My name is Brandon DeSouza and I am currently a student at New York City College of Technology. Im 27 years old and I am currently working as a freelance photographer. Ever since a toddler I was gifted with the talent of drawing, artists ran in my family. I went on to pursue this love for art and honing my skill with different mediums but as a child at the age of 13 I found myself intrigued with cameras. Capturing and savoring the moment, like a memory bank. It gave me a feeling of excitement and satisfaction. I went on to peruse my interest in taking pictures when I was accepted into the photography program at Abraham Lincoln High School in 2005. Soon after I would go on to attend Kingsborough Community College where I achieved a degree for Fine Arts with a focus of photography. Fast forward to 2018, I am currently in my senior year of in the Entertainment Technology bachelors degree program at New York City College of Technology. My 10+ years of learning cameras and photography from a technical stand point led me to excel in my Lighting and Video tracks.

For my culmination I am proposing to do a documentary project based on a good friend of mine who also happens to be a professional boxer. The documentary will be based on Earl Newman and will revolve around his life day to day as he trains for his upcoming bouts and continuing his journey to becoming a boxing legend. I will be doing audio, directing, shooting and editing this film in Avid not only as a culmination project but to showcase my well roundedness with the skills I’ve attained in the Entertainment Technology program.

Earl is 27 and has been fighting since the early age of 17. He grew up watching boxing matches on television with his brothers but one fighter stood out to him the most, Roy Jones Jr. His fighting style was a mix of speed, power and finesse. Roy exuded an unconditional sense of confidence at all time and that resonated with Earl. He wanted to be faster and stronger with just as much finesse. He trained hard for years participating in tournaments around the United States with his team from the famous Gleason’s Gym. He went on to win the Golden Gloves at the age of 21. Since then he’s moved on to being a professional boxer, fighting and training with boxer from all over the world continuing his path to becoming one the greats.

Earl didn’t always have the support system behind him he has today. Dropping out of college in his sophomore year, not only due to being uninterested, but to make boxing a priority, his parents weren’t happy about it. Becoming a professional boxer sounded very farfetched to them, especially his father. Regardless of a lack of support and without a plan b, Earl continued his drive to the top not letting anything or anyone stand in his way. After a while he gained the support of his entire family and more. Even though he made the decision not to go to school he showed and exceptional sense of devotion to boxing that could make anyone a believer. And he made them believers.

From home, to the gym, to the moonlight midnight streets of Brooklyn for his daily jog, I will be following him as he lives his life as a professional boxer, professional brother and professional son. I don’t only want to glorify Earl’s accomplishments in this film but also touch on the things that he had to sacrifice to be here, things he currently sacrifices and how being in this career effects the people around him. I want to give an inside look on what comes, metaphorically and literally, beneath the gloves.

Completion of this project would not only earn me a bachelor’s degree but could push me into the direction of making a full-length documentary. I’ve always found interest in seeing into the lives of others and understanding how they live, the things they do on a regular day or even the things they do on their worst days. This is something I want other people to experience and enjoy the same way I do. Also practice makes perfect. There’s no better way to practice than hands on experience when it comes to cameras, I consider it another step on my own journey of becoming a great cinematographer.

 

