The Message (Culmination Project)

Jose Soriano - Fall 2022

Introduction

- My name is Jose Soriano
- I'm a senior in the Entertainment Technology department.
- My main track are video and sound.
- For my culmination project, I wanted to do a short horror film with the help of my two friends, Mike Solache and Vishal Naraine.

Preview of the Film

This clip is during the middle of the day, Victor left to use the bathroom, leaving Nina alone and getting message.

About the Film

- The short film is about Nina the main character working on a school project with her friends, but gets a message from an unknown number who trying to kill her.
- I was inspired by the Scream franchise and been watching these movies since high school. I wanted to try to make a version of my own. I wanted to make it different, but also paying homage to both Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson.
- I didn't had someone to be the videographer for the project and asked Mike if he could join and help me out. Vishal joined later since he was helping us everytime I met up with Mike to discuss some ideas for the script.

Differences

- We had the movie take place in the Voorhees building instead Woodsboro like the movie.
- We chose to go with the Devil Ghost Face, which is from the game Dead by Daylight. We try to make it different instead of using the classic Ghost Face suit.
- We didn't have a different actor to be the voice of the Killer.
- One of the similarities is the characters name. Nina is a character from the Scream tv show. Billy is a character from the original Scream film in 1996.
- I try to replicate the ending like the film, but I didn't know how to add a video on the credits, so I use screenshots.

The Costume

Crew Members

Vishal Naraine
(Director, Editor,
Actor)

Mike Solache
(Video Operator)

Nitu Singh, Bruce Vera, &
Luis Mendoza
(Actors)

My Role

- I was the main editor for the project along with Vishal.
- I was the main script writer with the help of both Mike and Vishal.
- I also worked as the audio mixer for a few files.
- I was also a actor for a brief moment in the film, I play the character Bryce, who is a friend of Nina during the beginning of the film.

Budget

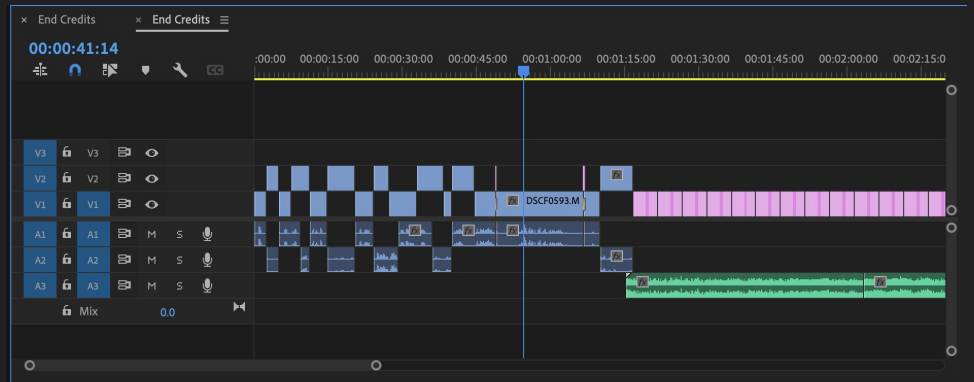|	Culmination Project			
Item	**Description**	**Quantity**	**Unit Cost**	**Extended Cost**
Costume	Scream	1	$29.99	$29.99
Fake Blood	Prop Blood	1	$9.99	$9.99
Disappering Knife	Prop Knife	1	$9.99	$9.99
Voice Changer	Prop	1	$9.99	$9.99
Weapon Prop	Baseball Bat Prop	1	$19.99	$19.99
Camera	Fujifilm X-s10	1	$1,400.00	$1,400.00
Mem Card	SanDisk 256GB	1	$0.00	$0.00
Lighting Mount	Viltrox LED Light	1	$35.99	$35.99
Premier Pro	Video Editor	1	$0.00	$0.00
Tripod	12-inch Spider Tripod	1	$30.39	$30.39
Dolly	Wheels for Tripod	1	$38.00	$38.00
Battery	FUJIFILM NP-W126S	1	$0.00	$0.00
Battery Charger	Nitecore FX1 Dual-Slot USB	1	$29.95	$29.95
Shotgun Mic	Movo VXR10	1	$40.00	$40.00
			Subtotal	$1,654.28
			Sales Tax	$146.82
			Subtotal with Tax	$1,801.10
			Contingency	$180.11
			Total Materials	**$1,981.21**

