MY VISUAL DIARY

Megan Cox (2000710)

THE COMPANY OF WOLVES

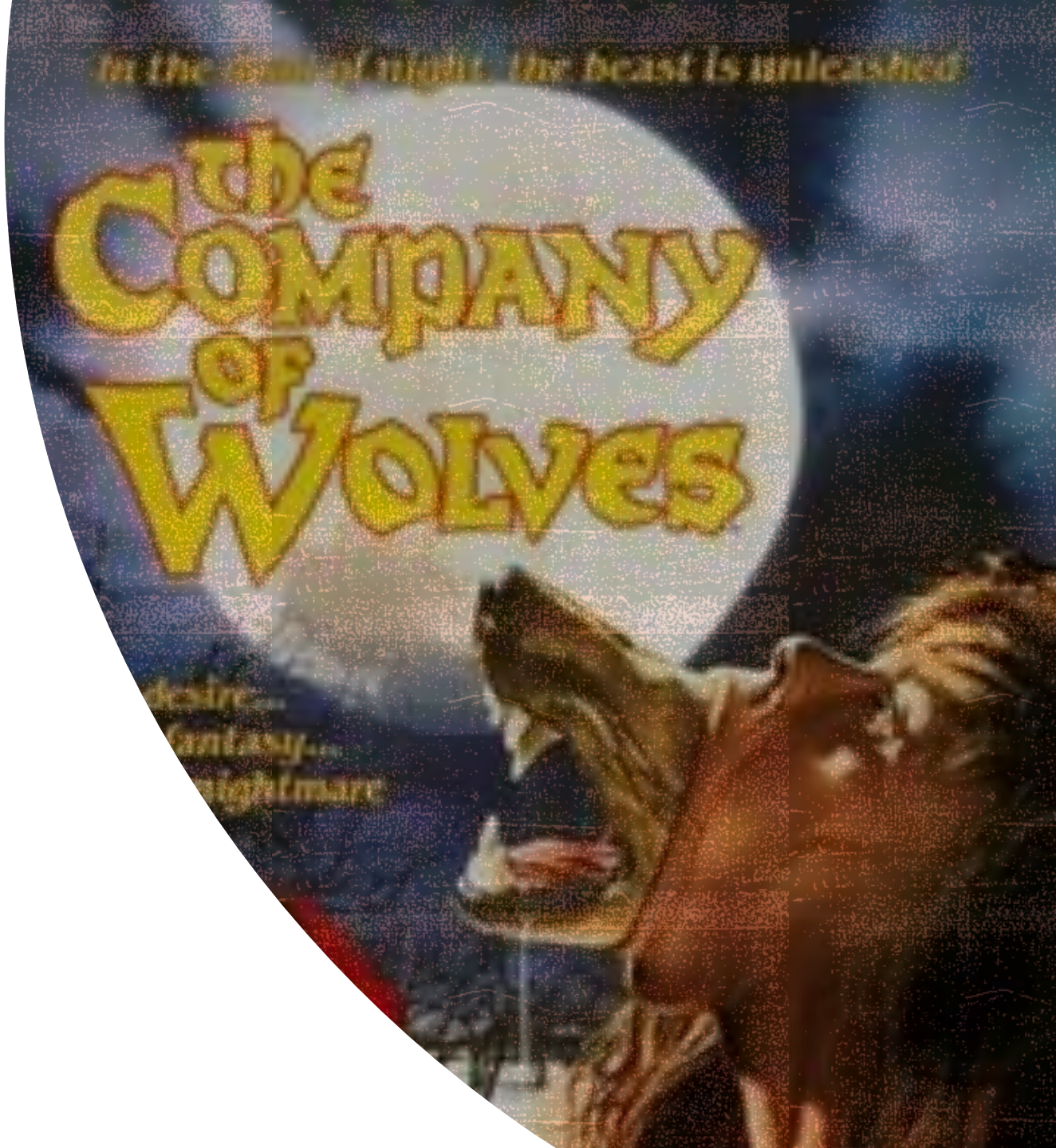
The story that I chose was the company of the wolves by Angela Carter, the reason that I chose to use this story is because this is the one that stood out most to me, the one that I had the most ideas for. The story was very interesting and made me question what was going to happen next, the story is much like the little red riding hood.

When reading this story ideas were flowing, my main idea was to create images showing how a child does not understand the danger, so I want to show the vulnerability of this child, just like in the story as the girl trusted the man as he did not appear as a wolf, he was a stranger but she still trusted him.

