

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE AWARE THAT: old 8mm film has an aspect ratio of 1:1, most older TVs have an aspect ratio of 4:3 (also referred to as 'Letterbox') while all newer tv's have a 16:9 aspect ratio (widescreen). In order to create a digital file of your old film you must realize that the process adds pixels to the conversion to increase it's size to 4:3. While 99% of my customers are thrilled to just see the old movies without dragging out the old projector & screen, SOME have expressed concern over the 'quality' of the dvd video, that it's not as clear/crisp as they remember. Being projected 30' away onto a wall or screen doesn't show many of the imperfections in the film (such as scratches, etc) whereas the conversion process picks up every tiny little imperfection - every little bit of 'out of focus' or camera shake is amplified and plainly visible.

Another complication/complaint is directly related to the original processing methods and how well the film was handled through the years and in what conditions it was stored... the issue I'm referring to is 'colour saturation' - I find this a LOT where almost the entire reel has taken on a red or yellow or blue tinge - whatever the dominant colour is for the scene, if the original processing wasn't done correctly or if 'the fix' chemicals were old or approaching the end of their life then the images are 'fixed' properly and the dominant colour will bleed into the rest of the film. For example - if the scene is by a lake or water with a lot of blue sky, IF it's going to saturate, it'll go blue. I have some tools that can tone the saturation down - usually at the expense of the other colours too tho, but at least it won't be all blue. The worst case scenario (as far as immense colour saturation) is I take ALL the colour out and you end up with pretty good black & white stuff!

Bottom line? Please don't expect your converted 8mm film from the 50's or 60's look as sharp and crisp as a new Hollywood movie - remember, that film is potentially 60 years old and likely stored in less than ideal environmental conditions. Just appreciate the fact that you can watch them again without all the hassle of dragging out all the equipment - even if you still have it, and pray the light bulb in the projector doesn't burn through the film or the metal sprockets don't rip the film to shreds if there's a jam...