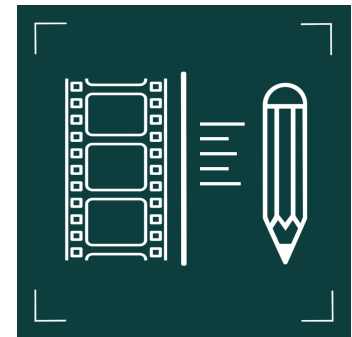


CINEside CONNECT

User Manual

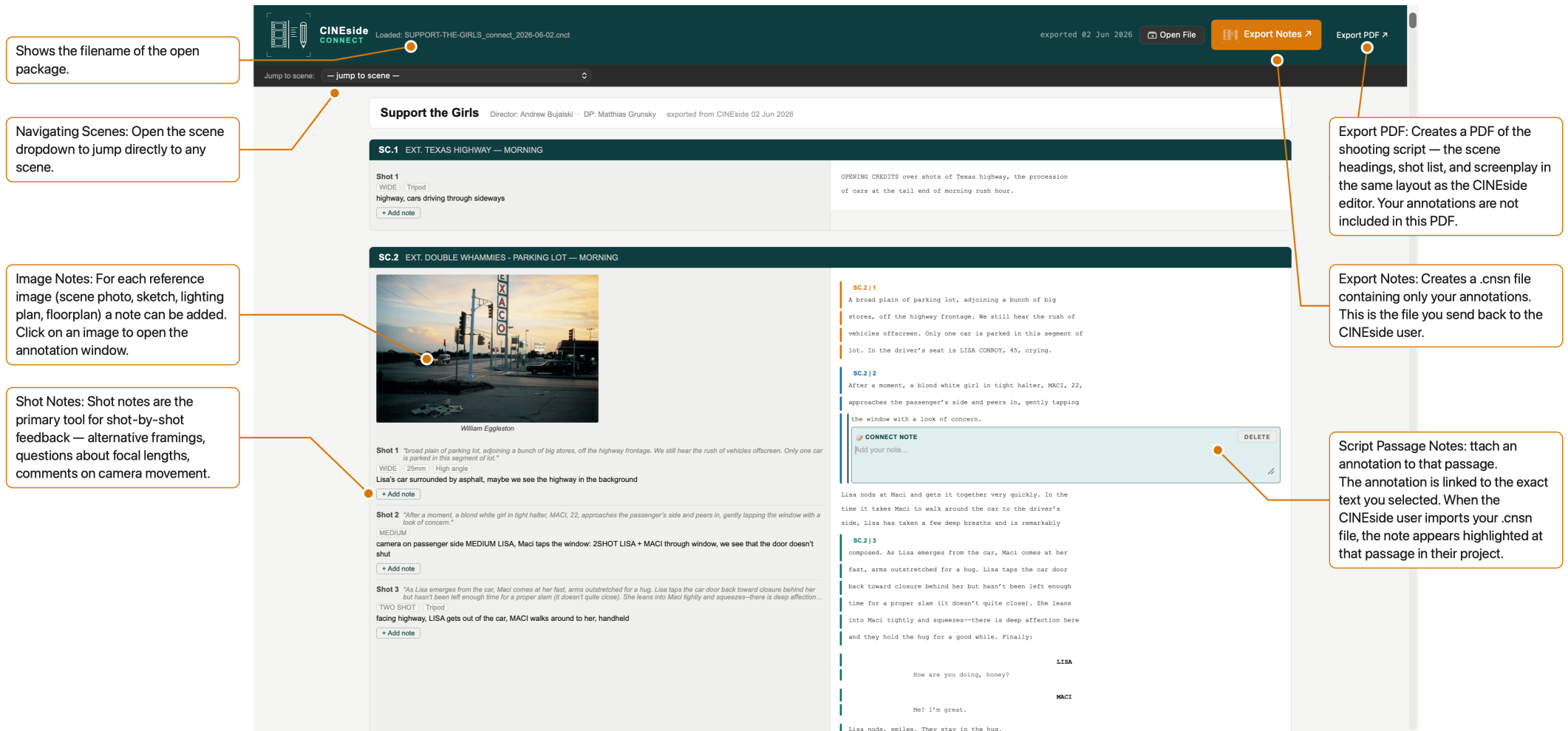
Version 0.2 · macOS

Annotate and collaborate on CINEside projects.



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1 Overview

1.1 What is CINESide CONNECT?

CINESide CONNECT is a free companion app for directors and collaborators. It opens .cnct packages exported from CINESide in read-only mode — the recipient can add annotations to shots, script passages, and reference images, but cannot edit the project itself.

CONNECT works completely offline. Nothing is uploaded or transmitted. All images are embedded in the package — no access to the original CINESide project folder is needed.

CONNECT is role-neutral. Both directions are possible: the cinematographer can send a package to the director for notes, or the director can send a package to the cinematographer. Any collaborator can use CONNECT regardless of their role in the project.

1.2 What CONNECT is not

CONNECT is not a full editing environment. Shots cannot be added, scene information cannot be changed, and project data cannot be modified. It is a focused annotation tool — designed for one clear purpose: structured feedback on a CINESide project.

CONNECT handles the creative collaboration layer between cinematographer and director during prep.

1.3 File Formats

<code>.cnct</code>		The CONNECT package. A self-contained file created by CINESide via CONNECT → Export ↗. Contains the complete shooting script, shot list, and all reference images. Read-only — open in CINESide CONNECT to annotate.
<code>.cnst</code>		The notes file you export after annotating. Contains only your annotations — no project data, no images. Send this back to the CINESide user for import. Small file size.

