

FROM THE WALKTHROUGH · FICTION.SHOW AI FILMMAKING

SETUP.ROLL.

Hand it to your agent.

Everything from the guided tutorial on one reference: what to install, how to connect your agent, how to pick a mode, where every control lives, and the agent-driven workflow that gets you from book to footage. Learn the app so you know where things are; then do as little by hand as possible.

Mac · Windows

APP + STUDIO SKILLS

Bring your own keys

PAY PROVIDERS DIRECTLY

MCP-native

RUNS WITH YOUR AGENT

DaVinci Resolve

STUDIO BEST · FREE WORKS

01 WHAT YOU NEED

- ✦ **Fiction.show account** with an active subscription (alpha access via the Substack). Use the same email and password for Fiction.show and the Studio app.
- ✦ **The app** from your account area: Mac Apple Silicon, Mac Intel, or Windows 64-bit.
- ✦ **Studio Skills** folder. Download it alongside the app. The agent won't run the pipeline properly without it.
- ✦ **A desktop AI agent on a Max-tier plan.** ChatGPT Desktop in Codex mode running the Astra agent is the recommendation: the only agent so far that can edit the final cut in DaVinci. Claude works too, but can't edit. Lower tiers won't cover running the agent.
- ✦ **A video editor.** DaVinci Resolve **Studio** (paid) is the best path; the agent edits directly inside it. The free version is reported to work, possibly with extra steps. Premiere is untested; ask Astra.
- ✦ **Provider API keys** with a small balance (see 05). None of these are affiliated with Fiction.show; get them separately.

02 INSTALL & SIGN IN

- ✦ **Mac:** drag the app into Applications (or double-click, then drag). **Windows:** standard installer.
- ✦ **Skills:** Settings > Account > Show skills in Downloads. Open Fiction.show Studio Skills; follow its README. Install all seven skills and keep any customized copies.
- ✦ **Sign-in screen:**
Use your Fiction.show email and password. If needed, choose Forgot password and enter your recovery code.
- ✦ **Home screen:** manage your subscription, switch accounts, sign out, refresh, create or open a project.
- ✦ **New project:** choose Continuity or Realism (see 04), choose a folder, name it.

03 CONNECT YOUR DESKTOP AGENT

01 Start in Agent Setup.

It is the first tab in Continuity and Realism.
Choose your agent app and turn the connection on.

02 Copy Prompt for Your Agent.

Send that prompt in your agent chat; follow its steps.
If you're not sure of a step, ask it to explain.
Copy Connection Settings contains credentials:
put these in config or terminal, never in chat.

03 Verify the connection.

Keep Studio open on the same computer as your agent.
Ask the agent to confirm it can read the app over MCP.

04 Advanced connection settings

Find this under Agent Setup for port and token controls.
Set Up MCP Automatically: only if you are new to MCP.

AGENT SETTINGS THAT MATTER

- ✦ **Approval: "Approve for me."** "Always ask" means clicking Approve every five seconds. Nervous about file access? Use a spare machine.
- ✦ **Reasoning: high** (medium is still very smart). Skip the extra modes; they just burn usage.
- ✦ **Plan tier.** \$200 rolls all day; \$100 works to start; \$20 won't get far. Use weekly resets; skip purchased credits (heavily prorated).
- ✦ Watch runs from the **ChatGPT phone app**; say "Stop, go back, fix this" if it drifts.

04 PICK A MODE *(you can switch, but don't bounce)*

	CONTINUITY 2.0	REALISM 1.0
	STORYBOARD-DRIVEN BUDGET · KEEPS CHEAPER MODELS ON TRACK	VIDEO-TO-VIDEO FRONTIER · BEST PERFORMANCES & LIKENESS
How it holds continuity	Always rolls a storyboard from your character cards, then follows it. Also slices frames forward.	No storyboards. Each video (or its sliced frames) becomes the reference for the next.
Clip length	Models up to ~15 seconds.	Models up to ~30 seconds.
Model choice	Seedance 2.0 / 2.0 Fast, Minimax H3 (and Max), Kling variants, Grok, Gemini Omni, more.	Seedance 2.5 and Wan 3.0.
Trade-off	Likeness varies a little more shot to shot. Cheaper.	More realistic acting, stronger likeness. Usually more expensive.
Model picks	Minimax H3 at 768p or 2K (favorite: solid, low budget) or Seedance 2.0 Fast at 480p . Avoid Seedance 2.5 here: it follows storyboards too rigidly.	Optional character voices for continuous audio (slightly flatter performances when bound to a voice).
Upgrading	Older projects: go to <code>Source File</code> and upgrade Continuity 1.0 → 2.0. Costumes are far better and the controls improved. Ignore the legacy "Studio mode" toggle in Settings; it exists only so old projects don't break.	