RESEARCH

The company of wolves was also made into is movie produced by Neil Jordan, in 1984. Although, unlike the story, the movie is about a dream that the girl is having. In the dream her grandmother tells her many stories about werewolves and explains how she should never leave the path that she walks when she is walking to her home. The girl meets a boy on her way to her grandmothers who challengers her in who can get to her grandmothers house first, when she arrives, she finds out who the boy really is.

After reading the summary, I have learnt that the company of wolves was set in a forest during the winter. And the wolves in the story are more ruthless in the winter as there is a limited food source during this time.



BRIAN LEON

Brian Leon created a Pinterest page full of photoshoot ideas related to the little red riding hood. This Pinterest page is very inspiring as the images within are something that I would like to create when doing my work. I am going to take inspiration from this Pinterest page and create my own images from the inspiration that I have gotten. The Pinterest page was full of ideas that I looked at, all of these images will be considered when taking my own photographs.

This piece on the left is the first that I seen that grabbed my attention on the Pinterest page, this is because of the detail that is within in. the chosen background on this photograph is something that I would like to achieve in my work as I also want to use a forest background. This links to the story that I have chosen. I believe that the focal point of this image is the red cape, this is because all the other colours in the image are neutral and fit together, whereas the red cape is very bight and catches my attention a lot more.

TERRA HOLCOMB

Terra Holcomb is another artist that I looked at. Her work is more related to my idea as she uses a little girl in her images. Taking inspiration from her work and making the images my own is something that I would like to do with the artist, the position of the girl and the background that are in her images is not what I want, but it is something that I am going to change.

This image on the left is a very strong image of Holcomb's, the reason that I chose to look at this image is because when creating my own photoshoot, I am also going to be using a little girl as a model, which is why this image grabbed my attention so quickly. The snow in this image adds a lot this is because it helps when analysing the image, for example, I can tell now that it is in the winter, whereas if there was no snow, it would be harder to tell this.

LISA BAMBERGER

Lisa Bamberger is the final artist that I looked at. Her work is very strong and there is one image that I seen that really stood out to me.

The reason that I chose to use Bamberger as an inspiration photographer is because of a piece she created called ‘little Red I – La Petite Rouge I’ this piece really stood out to me as it is of a little girl who looks like she is just playing with sheep, although she happens to be wearing a red coat with a hood that looks very similar to the little red riding hood. This piece is very much like what I would like to create in my work as I am also going to be using a little girl in my images playing. The girl in the image is not in complete focus, she looks like she is just about to tun around, this makes the image more interesting as the main focus in the image are the sheep.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

The Company of Wolves, is much like the story, 'The Little Red Riding Hood. Although this story is a children's book. The little red riding hood is about a girl who's grandma gave her a red hood and she became known as little red riding hood, one day her grandmother was feeling sick, so her mother told her that she must take some supplies to her, and that she must not leave the path or her grandmother will end up with nothing. Although little red riding hood strays from the path looking for flowers to make her grandmother happy, this is where the wolf came in and pretended to be her, he went to her grandmothers house. When she had finished picking the flowers she set back to the path and went to her grandmothers to discover that her grandmother had been eaten by a wolf, then she was eaten. A huntsman who had been hunting the wolf found him snoring in the grandmothers bed, he cut open the wolfs stomach which little red riding hood and her grandmother jumped out of. They then put heavy stones in his stomach so that he could not run off again.

There are also many short story videos about the little red riding hood on YouTube.

THE PROCESS

After reading all of the stories, I had many ideas but was struggling to put those ideas into action, after a long and hard night of constant thinking and planning, I discovered an idea which I found to be the best idea. In the story ‘the company of wolves’ the girl trusts the boy as he portrayed a different face, this lead to her being vulnerable. My idea is to base my photoshoot of her vulnerability, I will be using a little girl to help show this, and a toy wolf that she will be playing with, this shows vulnerability as she is unaware of what the toy can really do if it was alive. I am also going to add another toy into it to show that she does not understand that a wolf and another animal she is playing with would never play together in real life. As soon as I thought of this idea, I started to create a mind map with the ideas to show my thought process.

INSPIRATION

My main inspiration came from a toy that a family member had, this was the wolf. When I thought about this toy, I realised that it would fit perfectly into the story. From there I created a mind map with the idea based around this toy. I also have a young niece who enjoys playing with toys and playing dress up, this also went perfectly with the story as she could dress in a cape. I also had a lot of inspiration from the kids book 'the little red riding hood' as it was something that I used to love when I was a kid. The artists that I chose when finding more information about the photoshoot that I wanted to create also helped when inspiring me, these artists had similar images to what I want to create, so when I was struggling, I would go back to these artists which would further my inspiration more.

