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Upon months of researching and finally executing this project, it is safe to say I am satisfied and proud with the overall final outcome. Like any other projects that were ever created, nothing is perfect. There are indeed some changes that I wished I would made if I was given a second time to execute this project. However, it does not change the fact that I am beyond pleased with the video. As mentioned in my pre-production folder, I have thoroughly explained that I wanted to create a poetic documentary. At the end of this, I have successfully carried out my very own complete poetic documentary.

Needless to say, I have learned a lot in the past months and gained more new knowledge that I was not aware of earlier when I came here to Wales. Prior to this, I have never edited using Adobe Premiere Pro nor film a video using the DSLR like the Sony A7S2. Since it was my first time, I did face some problems and had to find solutions to them. Throughout the process of filming and editing, I found myself grew interests in creating my own project that has such a personal meaning to me.



Figure 1

There are a few scenes throughout the poetic documentary that turned out to be breath-taking. One of the few scenes that I am happy about is the “sunlight ray slow-motion” clip. Previously in my pre-production portfolio, I had to research on how to capture ray lights in camera. First thing to consider is an object to obscure the sunlight, which in this case, I used a person’s hands to play around with the “light” to create the effect. Secondly, the camera was on the smallest aperture settings. To shoot it in slow motion, I would need to set the camera on a higher frame rate. Doing my research before filming has saved me a lot time to do redo’s. As shown in figure 1, the camera was able to capture a precise light ray and I got the perfect shot that I have envisioned.



Figure 2



Figure 2.1

One of the few things I wished I knew before this was, how difficult it was to photograph starry night skies, yet alone film it. In my first-draft shot list, I have mentioned that I wanted to include a shot of the night skies with stars. Upon consulting with my lecturers and experimenting, I switched the idea and replaced it with a different shot, which was an ‘empty night street’. After attempting to shoot it twice, I discovered that the shot did not go well with the line which was “Remember how she wouldn’t sleep at night, just so

everything feels quite right". This line explains how a mother would not sleep at night if her child is sick and would stay up to make sure her child will be getting better. In Figure 2, the scene looked more mysterious and eerie looking than what I wanted the message to be perceived. I finally decided on with a slow motion shot of "a mother tucking her child to bed" to represent the line more accurately, presented in figure 2.1. The reason for me to shoot this in slow mo is to add a cinematic feel to it. I also added vignette and filters that made it look like a flashback.



Figure 3



Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2

Surprisingly, the scenes that I found myself struggle to work out the most were in the exposition part. As written in the shot list, the line "About your siblings when you used to play tent, remember all the happy times we've spent" goes along with a clip of a 'blanket fort' to represent the flashback of the writer's childhood. In figure 3, is an example of a blanket fort that I have included in my shot list. However, I was not aware that recreating a tent would be harder than I thought. I tried to create the blanket fort using sofas and duvets, and it did not resemble the blanket fort I wanted, as shown figure 3.1. It looked as if the

blanket fort was not welcoming and looked dark instead of a warm cosy blanket fort. The reason why this problem was aroused was that none me nor my friends had colourful bedsheets and my resources were limited. At the end, I opted for a more welcoming blanket fort by using different colours of bedsheets, added some fairy lights and made it bigger. This resulted to my blanket fort looking more realistic. I had a handful of tries before settling with the final footage in figure 3.2 which is the finalise clip that is in the poetic documentary.



Figure 4

The ‘shower scene’ was a scene that I almost disregard from including it in the film. This is because after trying to film it on my own, I was unconvinced that it would work how I had had it in planned. After asking opinions from my lecturers, I concluded to put work into it. With the help of my friend, we tried many times until we got the shot that I am most satisfied with. I initially planned to film it with the glass door closed, however the camera was not able to focus on me and in fact focussed on the edges of the glass door. My solution to this was that I left the glass door open in order that the camera would be on focus. I also thought it was a smart idea to shoot this scene in slow motion and was glad that I proceed with the scene as it was one of the cinematic shots throughout the film.

