Alisha Farrouq

Culmination Project

The Unwanted Trip

The *Unwanted Trip* is a about the unwanted adventure of two students (Roger and Austin) and Austin’s uncle (Matt). The movie starts off with Roger and Austin working on their school project / presentation which is due later that same day. Once they finished working on their project Matt agrees to drop Roger back home. Along the way Matt told them he has an “important errand” to do, unaware of what the errand is Roger and Austin agreed it was okay with them; he can do it with them in the car. Matt went to do his errand, which was a drug deliver. This is where it started to go down hill as an old “friend” (Madd Dogg) of Matt showed up after being in jail for 5 years, demanding his money that Matt owes him. This is where their adventure starts. From here on Matt drags Roger and Austin along to find Madd Dogg his money, Roger gets the experience of a lifetime since immigrating to America from Africa.

To start with, I got on board with this project because initially 4 friends and I had the idea of producing a game show. My role in that would be camera operator and video editor. Unfortunately due to a lot of miscommunication between a professor, and us the game show idea got shut down. So that’s when I ask Ketak if he was still in need of a partner for his culmination project. He said yes and brought me on as a video editor. What is a video editor? To me a video editor is someone who brings the story together and brings it alive. Without an editor you don’t have a movie, just raw footage. My path of becoming a video editor wasn’t a straight and easy one. It had a lot of hard turns. At first I wanted to act then be a director then a cinematographer, but I realize being a cinematographer had to deal with lights and I cannot handle lights at all. Then finally I took Editing Skills with Professor Travino and started to develop a interest to editing. Which then made me enroll in his Advanced Editing Skills course, that’s where my interest grew even stronger and where I made the finally decision that video editing is where my future is. In the Editing Skills and Advanced Editing Skills I learned Avid, but for my culmination project I self taught myself Adobe Premiere. Learning Premiere for my culmination was my biggest challenge. Some ways I prepared to use Adobe Premiere was by watching a lot of online video tutorials from Youtube and Adobe website. It also helped that I work at a library I took out some Adobe Premiere textbooks to go over. With what I learnt from online and the textbooks I used to make small promotional videos for people such as this: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j7iz8iOFSI> ). I in addition did a short video for an assignment in Professor Ryoya’s Digital Video class. (<https://youtu.be/d-6KiJ-tAGI>) Area 54

To continue, the editing process was a very long one, to the point where Ketak and I had to asked for an extension. To start off, I began the editing process by thoroughly reading the script more than once to get familiar with the storyline. Then once I received the first set of footage (which was on Thanksgiving Day) I went through it and organized it, by making bins for each day of footage. After that creating proxies for each shoot day to help the editing process go faster. (EXPLAIN WHAT PROXIES ARE AND THE PROBLEMS THAT HAPPES WHEN SWITCCHING COMPUTERS) Next step was to make individual sequences for each day/scene to sync audio, along with the main sequence, which I used to bring everything together. Along with editing through footage and audio files I in addition had to look for non-copyrighted songs to use as part of the soundtrack for the film (with / without vocals). Ketak did Green Screen and Color Grading but I was there to look on to the process.

Besides self-teaching myself Adobe Premiere, this culmination project came with a lot of challenges. To begin with an ongoing issue through out the entirety on the project was communication/scheduling between Ketak and myself. Also during production shoots cancellations and changing of shoot days and actors schedules resulted in delay of receiving footage and audio. This project was the first time creating proxies. I would say I was pretty successful in following the steps in order to create it with Adobe Encoder. But the first set of proxies I made took about two days to load. This is because my computer kept going to sleep, which disrupted the transcoding of proxies progress. Due to the fact that the first set of proxies took so long, Ketak took it upon himself to do the rest of the proxies on his computer. Which then created an issue when I continued editing on my desktop, in order to fix the problem I had to resync the files. My biggest issue with this project was AUDIO! The first set of audio files I received wasn’t properly organized. There was files within files within files, as for labeling it wasn’t label according to the day it was shot, or the scene / take, it had a default name to it. Therefore I had to listen to each file individually to know what it was. Also each take had four different tracks to it and each track was in a folder of its own. On top of that some takes didn’t have a slate to it making it difficult to sync with the footage. As for an video editor the extremely late nights and all nighters was part of the experience.

The main objective of doing this project was to learn Adobe Premiere. As I stated before in Editing Skills I and Advanced Editing Skills I learned Avid, I also vaguely learned Adobe Premiere in ENT 1190 but that was more than 3 years ago and since then I haven’t touched the software again. So I had to relearn everything on my own, which wasn’t as difficult as I thought it would be but it was defiantly a longer process than I thought. My knowledge of Avid was no help in learning Adobe Premiere. To me the two software’s are very different. One thing that I did learn though in Professor Travino’s Editing Skills classes that did help my editing process was how to organize my files (Footage, Audio, Sequences etc.) in bins.

To conclude, as a team Ketak and I wanted to produce a great product and strong story, so the audience can have a feel for the movie, to which I can say we achieved, even though we ended up cutting the script. Our expected duration of the film was to be around 20-30 minutes long our edited result was 25 minutes along. My ultimate goal was to learn and gain more knowledge of Adobe Premiere, I am proud of how much I’ve learned in the given time, to where I am comfortable in using it to do more edits in the future.

***BUDGET:***

Adobe Premiere - Student Discount $29.99 per month

***SCHEDULE:***

- Footage received Nov 28th, 2019

- Editing started Nov 30th, 2019

Continued On:

- Dec 1st, 2019

- Dec 5th – 7th , 2019

- Dec 10th – 16th 2019

- Jan 6th-9th 2020

- Jan 15th – 17th 2020

- Every Monday and Tuesday in Feb 2020

- Feb 24th – 26th 2020

\* Some days are missing \*