The company of wolves

- Walk away with dog on a lead
  - This will be the last image
    - Will it end badly? or not?
    - leaving veiwers wondering
    - We will not know what will happen.
  - Represents the trust of the guy in the story
- Have them looking face to face
  - showing intimidation
  - once again this shows the girl has a lack of knowledge towards the dog.
- Use my niece to show her playing with toy wolves wearing a red cap.
  - Toys represent the wolves.
  - Red cape represents little red riding hood.
  - Just like in the story
  - Meaning:
    - To show her vulnerability toward animals. As wolves look like regular dogs.
  - The toys are made with teeth showing, but the dog looks friendly.
    - The dog is taking advantage of her lack of knowledge.
- Use her dog to my advantage. She is a husky
  - Could try to edit the dogs eyes to be red.
    - Showing evil
    - Red represents danger but the girl does not understand.
      - This is because of her young age.
  - have her playing with the dog.
    - Hugging her
    - Stroking her
    - giving her water
    - Doing Regular things you would do with a normal dog
    - Shows she does not understand.
      - She is a child who thinks they're just dogs, they're not dangerous to her

RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE OF COVID-19

The mind map on the previous slide was full of my ideas that I had to do with this photoshoot, although, because of the current restrictions that we are facing due to Covid-19, some ideas that I thought of, I was unable to achieve, within the mind map that I created explaining my ideas, there were certain things that I was not able to do. I was unable to get the dog that I wanted to use in the photoshoot, this is because it meant that I would be mixing with others in different households, which as of right now I something that I am not allowed to do. As this was one of the main ideas that I had, I needed to create a new and improved mind map with ideas that I am allowed to achieve providing that I stay safe with all of the restrictions.

The new mind map that I created is on the next slide.

My Ideas

Positions

- One position that I like is the toy and girl looking face to face
  - This shows some form of intimidation between the girl and Toy
  - This also shows irony as the girl is the one that look intimidating toward the toy
- There are many positions that I want to take images
- Show the girls hand over the toy
  - This image will show that the girl is in control
  - This also show irony, as the gils hand is bigger than the toy
    - In reality, this would be the other way around.

Location:

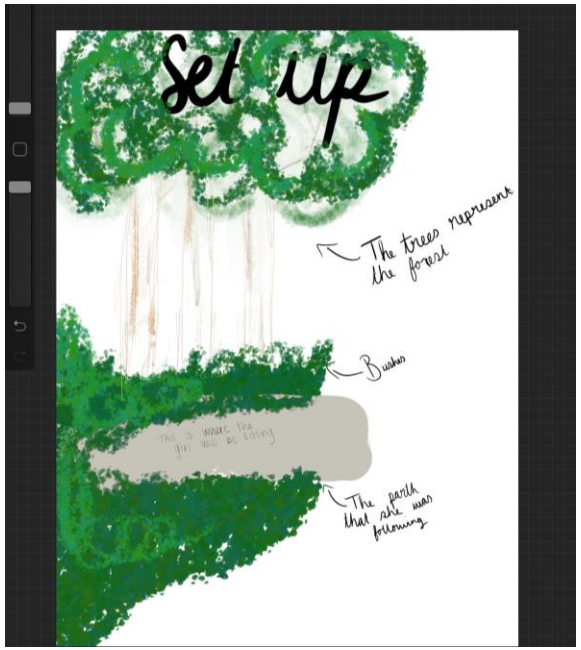
- Some where with a forest background
  - This links to the story as the girl in it was in the woods
  - Make sure that the background of the images are dark
    - This is to make the images look gloomy
    - Edit the background if it is not dark enough using photoshop.