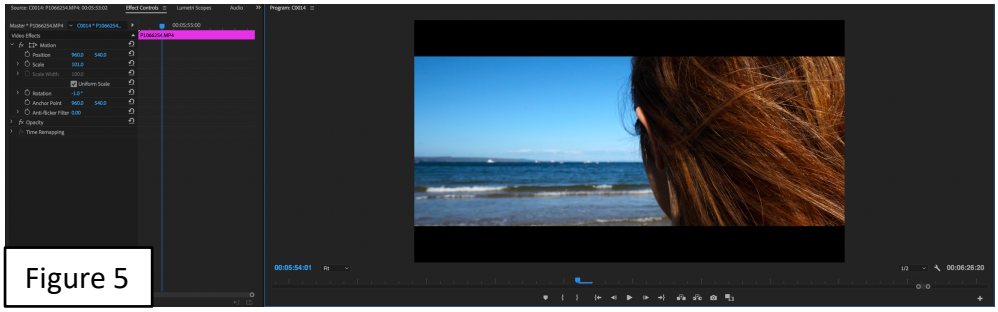
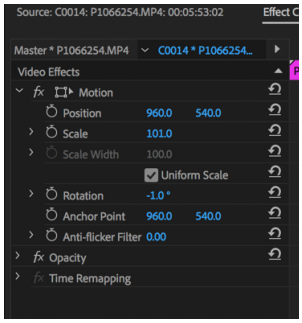


Figure 5



Next, there are only a few scenes in the video that I noticed it was not level with the horizon. Unfortunate for me, I did not re-watch the clips right after taking the shot to make sure the footage is 'flawless'. My solution to save these clips were, I had to edit them in Premiere Pro under 'Motion' and rotate them for only 1 degree (refer figure 5). Although it does not have a huge difference, the framing was rotated to make it easy on the eyes. However, by doing this, I had to crop in a little bit to make sure the edges were in frame. Scenes that are affected, were the 'wide shot of the beach' and the 'medium shot of me laying down on the street at night'. What I would do differently in the future is to make sure the electronic level feature that is built-in the camera is green and if I were to use it on a tripod, the spirit bubble should be within the circle.



Figure 6



Figure 6.1



Figure 6.2

The other scene I reshot was a scene of me in the kitchen. The initial shot that was taken was a decent shot, nonetheless, the scene was too long and I was afraid it might bore the audiences. How I overcame this was by film it for the second time and made some changes. As seen in figure 6 and 6.1, the changes that I made were, my outfit. Instead of wearing a dark outfit, I wore a blue t-shirt and put my hair in a towel to make it look as if I just came out from the shower. The second adjustments I made were, I shifted the position of the oven and camera angle to block out the fridge from the frame to avoid the colour white from distracting the shot. The last improvements, in figure 6.2, the clip was cut to a closer shot of me opening the oven. By doing this it would make the footage less lengthy of the same shot but rather make it more interesting with the continuous shot of me closing the oven.



Figure 7

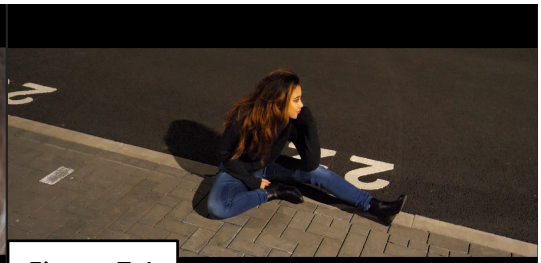


Figure 7.1

Initially, the close-up shot of me smiling was put in alongside the line “after all the forced smile and the fake laughs that you pleasure from my hardship”. After contemplating with the close-up shot in figure 7, I changed it to a clip of me in the parking lot at night. This scene might make the audiences face difficulty to understand the ‘meaning’ behind it. Notwithstanding, not every scene has a prominent straightforward meaning to their lines. The scene has more of a personal touch from the director, herself. The number ‘22’ on the ground of the parking lot carries a hidden message, which explains the age I am this year. It is an ‘Easter egg’ in the whole poetic documentary. Easter eggs in media is very common especially in video games, computer programs and even in movies like Disney movies and cartoons. It is an intentionally hidden message that the producers often to put for the audiences to notice and point them out. It is fun to look back at the video and tell people the hidden message to it.



