

“Forever Someone” Director of Photography

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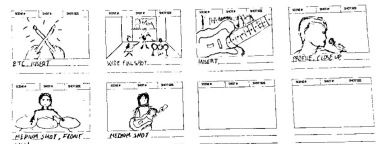


An Introduction...

“Forever someone” is a short narrative film about the grief of losing your first love, the good, the bad, and lastly the ugly. The idea came to be when I realised that the pain I was feeling was a whole new type of pain I'd never felt in my life. I wanted to make a film to explore and to understand what I was feeling. However my story wasn't there until one summer day back in 2022 I had a peculiar dream. In that moment I had come to realise that it was a goodbye in a way. I thought to myself now I can make a film based on this dream. It wasn't until my friendship with my co-collaborator blossomed that I had asked him if he was interested in making my dream a reality. Our film is not a love story, at least not a romantic one, but it is about love. We follow Jane as she navigates or rather ignores her feelings about getting broken up with. We see her put herself out there with her friendships and see that her heart needed breaking. Jane and the X in question have been together for years, Jane can't grasp the idea of her long time partner being a mere stranger. Jane's character is based on myself so in turn Jane is me and I am Jane. At least at one point I was Jane.

Objectives

- Begin and finish our full length short film screenplay
- Film and edit the short film
- Successfully integrate a faceless character into the film
- Use dream sequences to reel our audience in with visuals and use of aspect ratio
- Create a shot list/ storyboard



Methods:

We began by merely speaking about all the ideas we had, there were moments where we knew the story we wanted to tell. The only thing was that we didn't know how to tell it. Prior to working on this film my partner and I worked together on a music video. Our scriptwriting journey began in January and lasted until early February. We had talked to our actors in January as well and we now had a group of five. In March my role as a cinematographer quickly began, I used a series of storyboards, stand ins, and figures to place our actors and figure out how to tell this story. I continuously thought about how to make my shot dynamic, since I am both the DOP and main actor my camera operator was my hands. I am much more of a hands on person, however here I was given the opportunity to help further someone else's camera abilities.

Challenges:

In total we have 5 actors, that's 5 individual schedules to navigate around, some live upstate in Albany and we had a total of 3 shoots with her. The rest of the people live here in the city. As the protagonist I would say, there were moments where I simply did not want to be on camera. However I had to because I needed to, I am not an actor I tried the best I could acting off people was much easier than acting on my own at times. We had 10+ shooting days. I was tired, I wanted to be home but I, as not only the actor but co-director couldn't afford to not have energy. I would even say as partners there were moments where we could not communicate, where I myself could not express myself. When you're working together, almost every single day you will get out of sync. My own creativity gave out many times during this film, writing the script tested me I found myself stuck. However I would then watch film and be inspired I would remember why I am making this film in the first place.



Materials

- FUJIFILM XS20 with 18-55mm lens
- DJI wireless microphones
- Pro mist diffusion filter
- Rode microphone
- MacBook Pro
- SD Sandisk 128 GB card
- K&F tripod
- Zhiyun Gimbal stabilizer
- Editing laptop
- Toshiba 1TB hard drive

Important Dates to keep in mind:

December: First Meeting with Professor Ryoya
 January 1st: Beginning to write the screenplay
 February 15: Complete screenplay and treatment
 March 4th : Production begins
 April 1th: Editing begins
 April 30th: Reshoots

Results

This film is and has been a passion project for the last four years and for it to finally be more than an idea inside my mind is a lot. What does that mean? I am so happy that we were able to make it but at same time throughout this whole process I've been wondering to myself will it be good?. When I have moments of doubt I think to myself, I have films I made when I was 18 which at the time I added and now I look back and know that I could do better. There's always room to improve and grow and I know one day I'll look back at this film and think again I could have done better. But today, proud now as you read this I am incredibly proud of what my partner and I were able to do. It was worth all the stress, no sleep, and anxiety, all of it. I hope you enjoy it, because we enjoyed making it.

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