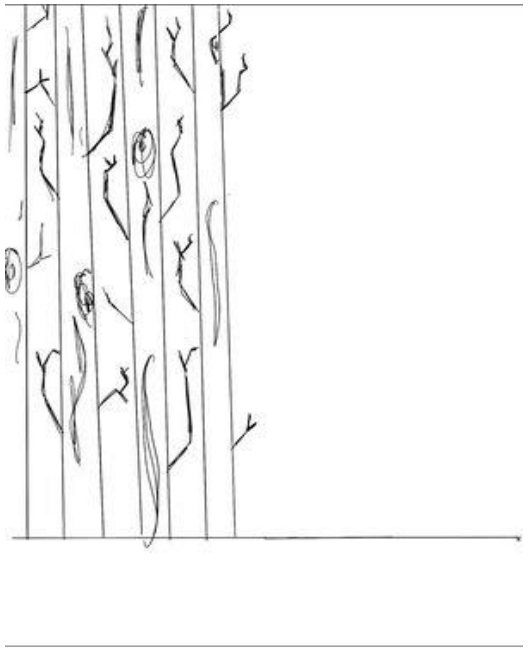
Have a little girl playing with a toy wolf.

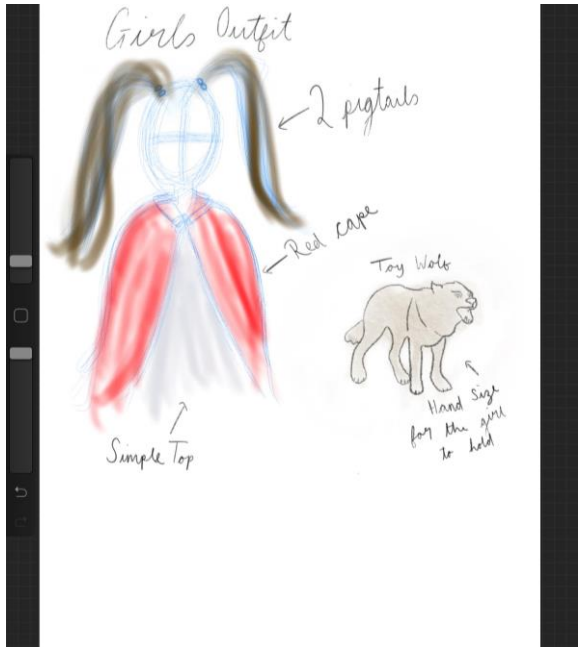
- This is to help portray the message be hind the images better
  - The toy will look realistic.
- She thinks it is a dog and not a wolf
  - This shows miss understanding that the child may have
  - This will show that the child is just playing
    - This is a main goal
- Much like the Story where the girl is oblivious as the wolf portraid a different face.

Costumes

- The outfit will be plain so that it doesn't take attention away from the cape.
- Her hair will be in pig tails
  - This will show that she is still of young age, as it is a very child like hair style
  - There will be no accesories in her hair as I do not want the attention to be taken away from the cape and wolf.
- The Girl will be dressed in regular clothes but will also be wearing a red cape
  - The red cape will be draped over her shoulders and tied at the front
  - links to the story and also to the kids book, 'the little red riding hood'
  - The reason that I am not going to put the cape over the girls head is because I want the images to be my own, not copy the story word for word.







These are three rough sketches I created to show my ideas. The first sketch is showing the surrounding I am going to use, it shows a lot of trees, bushes and a path which is very similar to the story, therefore I chose to use this. The only difference between the sketch and my images is that my images will not have leaves on the tree. The second sketch is the same as the first, although this one is not in colour, this shows the difference, as you can see the dead trees, the reason that I chose to use this also is because the tress in my images will not have any leaves. The third sketch is a quick sketch of the outfit that I want to use and the prop that I want to use, these will be easy to find and will be achievable.

CHOICE OF MEDIA

The media choice that I decided to use are just regular images taken on a digital camera, the reason that I chose to use this is because of the quality on the outcome images. I also decided to edit my images to help make them fit my goal a lot better. I used a Nikon D300/3000 to take my images which is what presented such high quality images, I also used a portrait zoom lens which helped a lot when taking my images.

CONTACT SHEETS

The images on this contact sheet are half bad and half good.

Image 9801 is very strong, it meets my criteria as I want the girl to be playing with toys, there is another toy in this image which helps show the innocence of the girl.

