

Process workbook

At the start of the module we were asked to record self tapes of our chosen monologues and then watch them back in front of the class. This gave us a chance to see how we would act on screen and also identify the weaknesses and strengths of the performance. I found that through my feedback from Keiron that my acting came across well on screen however it was more of the technical aspects I needed to improve on, for example being conscious of shadows and the placement of the camera. These things to consider would later really help me identify the ways we needed to film for our short film and were very useful critiques to have in mind.

We also had to do some mock auctions for Lloyd. We were asked to bring a monologue and we would receive a piece of sight reading before. This helped us see how we would look on his camera and how we would act in an actual film audition in the room, having no control of the camera or how we look. He did also give us some direction to change our approaches to the monologues and then we would perform our sight reading. We had enough time to have a read through and slightly analyse the piece and see what we would do with it however it wasn't too much time to fully learn it. I found it to be interesting to see how we could approach the text differently to others, without having too much time to fully pick it apart. We had a session with Lloyd which showed us different shots and their names, this was very beneficial as we were able to correctly identify these shots and therefore communicate more clearly in the process of filming how we wanted the shots to look and what their specific names were. Enabling clear communication and effective execution of our visions. We also watched previous years short films and this helped us learn of the complications a lower budget production can have. One that stood out was one that focused on filming outside and in a very big room. We found through observation this took away from performances due to sound issues and not being able to follow what was going on from a lack of understanding. When it came to sorting out what idea we were going to go with, our group decided to bring forth one or two ideas each, we would then discuss which ones stood out to us. When we then decided to narrow down we took a vote and then tallied up the results we decided to go with Chloe and Rosies ideas, 'Flatmates' and 'Lola'. We also as a group discussed adding different segments from the ideas that we didn't use, this then allowed us all to have some kind of creative control and created an amalgamation of all of our ideas. Which was really good for all of us as it created a welcoming and encouraging atmosphere.

We were then asked to create pitches for our short films. We all designated roles to one another based on strengths and weaknesses, in order to work as effectively as we could. We all then took our own roles and were responsible to do our research on both films and what our roles would need to consist of, for example my role being hair and make-up. I needed to consider historical and social context in order to clearly communicate a time period and status. However looking back this way of doing it may work well in theory, when performing our pitch, we ran overtime and didn't get to finish. Our 10 minute slot seemed like plenty of time however when having as much detail as we had initially we found that was no relevance and the depth in some slides were actually not needed. This was a good way to learn the lesson of being concise as in the real world you need to be able to be short and concise with your words in order to not lose focus. Therefore when doing our second pitch we decided to come together as a group and discuss what we needed and didn't. We then found that we took too much out so again that was a lesson in still having that detail in it but not

overloading the presentation. After this presentation we took questions from the class and then they were asked to take a vote, with the majority voting Lola. As a result we decided to go with Lola as our final idea.

In the rehearsal room Keiron offered a lot of effective approaches. He suggested that my character be motivated by sadness instead of anger which worked well in some parts and less in others. It also helped us as a group go through how we needed to be more restrained than theatre acting and how that would reflect as too much on camera.

When writing the script we decided to take a similar approach and split the writing of the scenes, this then doesn't overload on person and also allows more freedom of the group and more creative control. I took my scenes which were the Tony and Velma arguments. When forming my character I took a lot of inspiration from 'Sally Bowles' from the musical 'Cabaret'. I found that the story lines both matched in a way and clearly showed the abuse of women who just wanted to become stars. These women were abused and when they retaliated they were sacked or threatened, which is something we wanted to highlight with Lola and my character. We wanted to show what would have happened to Lola if she had stayed quiet and we used Velma as a vessel for that theme.

When looking for costumes we went to various charity shops and the costume cupboard and found various items. We all wanted to have different colours. I chose black as it demonstrates the classy nature of Velma but can also be seen as grieving the person she once was and I wanted to create a person who was very down and muted as I wanted to be as natural as I could. To see if I could challenge myself to perform differently than I would on stage.

With hair and makeup I did a lot of research. I wanted to be true to the period and true to the characters. With the show girls the makeup would be very thick and heavy eyes to be able to see off stage. This era was the time women started to experiment with makeup and the different ways to use it. When doing Chloe's makeup I wanted to slowly add makeup to show her slow transition into the showgirl life and how it takes over a person and their appearance and then their sense of self. With Rosie's make-up I wanted to add some green to reflect her dress and I used a darker lipstick as I feel like there was a slight difference in her character, in terms of her approach to Lola so I wanted to make her make-up slightly different. For Taylor's character I wanted to use inspiration from Marilyn Monroe, very basic but effective for her hair colour and complexion. This reflected Taylor's character well as it shows her influence and who she wanted to be and how whether she has to push others aside she would do it.

When filming we found there to be another space right next door to the room in the llwyfan that we wanted to use which would have made transporting props and equipment so much easier. However we did come into some issues with trying to cover up plug sockets and doors that looked too modern, although it worked out in the end. The day ran very smoothly, similar to the next day in Savannah's night club. This day ran really well due to us being able to plan everything around the set we had. We did have to make some adjustments, however we knew everything off book so it made it quite easy for us all to be more free with our approaches.

When watching the rushes it was nice to see how we looked on camera and see our vision come to life, when acting I worried that I wasn't doing enough however it picked up really well. It was also nice to see our work in sourcing props and locations really worked well and paid off.