transforming the creative industries, offering insights for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers navigating this evolving landscape. The evidence indicates that AI's role in video production is only set to grow, heralding a new era where human creativity and artificial intelligence work in harmony to produce compelling and innovative content^[43]. Projects like OT2R demonstrate a potential future in which creative collaboration occurs not just among humans across the globe, but also in partnership with intelligent machines^[4]. As Manovich suggests, the future of AI in video production lies not in the replacement of human creativity, but in developing sophisticated collaborative frameworks that amplify human potential while preserving the core of artistic vision^[8]. The challenge and opportunity ahead is to craft implementation strategies that leverage these technological capabilities while nurturing the human elements essential to meaningful storytelling^[14]. If we achieve this balance between in-

novation and integrity, the next generation of cinema will see AI not just as a tool, but as a genuine partner in the creative process – a partner that can help realize imaginations on-screen in ways previously unattainable yet always guided by human insight and purpose^[12].

Author Contributions

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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