Challenges

- We had many issues while working on this project, it was tough trying make a script that had to be under 10 minutes. I was also my first time creating one with the help of both Mike and Vishal.
- Timing wasn't always on our side. There were days when we had to push back dates when we needed items that didn't arrive on time.
- Some of the actors weren't available on certain days when we needed them for a certain scenes. We try to work on some scene that didn't include them so we wouldn't have more delays.
- The most important issue we had was getting approval for our blood scenes. We couldn't film these right away. We had to ask for permission from John McCullough who had to send out information school safety to make it happen.
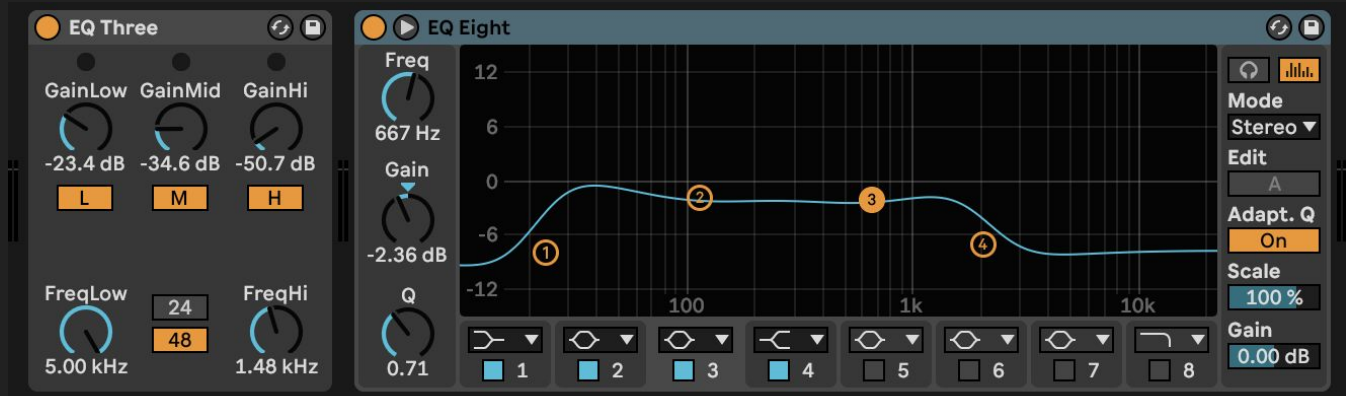
BTS

Editing

- I had to relearn some technique for editing. It wasn't much, but it did help to try to make it look better.
- We had about 337 files worth of footage. We didn't use most of them, but chose the ones that flow well in timeline.
- There were alot of scenes we had to cut out. Some scenes had missing shots and it didn't looked good. There were also scenes that didn't make sense and was confusing.
- The thing we did the most was using the J and L cuts. This method helps us a lot with all the mistakes we were having during post production.

Audio Mixing

- We had to fix the audio for some portion for scenes.
- Some sounded low, some sound a little high, and some sounded like it was from a different room.
- I work on these when Vishal was fixing some mistake we made on our 2nd rough cut.

Reflections

- Plan ahead of schedule so everything could be done on time.
- Writing a script wasn't easy.
- Always have a plan B just in case a problem comes along.
- Don't rush things even you are behind schedule.
- It was a fun learning experience I got to do with my friends.
- In the future, I want to have a career in filmmaking. For now, I'll try to practice on my own to improve my skills on editing, script writing, even filming.

Acknowledgment

- Mike Solache - Video Director
- Vishal Naraine - Director
- Nitu Singh - Actress
- Luis Mendoza - Actor
- Bruce Vera - Actor
- Saad Farooqi
- Ryoya Terao
- John McCullough

Thank You