

Portfolio Writing

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Filmmaking

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Manifesto Writing

“We don’t have a platform to speak”

“Music is used to speed up the scene”- Andrew Onwubolu speaking on Shiro’s Story

Andrew Onwubolu directed a series of short films called Shiro’s Story that was realised on YouTube in 2018. The 3-part series went on to accumulate over 20 million views and gave him the platform to share more work, where he then produced his first feature film Blue Story. When attending a lecture on directing by Tom, a student teacher, he spoke how each director has their own identity and style that you can see within all their work. Whether that’s the light flares in J.J. Adams work or the yellow colour tint to the scenes of Wes Anderson’s film. Andrew’s style is unique and very noticeable, he uses his music within his films as the dialogue between characters or to give context and tell the story.

Andrew who also is known ‘Rapman’ started his career in the creative industry as grime artist from Peckham. He was known throughout the music scene as an artist who brought narratives to his music. He spoke about the stories from his childhood and what it is like growing up in the tough parts of London. He felt there was no platform for the culture and youth to get any attention or exposure about the real problems they faced. He spoke on ITV Good Morning saying he started of as an independent artist with an idea that he wanted to create a film. This shows us as film makers the success it brings but also how hard and determination it takes. It is important to believe in your ideas so it can help you create projects with purpose.

Using your interests and believes to help influence your work is what I feel is a massive part of film making. For him it is music and the background and culture of where he is from so his work is not only informative but connects and relates to his audience. For me it can be the effects of mental health or the current social issues on gangs and violence. Using your work as voice and teach people about real issues is important to me, but not in a way where it is boring and drags on but incorporating it in the story, so it is almost unnoticeable.

I think using these interested and believes is a great way to build characters in the films. For example, if I want to create a film on abusive relationship between a man and girl, I know to research what makes someone abusive in a relationship. Whether that would be past experiences they’ve gone through themselves or is it because of someone they idolised or culture they follow. I could use it as a way to inform the actors how I want them to act the scene. Using real experiences that people have gone through to inspire their performances. All things build up the characteristics of a character or even the performances that help you get the best you can in your projects.

Observational Writing



I chose to do a semiotic analysis on an image I had created for an advisement project on deforestation and forest fires. I picked this image because I think it uses signs and signals to inform the audience on the purpose of it and educate.

This image uses its negative space to draw the attention of the audience to subject of the picture. The negative space highlights the importance of the subject it is around and makes the audience try and work out what it is without being distracted by unless information. The space is used to navigate the eye of the viewer on where I want them to look, which is important when you're trying to create something informative.

During the process of creating this image I went through different ideas on the best way to present this. The matchstick with the treeline engraved is signified by quote and logo on the bottom right corner which play as the signifier. The signifier is used to help the viewer understand the meaning and what the image represents. I see as the artists hinting at you to what they want you to see. When deciding what to use as signifier it was important to research what people see and recognise with deforestation. I used the Certified Rainforest Alliance logo because the words within the logo give context, but this is a logo that is seen on products that we use every day from chocolate to coffee.

The matchstick is something that we immediately associate with fire, so it was a perfect symbol to use to represent it that. When looking at the colour and texture of it, the ignitor at the tip is red like hot flame and down to the 'stick' it is wood and beige in colour like the trees it is engraved with. These are all signals and signs that we subconsciously see that help tell the information of the image and help tell the message.

When reading the call-to-action text in the bottom right corner you can see the importance of it and how it's trying to persuade you to donate. Using persuasive words like "we" which communicates the viewer by making feel it's our problem and not someone else's. Using the words "fast", "today" and "time" give the sense of emergency and persuading the view to donate now before it's too late.

Practice-based Writing

What is the story behind Swansea Jewish Cemetery and why is it there?

David Michael was an early pioneer who arrived in 1749 from Germany. He established himself as a silversmith and went on to take out a 99-year lease on a 30 by 15 yards plot of land located on Townhill. The annual rent was 10 shillings which in our day's money is about £51.23. The plot of land was enclosed by 8ft high and 20inch thick stone wall.

David used a room in the back of his house on Wind Street as a makeshift Synagogue where Jews could come and worship. This was used for about 30 years until the first Synagogue in 1818 built by his two sons Levi and Jacob Michael got destroyed during the bombing in Swansea during World War 2. David's grandson Michael John Michael was served as Mayor of Swansea in 1848.

The early Jewish cemeteries are placed outside of the city, It was tradition in the Diaspora (a scattered population of Jews) to lay the feet pointing towards Jerusalem. The original Jewish cemetery in Swansea was placed, at the time, on the top of the hill outside the city centre. Looking at the positions of the gravestones their feet was pointing towards Jerusalem which is South East.

When going to the cemetery to conduct first-hand research I spoke to a passing member of the public who happened to live just a few streets down. I asked if she knew any information behind the cemetery or have an idea why it is there. Just like everyone else she wasn't able to give me an answer. She done research on the area and she had found out that the road she lives on (Hill Street) was previously called Jebbit Row where they use to hang people, whether that had been associated with it no one knows.

These different methods can help inspire ideas for future projects and films. Whether that would be using my interest in music to find narrative within songs and creating a film inspired by it. Music also gives the opportunity to build network and connect with people in your local area, helping them share their art but also building yourself a platform. You have more freedom to explore different ideas and get more creative when working with less

established artists this will help build my confidence and skills to then work with professionals.

There is a story that comes with every place and every person and I think it is important that we get the opportunity to share it. Sometimes do something so easy as going for a walk in your neighbourhood and taking time to stop and think about what is around, you begin to see stories that you never knew were there. When coming across the Jewish Cemetery it was vital that I did research as it gave me more leads to follow that I never knew. This showed me that I wasn't the only one interested, I can use these articles to help find who my target audience is.

Connecting with the audience is key to any successful project. That can be done through narrative, or as I found signs and signals. I found this fascinating that we don't see how we use space to inform our audience at first. You see these signs and signals subconsciously and us as creators are telling what the audience what we want them to think. These techniques can be used to persuade someone to donate to a charity or simply to tell the characteristics of a character.

Reference:

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