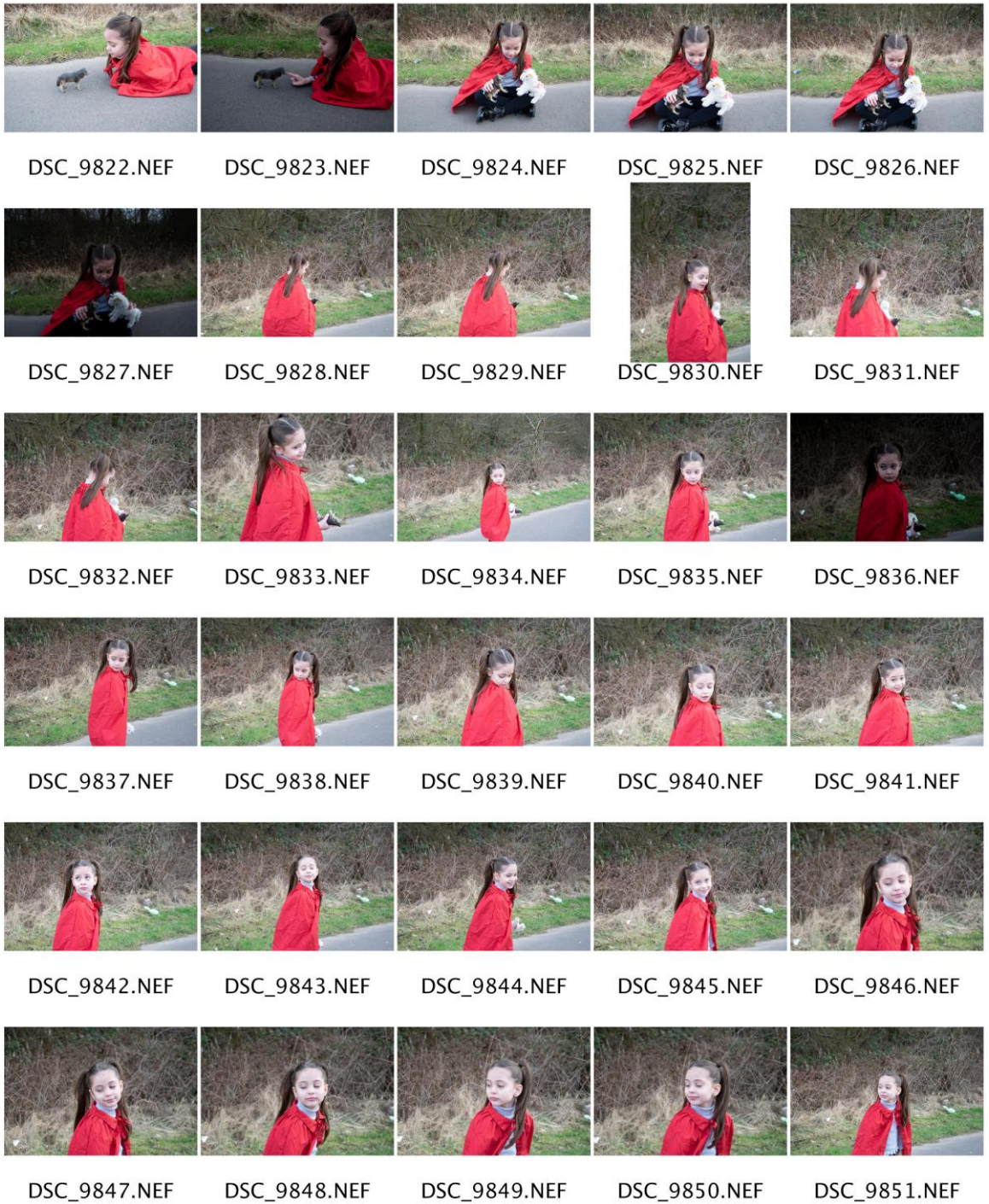
Image 9807 is another strong image, although it is very underexposed, to fix this if I wanted to use it as a final photograph, I could edit it on Photoshop to make it brighter.

Images 9799 and 9800 are taken too far away, if I wanted to use these, I would have to crop them so that I could see the girl better, although, I do not think that I want to use these.

The third row on images are very strong, although, I am unsure if I will be using these or not as I know there are stronger ones.

Images 9809 and 9810 will not be used, this is because the girl is smiling in them which is something that I do not want.

The images of the girl laying down is an idea that I want to use, although I do not like the ones that are in this contact sheet, I especially do not like the ones on the bottom for as her legs are in them.



The images in this contact sheet are stronger than the previous one.

Image 9823 is my favourite image in the whole photoshoot, although it is very underexposed, if I am to use this as a final image, I will need to edit it to become brighter.

Images 9827 and 9836 are another two images that are underexposed, these are also bother very strong so if I were to use these, I will need to edit them.

Image 9830 the girl is smiling which is something that I do not want, because of this, I will not be using this image. There are many images like this in this contact sheet.

The whole of the bottom row of this contact sheet will not be used, this is because in some she is blinking and in others she is smiling.

Image 9842 the girl looks scared, this is a strong image although I do not think I want to use it.

