

Joel Barbecho

Culmination Film Proposal: “*La Dispute*”

Overview:

Growing up I’ve always enjoyed watching films and music videos from my favorite bands and artists and was always fascinated by the way these videos were shot and edited. Taking the video classes in City Tech has enhanced my knowledge of different types of editing styles on Avid Media Composer which is also a new software I learned to use, which was completely different from what I always used Adobe Premiere Pro. For my culmination project I will film, direct, and video edit a short narrative film about my friends that are trying to run a talent show in the Voorhees theater. It was originally going to be a documentary about behind the scenes of a student ran multicultural talent show in the Voorhees theater. Due to unforeseen circumstances the show will not happen in the spring semester as it was intended to. This caused a rupture between the students planning the show and myself as my culmination project relied on the show happening.

This will be a collaborative culmination project with my good friend/colleague Adam Valle, in which we will work together with the responsibility of directing, shooting, and video editing the documentary with influences and inspirations we like and trying different things to create something unique.

Objective:

Keeping elements of a documentary and adapting it into a narrative and mockumentary at the same was my main goal. Adam and I wanted to still pursue this idea even though all odds were against us. For instance, we had no budget only resources that we had at the time, we didn’t have access to high end cameras and

gear to shoot the film. We shot the film with only 2 handy Cam video cameras that didn't have the best quality, but we made it work. This motivated me to make the film because it's not about high-end gear that makes a film, it's about how I use the elements I have and craft a story together. Using my video camera skills that I learned ENT 3290 Digital Video Camera with Professor Ryoya, and the video editing courses I took from Professor Trevino helped hone my story making skills for an audience. That's what I wanted to show with this film project that you can make a lot of things out of nothing, and the film showed how united we as students stick together through hard times and get through it.

Work Structure:

The preproduction began in January to end of February where it was a lot of back and forth between Adam and I and where and how we will make the plot of the story go to. Adam had the brilliant idea of adapting the documentary into a narrative film with all the current events that has been happening with the production of the culmination show that was supposed to happen. I began writing the first half of the film and Adam continued the rest until the ending. The script I wrote was based on the events that led up to the cancellation of the show, so I wrote how all the characters acted when that happened. The script portrayed the way the actors act in real life so the audience can relate to them when watching the film.

Shooting the film began in March where we shot in many different locations like my house, Voorhees building, Nam Building, Trader Joe's, Brooklyn Bridge, and train stations. All these shots were very complex due to scheduling around people's availability, and filming in public because it is hard and a lot of waiting for people to get out the frame when filming.

After all the shooting was done in March, April focused on heavy video editing during the spring break to make a fine rough cut to show to my technical advisor Professor Ryoya. Adam and I began video editing the footage on April 5th to April 7th, we would begin working at 3PM to 10PM for 3 days straight. It was a lot of hours put into video editing the footage, but we had fun because we combined our creativity and made something rememberable for people to enjoy.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge overall was changing the idea of the film from a documentary to a narrative film and still writing the script as the production continued. It was a lot of brainstorming between Adam and I on where we wanted the direction of the film to go, so that was the idea of making a narrative film but combining elements of the documentary and mockumentary.

In the preproduction of the project, we were planning dates of shooting footage and we told the cast the first day when we needed them. On the first day of filming, I told them it would only take 1 hour max to film, but I was wrong, we took 3 hours and 30 minutes trying to film a 1 shot sequence. They all did a very good job, and I was very proud of the shot, and I felt bad shooting took long so after Adam and I paid for their dinner. Filming for a film or anything does not happen quick as I expected so I must account for time management and working with people's schedules. Another thing about filming is filming in public which is never easy especially like in a Trader Joe's, Brooklyn Bridge, and a New York City subway. People don't care if they get in the shot, so it was a lot of waiting for areas to clear up filming the shot quickly.

In the editing process it was a lot of work because it took 24 hours combined in 3 days just editing the footage and making sequences. When I was opening up a sequence to finish editing it said "media offline", so I did everything I can to back

up all the footage in the advanced Avid media composer settings but nothing was working. It was Adam who made that sequence so I told him to just recreate the sequence so we could continue, it was a huge setback, but we managed to recreate the sequence exactly the way it was. Also, during the editing process when we exported the rough cut of the film to see how it would play out on the big screen and it was completely dark because the export settings made the whole video dark. I had to back and color grade each clip one at a time hoping that it wouldn't still be dark when I exported it again which also takes a long time because the MacBook Pro doesn't have the highest ram to process. I also had a very hard time color grading a sequence that a picture in picture effect because it was 2 clips in the screen that had to be color graded separately, this was hard because in the timeline it plays as 1 clip. I had to reach out to my Video editing professor Trevino to help me out with this and he showed me a very easy fix on how to do it, even after he showed me how to do it I still struggled trying to the edit but managed to accomplish it.

Conclusion:

I am happy with the way the film came out, all the ideas I had came to fruition. All the shooting techniques and video editing was crafted well together and complement each other which I am proud of. This has helped me as a video editor to hone my skills for future projects and using new techniques when video editing and cinematography. For future film projects I would love to work with high end cameras for better quality. Another thing I found that was important was being organized because a lot of filming and editing was improvised or not planned at all and I would just do it without thinking, and I wouldn't document it. Organization is key when working on a big project.

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Tasks	Start Date	End Date
Write Script	03/02/23	03/02/23
Shooting Footage	03/03/23	03/03/23
Culmination meeting with Advisor	03/21/23	03/21/23
Shooting Footage	03/29/23	03/29/23
Shooting Footage	03/30/23	03/30/23
Shooting Footage	04/03/23	04/03/23
Culmination meeting with Advisor	04/04/23	04/04/23
Shooting Footage	04/05/23	04/05/23
Editing Footage	04/05/23	04/05/23
Editing Footage	04/06/23	04/06/23
Editing Footage	04/07/23	04/07/23
Editing Footage	04/20/23	04/20/23
Culmination meeting with Advisor	04/25/23	04/25/23
Editing Footage	04/26/23	04/26/23
Submit Film	05/02/23	05/02/23

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Budget		
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Name	Cost	Notes
Macbook Pro	\$0	Owned
Sony Handycam CX405 Camcorder	\$250	Purchase in Best Buy
Sony Handycam DCR-SX40 Camcorder	\$0	Owned
SanDisk Ultra Plus 128GB Micro SD	\$13	Purchase in Best Buy
Tripod	\$0	Owned
Avid Media Composer	\$10	Monthly lease
External Hard Drive 1TB	\$0	Owned
Sony Headphones	\$0	Owned
Total	\$293	
10% Contingency	\$29	