

Work so far:

I have started researching companies that do miniatures, so I can ask to visit the facilities or an interview for industry insight. I have a number of potential companies to narrow down to the most suitable companies. I will contact multiple companies to increase my chances of responses and to gather more primary data.

I have held meetings with my peers, discussing making a short film to use our IPs in. We have decided who will be doing what, what we will be making for our areas and how our IPs will play into this.

I have also planned how I will investigate my study, gather results and data, and use them to come to a conclusion.

Where I'll go next:

My peers and I will have a meeting on 11/12/25 regarding our film, so we all know what we need to do over the Christmas break. This meeting will finalise what time period the film will be set in, schedules, music and costumes.

I will also research model making techniques and use the research I have done to begin developing a miniature.

Finally, I will choose what companies I would like to contact and then contact them by 15/12/25. I will explain who I am, what I'm doing, ask about visiting and interviewing, why I chose their company, a CV to show my past work, and a reference or referee to validate I'm a student.

Script/Project synopsis

Investigation

I will watch the 10 most popular films in the UK released in 2025, identify if they use miniatures, how they use them, how many times they use them, for how long they use them, if they should have been used at a particular moment or not, and if I was able to point them out. However I will only validate if any miniatures were used, using online sources, after I have watched the film. Doing this will allow me to watch the film as intended, without anticipating a particular moment that I know features miniatures.

Investigation: Effectiveness

If I can't point out the miniatures while watching the film, it means they have worked as intended. I have found in my research that if the audience realises a miniature was used on screen, then it has taken you out of the story and did not look convincing to the audience. I will also read reviews to find any regarding the miniatures, to gather more data.

Investigation: Financial & Necessity

After this I will then look into the budget that the department responsible for the miniatures had during the film, compare this with the overall budget, and if the miniatures went over or under budget.

I will then compare all of the data I had gathered to see if a CGI enhanced or fully CGI alternative would have been more effective and financially viable, compare this with the rest of the budget, estimate costs of a CGI alternative with my gathered data, to determine if they should have used CGI. Using the data gathered, I will find out if using miniatures was a good financial decision.

Investigation: Relevancy

After comparing and looking over all my data, I will determine what I think the future of miniatures will be. Some questions I will ask are; how much do I think it will continue to be used, how do I think the use of miniatures will change financially, and will miniatures be more effective than CGI for effectiveness and financially.

Research & practical outcome

Using the techniques and methods I have learned through online and literacy sources, I will aim to develop a miniature model which I will then feature in our short film to find out if the model works as intended, by adding to the scene and feeling of the world, while also being high quality. The aim of the model is to prove miniature work is still relevant in modern filmmaking.

Using the data I had gathered from my research, investigation, interviews and practical outcome, I will then be able to come to the conclusion of whether miniatures are still relevant in modern film making, which I think they are.

Collaboration: 100 words

Peer collaboration

I have been collaborating with Rob and Janis, by planning the production of a short film. But we have recently had Ashling and Imogen join the team to use their projects. Sam has also showed interest in joining, along with Alice and Mary from second year to help out on lighting.

Industry collaboration

I will ask to interview the companies or someone within the department, allowing me to ask industry professionals valuable questions relevant to my investigation. I will also ask to visit the companies facilities to gather insights into how the departments works, runs, how they produce their work and to also network. However, an interview is more likely, due to its ease of execution.

Conclusion Summary: 150 words

Over the Christmas break, my peers and I will continue to plan our short film with meetings, communications through a WhatsApp group chat, self-made deadlines and schedules. I will also be communicating with lecturers to find out the availability of performance spaces within the university, as this may determine aspects of the set. As well as being able to book and reserve filming equipment for the chosen dates, as soon as possible.

I will finalise the companies I would like to reach out to and then contact them by 15/12/25, as this will give them more time to respond and make arrangements. Doing this soon will also make sure I keep on schedule, as to keep my work ethic through these quiet work weeks.

I will begin my investigation by watching the UKs 10 most popular films of 2025, then following the steps previously mentioned above, to gather necessary data. I will continue to research into miniature production methods and start developing my model over the Christmas break, as to give me time for changes or rebuilds, if needed before the filming date.