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DSC_9857.NEF DSC_9858.NEF DSC_9859.NEF DSC_9860.NEF DSC_9861.NEF

There are not as many images in this contact sheet compared to the previous two.

Image 9852 to 9854 will not be used, this is because the facial expressions in this make her look like she is laughing, some of them she is also blinking which is not what I want in my images.

Image 9858 is a very strong image, although, I want the wolf to be facing the camera which is why I will not be using it.

Image 9860 is a very strong image, and it is one that I would like to use as a final.

Image 9861 is the last image in this photoshoot, it is a blurry image which makes it not as strong as the others, and the positioning of the wolf is not what I want.

After putting together all of the contact sheets, it really helped to show what images stood out most to me, and annotating these contact sheets helped me when choosing my main five, this is because the analysis of the images in the contact sheet, I was showing what ones I liked the most and what I could do when editing them. I chose my five image base off what I said in these annotations.

Out of all the images that I created, I ended up with eight edited images, these were the strongest in the photoshoot, although these three were not as strong as the other ones that I edited, therefore I have chosen not to use these ones.

DECISIONS

After finding and editing the eight images that I think were the strongest, I have decided that I am going to stick to colour images. One the previous slide, there is an image that I have edited into black and white but kept the red cape in colour, I liked this idea as it helped the cape stand out more and look at lot brighter. Although after comparing this to the image in colour, I decided that all of my images would be in colour, the reason for this is that I like how there are a lot of neutral colours in the photographs, weathers these colours stand out or not, they help make the images stand out a lot more. I decided that the best way to edit my images is using photoshop, this allows be to have complete control over what I want my images to look like.

HOW I EDITED MY IMAGES

As said on the previous slid, I used photoshop to edit my images. The main thing that I done to edit my photographs is change the brightness and contrast, the reason that I done this is because I wanted the images to be dark and eerie as in the story the girl in the forest which made me picture it as being dark, this is because she is surrounded by trees. The change in brightness also helped the red cape stand out more, in one of the slides I edited an image leaving the cape the only thing in colour, after deciding that this is not something that I want to do, editing the images in colour but still making the cape a main focus point was a goal that I achieved. Brightness and contrast were the two main things that I done when editing these images. The last thing that I done was edit out the white noise, this cleared the pixelated image and made it a lot smoother.

FINAL EVALUATION

As said before, coming to a final idea was very hard. I found all the stories a bit confusing and it took a long time of reading over the notes that I had taken for the stories many of times before I decided. My original idea was to base my images off a different story that I read, although with much debate and going back and forth, I decided that the ideas that I had for ‘The company of wolves’ was a lot stronger. The process of creating my images was fairly easy, I had access to everything that I needed giving the restrictions due to covid-19. With that being said, unfortunately, I could not go with my original idea, this is because I could not get the dog into the photoshoot as that would mean I would be mixing with another household which as of right now, we are not allowed to do.

Although, I do believe that good came from this, this is because I had to further think and develop on my ideas to allow them to improve and be achievable. I think that the new idea that I had was a lot better than the first, so I am glad that I could not get the dog in the images.

The research of this was difficult, at first, I struggled to find artists, but once I found them it was not so hard, the artists that I found very much linked to my ideas which helped my whole process as I had inspiration images to look at. I also took inspiration from the children’s book ‘the little red riding hood’ and after doing research, I found many videos which I used to develop my ideas. These videos were short, animated clips which gave me the idea to use a little girl.

One thing that I found difficulty throughout this whole process was finding the right day, this was because of the weather. Most of the days it was -1 degrees Celsius which made it very hard, this is because I did not want the girl in the images to be outside in the cold waring just a top and cape, after a couple days of this weather and discovering that it was not going to change for a while, the girl and I decided that it would be best to do the images with her wearing many of layers, she had 3 tops and 4 pairs of legging on, this helped when taking the images as she was not too cold, although after just fifteen minutes of being in the cold, she couldn’t do anymore as she was starting to get too cold. The images that I got from these 15 minutes were the only ones I could take due to the weather. If I had more time, maybe the images would have been a little better, but I am very happy with the outcome that I got in such little time.

The editing process was also simple, after I decided that I did not want any of the images to be in black and white, the process was just making the images stand out more, I edited them to be slightly darker in the background to add some sort of eeriness to the image.

All in all, I am very happy with my work, I believe that this is my favourite photoshoot that I have ever done, and I also enjoyed doing the work that came with it.

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