05 KEYS & MODELS *Bring your own keys. No markup.*

AT EVERY PROVIDER, IN THIS ORDER

- ✦ **Add a balance first.** Start small, \$10–20, until you know you'll stay.
- ✦ **Create the API key.** You see it once. Put it straight into a password manager.
- ✦ **Cap it.** Set a spend limit on the key in the provider dashboard if offered, or fund the account with a Privacy.com card so the balance can't overrun. Basic hygiene with autonomous agents: nothing should be able to overspend by accident.
- ✦ **Watch the provider's usage page** as you generate: it's how you learn what things cost and catch runaway spend early.
- ✦ Paste the key into the Keys tab; a check mark confirms it. Keys can also be changed later in Settings.

CONTENT CHECK Appears throughout the app. It pre-checks and rewrites prompts so providers don't reject them, at a small charge per generation. Leave it **off** unless your material needs it; tone down anything spicy or gory before importing, since provider bounces are counterproductive.

TEXT (STORY PARSING)

- ✦ **OpenRouter** is the best single choice (all the text models); **Anthropic** direct also good. Most parsing runs on Claude models.
- ✦ Keep the model on **Claude Sonnet 4.6**, the most heavily tested. Others work but are untested.
- ✦ It chunks your book into a screenplay and pulls out characters, locations, objects, costumes.

AUDIO

- ✦ Optional. Only matters for character voices in Realism mode.

IMAGE & VIDEO

- ✦ Image model: **GPT Image 2.5 Sunburst** is recommended for storyboards, character and location assets. Leave quality at **2K** default.
- ✦ Rolling Seedance? Use **WaveSpeed**, **Atlas Cloud**, or **Kie.ai**: fewer content-filter refusals on photorealistic inputs.
- ✦ First time: pick **one provider for both** image and video so you only manage two accounts. Choosing an image provider sets video too unless you override.

06 FORMAT & IMPORT

CHOOSE THE FORMAT FIRST: IT DECIDES HOW THE STORY IS CHUNKED

- ✦ **Vertical drama** → a book becomes short vertical episodes.
- ✦ **Short / Medium horizontal** → longer scenes per episode.
- ✦ **Feature film** → a book becomes a feature screenplay. Also the pick when importing an existing feature screenplay.

SOURCE FILE

- ✦ **PDF or DOCX.** Mark it **Book** (auto-converted to a screenplay in the background) or **Screenplay** (left untouched, split into scenes).
- ✦ Dropdown: `Assets + Story` is the default for a new project. Re-run only assets or only story if one side didn't land.
- ✦ **Advanced** → **prompt version**. Prompts are retuned constantly. Note the version that works for you so you can roll back later.
- ✦ **Atticus-exported PDFs:** open `Advanced` in the Import tab to preview how your story will parse, and run a local fix on the text first.
- ✦ Hit extract: story goes to screenplay/scenes while characters, locations, objects and costumes are pulled in parallel.

07 ASSETS TAB, IN ORDER

- ✦ **Style guide.** Presets (animated, realistic), bring your own, or fine-tune medium, film texture and color. The agent can do this for you.
- ✦ **References (optional).** Have Midjourney characters already? Upload and assign them; they seed the main reference sheet rather than replace it.
- ✦ **Characters.** Rolls two reference sheets (views, palette, expressions, personality notes); approve one. Click a card to edit the prompt and rerun. Hit exclude on characters you don't need. Generate voices here if you want voice casting.
- ✦ **Locations.** Same flow, plus a rough blueprint that helps blocking later.
- ✦ **Objects.** Roll only what truly matters. Fewer references per video = less model confusion = better output. Suppress the rest.
- ✦ **Costumes.** Run **after** the story is parsed, then **Analyze costumes**. It swaps only the costume on the character card and auto-matches to scenes; assign any it misses, suppress extras.

08 STORYTAB

- ✦ Left side: episodes with scene counts and an estimated runtime (runs a little high; actual roll time differs).
- ✦ Scenes are in screenplay format. **Edit** to change text; autosave with **version history** and restore. Expanded writing mode, Serif or Courier, adjustable size.
- ✦ **Restart story prep** exists, but re-running with the same model gives near-identical output. Better: tell the agent *"This didn't come out right. Look at it and fix it."*
- ✦ **Tag trailer scenes** / **Tag social scenes** each make one LLM call and mark scenes with dots (different criteria for each). Filter for them in the Video tab to roll trailer material first. The agent can run this too.
- ✦ Everything up to here works the same in both modes. The mode switch (Continuity 2.0 / Realism 1.0) lives in the Video tab header.

