**Project Reflection** by Larenzo Church-Smith

Overall this project highlighted my weaknesses and my strengths. For me going into this project I had big ambitions and attempting to put together a large-scale project with many moving parts. I realized quickly that I underestimated working with people and putting together a team from scratch. On other productions there was already a common goal and vision already established. There were already times agreed upon to get the final product together. Just convincing others and scheduling times around work schedules posed more time consuming than I initially planned. Then COVID-19 came into the picture, which derailed any other attempts to salvage a workflow.

For the most part my communication skills and ability to manage productions proved to be what was most lacking. If attempted again I would need to have an organized structured workflow that had some flexibility to account for unexpected occurrences and have reliable people in place that could manage or assist in managing. Presenting a structure of how to obtain the goal might have been an easier way to sell people on an idea that requires them to sacrifice time and effort. Also looking forward I learned about the logistics of completing a production, even the overlooked aspects such as legal work, release forms, places I would need permits to shoot, and ways to go about agreements. When things are not going as planned you can’t always rely on yourself to pick up the slack and come out with an intended product. Time and money are hardly ever on your side so budgeting wisely and organizing time oriented task is some of the keys to success. Fine-tuning your skills is will be a continual thing as well to be productive in this field of work. Eliminating as many mistakes will play a big role on how far you go. Being able to be confident in your skill set to where you can depend on that aspect to pull you through will be necessary to survive worst case scenarios and will also build confidence with your team. I know I would have needed a cameraman even though I knew exactly what shots I wanted. I knew I would need help in directing even though I knew the vision I was looking for. And feedback would have been necessary for me to not get locked in a tunnel vision. You can’t avoid problems or mistakes but knowing the steps to correct or get back on track is something that I will continue to look out for. Though it is already known that connections is a proven part of getting a goal accomplished, I think it can never be overestimated how much smoother things can be run with the right people in the right places at the right times. It extends to more than just the main team you put together; it’s the opportunities that can come up or the problems that can be solved.

I hope going forward I learn to master those details. Coming from a small town in Florida from a background where I only got to different points by way of talent (mostly artistic side) and going to a college centered around the technical side. It was eye opening to see all that it takes to be accomplished. Technology wise I feel like I’m getting closer and closer to proficiency. (I didn’t get my first smartphone until I started coming to this school) I’ve came a long way from learning what Google drive was to be able to learn different software programs, at least enough to do the homework assignments. I plan on continuing to get better rounded in skills and in personal character development. My desire to keep learning is something that I can take away to help make me stronger. I hope to continue to be a more proficient editor and expand my skills in camera work. Finding areas of information to pick up in all areas of film production. Movie-making and music production have been my driving passions in life so it was fun to try them out in my project and my time as a student at this school. Learning the technical aspects of the side of video production and sound has given me a greater appreciation of what these areas are all about. I will continue to incorporate technical skills and my artistic capabilities creatively into my future endeavors.

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