

Maria Marzant

Trillogy: A Livestreamed Concert

Culmination Project Reflection

For my culmination, I worked with fellow student and friend, Nitu Singh. I was brought into the project by Nitu, as this project was initially just her working alone. I had my own plans to create a short film, but those plans fell through. Nitu had been working on this project for a while before I joined. Because of this, I had little to do with the preproduction aspect on this project. Thankfully, Nitu trusted me enough to work with her, and allowed me to be responsible for the video aspects of this livestreamed concert performance of the band, Trillogy. This meant I was in charge of acquiring and setting up the video cameras, video switcher, video encoder, multiview monitors, and creating the graphics.

Reflecting on everything it took to complete this project, I was initially unsure if we'd be using a video switcher or controlling the livestream via Streamyard (a live streaming studio within your internet browser). At first I wanted to do the stream with Streamyard, as I was more familiar with the program and had never created a video system from scratch and had little experience with a video switcher. However, my advisor, Professor Farooqi, convinced me to use the video switcher for this project, as Streamyard could be unpredictable. Needless to say, I was very nervous about being able to succeed in this project, because I had little experience with video switchers, but I couldn't back out as I didn't want to disappoint anyone. I'm grateful for professor Farooqi, as he helped me a lot with my video system diagram.

There were many issues I faced with this project, initially I wanted to use the Tricaster as a video switcher. Unfortunately, the Tricaster was unavailable for me because it was being used for technical production. Also, the Tricaster was stored in the TV Studio in the Namm building and transporting gear between Namm and Voorhees would've required special permissions and overall would've been a huge hassle. My advisor then recommended I use a different video switcher (I can't remember the name of the switcher), unfortunately this switcher had a damaged ethernet port which made it impossible to use. Ultimately, I ended up using the ATEM TV Studio Switcher. I was very unhappy with this switcher because it had several limitations. For example, the max resolution for this switcher was 720p, meaning the max resolution for the livestream itself would be 720p. I really disliked this because the standard is at least 1080p, I feel like this made the stream itself look awful. Another limitation the switcher had was the inability to use moving graphics. Before I knew which video switcher I'd be using for the stream, I had made all the graphics for the livestream as moving graphics and was extremely disappointed that I had to remake them as still images. Another issue I dealt with was the fact that I didn't have enough people to operate cameras. Initially, my video system had 3 cameras, but unfortunately I did not have enough people to operate the cameras. So, I had to remove the 3rd camera and make another camera static and just have 1 person operating 1 camera. I feel like this cheapened the overall livestream, but I had to suck it up and work with what I had.

The performance occurred on March 25th at 7pm and was livestreamed on YouTube. The performance itself was very stressful for me because March 25th was the only day we had the band, none of the previous rehearsals we did had the band present. This was very stressful on my

end because I had to wait till the day of the performance to figure out where I was going to set up the cameras for the show. There was also some last minute changes in regard to the bands lineup. I had to change the graphics again, because the graphics I had before mentioned the names of the band members and what instruments they were playing. It wasn't until the day of the livestream that the band informed me that they were planning on swapping instruments throughout the performance. So, I had to quickly remake the graphics and export them in order for the graphics to appear correctly on stream. During the livestream itself, I had planned to be the video switch operator and the director. However, my advisor informed me that it would be too much for one person to handle and convinced me to be the director and have one of my friends as the video switch operator. This was a better set up, as I was able to relay directions to my camera operator and video switch operator in a more efficient manner.

Overall, I'm pleased with how the project turned out. Despite the gear limitations, I think the livestream itself was pretty good. With this project, I've proven that I can create a functional video system and correctly set up video encoders, switchers, and cameras. I'm very grateful for the experience I gained working on this project and I'm proud to include this culmination in my professional portfolio.