09 VIDEO TAB CONTROLS

- ✦ **Resolution:** test at **480p** (way cheaper), re-roll winners higher later.
- ✦ **Continuity references** → **Both** (prior videos + sliced frames). Best continuity found.
- ✦ **Master scene reference:** **on** to start (tighter continuity; off = more freedom).
- ✦ **Character audio samples:** **off** by default. On locks voices; off has more emotion.
- ✦ **Sliced frames: 4 or 8** (end frame always carried forward). **Auto-enhance every N moments** upscales with an image model to stop "photocopy" drift on long runs.
- ✦ **Scene direction / look overrides** (dream sequences, past vs. present): agent territory.
- ✦ **Plan moments** builds prompt cards from the screenplay. Don't roll as-is: have the agent run the **cinematography skill** first.
- ✦ **Moment cards** show duration, model override, the full tagged generation prompt, attached references (open, download, delete), and finished videos. A wrong result is sometimes a mis-tag.
- ✦ **!** Agent set 15s in chat but the card rolled 30s? It sometimes forgets to update the card. Video missing from the queue? Switch scenes and back.
- ✦ **Dots:** white = scene has rolled videos; hollow = moments planned, nothing rolled yet.
- ✦ **Sandbox** = one-off rolls with any scene's references. **Media library** = downloads. The agent does both.

10 GOLDEN RULES

- ✦ **Back everything up before every session:** project, prompts, decisions. Export prompts. Agents can mess up; make it not matter.
- ✦ **Check in about hourly.** Never let it run all day unwatched. Review episodes, note fixes, adjust for the next batch.
- ✦ **Agent first, hands second.** It has every control: *"Change the color of this outfit," "Download all my images," "Stitch my videos."*
- ✦ **Every prompt is editable** under Settings → Prompts. Save your own versions (they override updates). Be careful with system prompts like asset extraction: a rewrite can break the process.
- ✦ **Don't chase tiny details**, especially on verticals. Fix what's majorly off: hair color, eye color, a floating prop.
- ✦ **Check for app updates** in Settings. The pipeline is rebuilt as the model landscape moves.

"Do the least amount by hand as possible. The agent has access to all of these controls."

TREAT IT LIKE SOMEONE YOU HIRED: CHECK EVERY FEW EPISODES, THEN LET IT GO A BIT MORE

AGENT AUTOMATION · THE WORKFLOW THAT ACTUALLY GETS OUTPUT

BRIEF IT ONCE.

Come back to footage.

Once the MCP is connected and the skills are installed, you can run the whole pipeline from the chat and only open the app to hit Approve. Learn the rhythm in guided mode, then let it run episodes while you check in.

11 THE AGENT WORKFLOW *It's a conversation.*

01 Drop in your story.

Drag the screenplay or book into the chat. Have both? Give both: screenplay as the story, book for parsing characters. Book only? Ask it to make the screenplay in the app.

03 Style guide first.

It surfaces two options; approve one in the app (or in chat) and let it continue.

05 First scene, slowly.

It generates the master scene reference and shows it in chat. Ask it to run the cinematography skill before rolling, and the story overview skill if the book was auto-converted.

07 Correct in plain language.

"That's not right, here's why, you figure it out." Or: *"Pull that in, same scene, keep going."* You only need to know that something's wrong, not how to fix it.

09 Parallelize by scene.

Moments within a scene run in order, but scenes starting at different times or places can run four or five at once. Come back to a batch to review.

02 Stay in guided mode

until you have the flow. Every image and video it rolls spends money at your providers.

04 Roll assets.

"Roll all characters, locations and objects, then stop and notify me." Walk away 20–30 minutes, come back, approve. Then costumes.

06 Keep a decision log.

For the first couple of scenes: what went wrong, what you fixed, project-specific checks (*"are the eyes glowing in every shot?"*). The agent learns your style from it.

08 Then let it run an episode.

"Roll episode three." It rolls every moment, picks the best takes, cuts them in DaVinci, and presents the scene. Ask for cuts (the levitating cup) and it handles them.

10 Finish.

No music is added. Use Suno, Mozart, or licensed music (never free rips); add it in DaVinci or hand the file over: *"Give this the soundtrack."*

12 THE SEVEN SKILLS

Follow the bundled README to install the complete set. The agent chooses supporting skills as needed.

App operation - connect and drive Studio.

Ingestion - prepare books and screenplays.

Cinematography - plan and improve shots.

Story analysis - examine structure and continuity.

Editing - assemble and revise footage.

Footage repair - diagnose defects and plan fixes.

Upscale and conform - prepare footage for finishing.

13 RHYTHM OF A SESSION

- ✦ **Start:** back up the project and prompts. Open the app, confirm the agent sees the MCP.
- ✦ **Roll:** give it a scene or episode. Walk away for about an hour.
- ✦ **Review:** watch the videos in the app or in chat. Log what worked, what didn't, what to change next time.
- ✦ **Scale:** when episodes come back clean, queue several non-sequential scenes at once and review them as a batch.
- ✦ **Cut:** ask for the edit in DaVinci, add music, ship it.

"You stay the director: review, redirect, approve."

MAKE THE SHOW ONLY YOU CAN MAKE