Figure 8



Figure 8.1

The clip that I find myself struggle with also was a shot of flying birds. Originally, I wanted to film the birds in slow motion. Later I found it was hard to film them because how fast they could fly. Unfortunately, attempting to film them in normal speed is hard to shoot

too. After two times of trying to film in different places, one in Pembrokeshire National Park and Tenby Beach (figure 8), I had to think realistically on how efficient the clip was for my poetry line. Not only that, in figure 8 my lecturers mentioned how the birds were not prominent and very small. I opted the clip with an overhead shot of me writing the word 'free' in the sand (figure 8.1). The reason why this clip works for me was that the contrast and colour of the shot is very cinematic and goes well with the line which is "now I know how it feels like to be in control of your own life, I need no one to be there for me, I need no comfort lies".

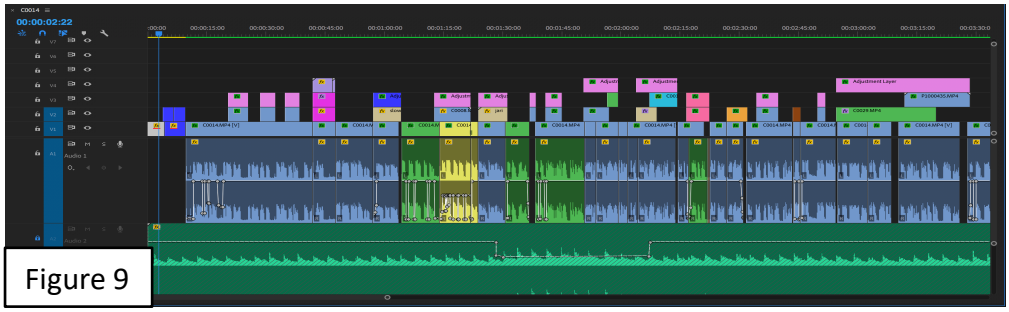


Figure 9

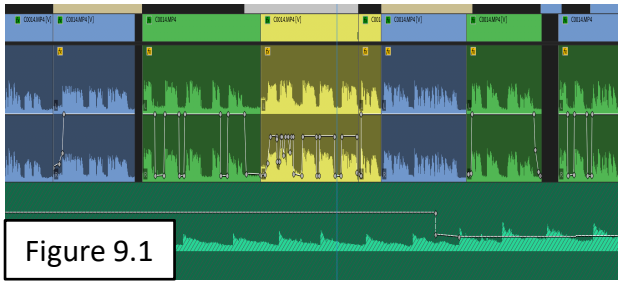


Figure 9.1

In Premiere Pro, I noticed that the audio has a background noise that I did not like. My solution to this problem was by using audio ducking to eliminate the background noises in between the pause. I observed a significant change by doing this, it made my video sound clear-cut and more professional. There are few clips that sounded prominently louder than the others, so I used audio ducking to standardise the volume throughout the whole poetic documentary. I also used audio ducking to lower down the music volume in the middle of the

video and at the end. If there are changes I would make, I would make sure to use a clip-on microphone or a boom microphone to achieve a sharper sound.

In long-term, I have made a lot of progresses and improvements since February. I have grown as an individual, educationally and creatively. I have learned so much from filming in manual settings using SonyA7S2 by playing with the ISO, aperture and shutter speed. In Premier Pro, I learned about editing the colour grading and making each clip to their max potential. Although I am known to procrastinate, I was glad that I stuck to my Gantt chart schedule to keep myself right on track. I would sometimes sacrifice my leisure time and would go to the Mac Lab every night for the past 3 months, and it is safe to say that my hard work has paid off. I found myself complete with most of the major editing a week before the submission date which gave me a plenty of time to really look into each clip to see which clips needed some tweaking. By doing this, it gave me a plenty of space to go through the video numerous times to spot any "imperfections".

After done with the project, I am keen and comfortable to do something that is similar to this poetic documentary in the future. From constructing the line of the poem from scratch, to editing it in Adobe Premiere Pro and handling the manual settings in Sony A7S2. If I am faced with a challenge, it is very important to me to ask around and search for solutions, hence why I made a detailed pre-production folder that has saved me a lot of time from making any errors and mistakes. I would always make sure to refer to my lecturers and email them if they are not available for a tutorial session. Furthermore, I am aware that creating a project like these needs years of practice before being anywhere to being 'perfect'. Without a doubt, this poetic documentary, Alone Amongst the Crowd is a project that I holds near the heart and it will be my presented in my exampled work for my future employers to refer.