Both file types are registered on macOS — double-clicking either one opens the correct application automatically.

2 Getting Started

2.1 Opening a Package

Double-click a .cnct file to open it in CINESide CONNECT. Alternatively, launch CONNECT and click Open to select a file manually. The package is self-contained — all images are embedded. No internet connection is required.

2.2 Interface Layout

The layout mirrors CINESide: shots and notes on the left column, screenplay on the right. All fields are read-only — the only interactive elements are the note fields you add.

Toolbar (top)	Project title, scene navigation, export controls.
Scene navigation bar	Dropdown to move between scenes. The dropdown lists all scene headings for quick jumping.
Shots column (left)	All shots for the current scene, with their fields displayed read-only. Each shot has a note field at the bottom for your annotations.
Script column (right)	The screenplay text for the current scene. Select any passage to attach a note to it.
Window title bar	Shows the filename of the open package.

2.3 Navigating Scenes

Open the scene dropdown to jump directly to any scene.

Visual references (reference photos, sketches, lighting plans, floorplans) are shown below the scene fields. Each image gets its own note field when clicked on.

3 Adding Notes

CONNECT offers three types of annotation, corresponding to the three kinds of content in a CINEside package.

3.1 Shot Notes

Every shot has a note button directly below its technical fields. Click the button and type your annotation. There is no length limit. Shot notes are the primary tool for shot-by-shot feedback — alternative framings, questions about focal lengths, comments on camera movement, intentions.

3.2 Script Passage Notes

Select any text in the script column to attach an annotation to that passage. The annotation is linked to the exact text you selected. When the CINEside user imports your .cnsn file, the note appears highlighted at that passage in their project.

Script passage notes are especially useful for flagging specific lines of dialogue or action beats that require a particular visual approach — marking the exact moment rather than leaving a general scene note.

3.3 Image Notes

For each reference image (scene photo, sketch, lighting plan, floorplan) a note can be added. Click on an image to open the annotation window. Image notes travel back with the .cnsn file and appear in CINEside attached to the corresponding image.

Shot note	Attached to a specific shot. Visible in the shot list in CINEside after import.
Script passage note	Linked to a selected text passage. Highlighted in the script after import.
Image note	Attached to a reference photo, sketch, or floorplan image.

4 Exporting

When you have finished annotating, CONNECT offers two export options. Both are accessible via the Export button in the toolbar.

4.1 Export Notes (.cnsn)

Creates a .cnsn file containing only your annotations. This is the file you send back to the CINEside user. The notes file is small — it contains no images and no project data, only the text of your annotations and the identifiers that link them to their locations in the project. A save dialog asks where to place the file and what to name it. The CINEside user imports it by double-clicking.

4.2 Export PDF

Creates a PDF of the shooting script — the scene headings, shot list, and screenplay in the same layout as the CINEside editor. Your annotations are not included in this PDF. This export is useful when a collaborator needs a printed or distributable version of the current shooting script without access to CINEside.

Export Notes	A .cnsn file with all your annotations. Send this back to the CINEside user for import. This is the main collaboration output.
Export PDF	A PDF of the shooting script for printing or distribution. Does not include your annotations.

You can export a .cnsn file multiple times during a session — for example to send partial feedback. Each export captures all annotations added so far. The CINEside user can import multiple .cnsn files; each import adds the new annotations without removing previous ones.

5 The Full Workflow

CONNECT supports two directions of collaboration. Both follow the same pattern: one person exports a package, the other annotates and returns a notes file.

5.1 Cinematographer sends to Director

- 1 Export package:** In CINESide, click CONNECT → Export ↗ in the toolbar. CINESide creates a .cnct package with the shot list, script, and all reference images embedded.
- 2 Send the file:** Send the .cnct file by email or file transfer. The recipient does not need a CINESide license — only the free CINESide CONNECT app.
- 3 Director annotates:** The director opens the file in CINESide CONNECT, adds notes to shots, script passages, and images, then exports a .cnsn file and sends it back.
- 4 Import notes:** The cinematographer double-clicks the .cnsn file. The annotations appear highlighted in the CINESide project.

5.2 Director sends to Cinematographer

The procedure is identical in reverse. The director exports a .cnct package from their CINESide project (Director mode) and sends it to the cinematographer, who annotates in CONNECT and returns a .cnsn file.

5.3 Importing Notes in CINESide

In CINESide, import a .cnsn file by double-clicking it, or via CONNECT → Import Notes in the toolbar. All annotations appear highlighted in the project — on shots, script passages, and images. A green floating Next Note button appears at the bottom right of the window.

N / P	Navigate to the next or previous unreviewed note (keyboard shortcut).
✓ (checkmark)	Mark a note as reviewed. It remains visible but is no longer counted as pending.
→ Note	Copy the annotation into a permanent scene note in CINESide. This is how you integrate a collaborator's feedback into your project data.
×	Delete the annotation.

CONNECT Notes are not included in any CINESide export unless you copy them to a scene note using the → Note button.

6 Keyboard Shortcuts

SHORTCUT	ACTION
Cmd+Q	Quit CINESide CONNECT

7 Limitations

CINESide CONNECT is intentionally focused. The following operations are not available:

Adding shots	The shot list is read-only. New shots can only be created in CINESide.
Editing scene data	Scene headers, technical fields, and all project metadata are read-only.
Adding or removing images	Reference photos, sketches, and floorplans cannot be added or removed in CONNECT.
Cloud sync	CONNECT works entirely offline. No data is transmitted or stored remotely.

8 Support

Questions, feedback, and bug reports: info@cineside.app
Every message is read personally.

Website: cineside.app
Getting Started guide: cineside.app/getting-started.html