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Throughout the exploration stage of the creation of our films, having an open mindset and letting the everyday mundanities (surroundings, objects and aspects of nature) that are often overlooked, bring the theme and inspirations to my mind spontaneously. During this theme-seeking phase it was likely the weekly shop that brought upon the idea of having fruit as the final theme for the film. I knew I wanted a unique and random subject as the basis of the film rather than a concept as I felt more of a connection with this way of creating material- bringing life to the inanimate. The topic of fruit came to mind instinctually along with the knowledge of its potential and the infinite ideas and themes that could be created.

Personally, the most creative and awe-inspiring style of film is stop-motion, the commitment, dedication and time it takes to create even the shortest of films has always captured my attention. With the Aardman films being some of my favourites as a child they were the obvious inspiration- their attention to detail was a key focus I hoped to achieve. Wes Anderson brings a different style and light to the world of stop motion, in such films as *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *Isle of Dogs*. His often strange and unique structure is something I wanted to incorporate into my final product, especially during the editing stage as I admire the often jaunty, mix and match feel he portrays so well, often with prolonged stops rather than the usual flow of scene to scene. This style is also prominent in the film *Submarine* directed by Richard Ayoade which is the basis of the inspiration towards the style of my film. Though this is a coming of age film about teenagers I wanted to attempt to make a classic rom-com/ life cycle style piece with fruit as the main

characters rather than people, the aim was to see if people would gain an emotive connection with an everyday object.

I knew from the start that I wanted the majority of the film to have an element of comedy, as this reflects me personally more than a serious deep topic. This is due to the fact I am often known for my humour by friends and family, as well as often trying to lighten the mood of a serious deep situation. I wanted to add range to the genres of our films by adding some comic relief. By using fruit as if they were humans doing everyday tasks, such as showering, I hoped that this would add the level of humour I aimed for. Though I still wanted to make the audience feel as many emotions as possible, by adding the heart-warming section of the 'love-story' between the apple and banana, not only did it emphasise the comedic sections of the film but the intention was to make the audience feel surprised by their own emotions; to be amazed that they are feeling tender towards pieces of fruit. I emphasised this by using classic love-story tropes such as, the spinning scene where the camera is in portrait. This was also the goal when the choice was made to make the film end suddenly; by making the fruit 'die' swiftly, during the editing process of this scene I decided to use music instead of sound to add to the emotive effect and by ending the music suddenly before the clips were finished I wanted to bring people back to the present and remind them that they have been feeling sorrow for something they use everyday.

At the start of the creation process the intention was to purely use a song or some kind of music but through exploration this would not match the abstract theme of the film. After having a workshop specifically about soundscapes rather than the use of generic songs, this led to an investigation of recording different sounds and creating a unique soundtrack; including the peeling of an orange and the biting of an apple. Matthew Herbert has based his career on creating soundscapes with a range of different themes, the particularly inspiring one for my film

were his *food sounds*. I intended on making something as effective and obscure as his, however, I wanted to keep it quite simple so as to not overpower or steal focus from the images.

The primary focus and theme of my film was colour, this was the result of considering what peoples initial thoughts are when they think of fruit, which is usually how colourful and vibrant each piece of fruit is as well as the range of colours available with the hundreds of types that exist. This idea was further developed by analysing the book *The Secret Lives of Colour*, Kassia St Clair, this text helped to explore and expand the knowledge of different connotations of each colour rather than just specifically my own. While choreographing I deeped this exploration by listing connotations then creating movements from this by moving how I imagined each colour would; such as gentle, floaty movements for green apples.

As well as colours as the focus while choreographing, the other aspects of fruit that I based my movement tasks on were; how the fruit would move, the shape, the texture and how the fruit peels. I gave these tasks to my dancers and had them improvise to how they personally interpret these stimuli. While filming I often made the decision to focus close up on the fruit as to emphasise the textures, this also helped to keep the fruit as the main focus and only having the dancers as a support rather than stealing focus.

On reflection of the final film overall I am pleased with how it turned out, I feel as though my initial themes and visions were portrayed quite well, I hope that the audience reacted how I intended, after receiving some feedback from friends and family the emotions I hoped to affect have been so far. At the start of this module I was anxious as I did not think I would be able to create an effective piece, as I felt as though I sometimes struggle to be creative or think of unique angles or editing. However, after going through detailed planning and brain-storming I found it a lot easier than I had anticipated, for example, I had a lot of ideas that I could not fit

into my final edit due to having so many original ideas which surprised me, such as ideas for scenes or more stop motion scenes. I really enjoyed the making of my final film, I think I would like to try out more film-making in the future. Due to my previous love of stop motion I am glad I got to try it out, if I were to do more of it in the future I would like to try and do more detail as I learnt that the more clips I took the better it looked but due to time sometimes I could not be as detailed as possible, although the more practice I had the better it got and in the end it turned out better than I hoped. At first I struggled a little with editing so I was worried it would not have the final result that I had envisioned, however, by being patient and detailed I am very pleased with the quality of my video. I had a very clear of how I wanted my film to turn out so I was concerned that I would be disappointed or frustrated that it was not what I wanted but by staying focused and not being afraid to reshoot certain scenes that I was not happy with or reediting it turned out as good as I hoped. Initially I was just going to use fruit but I decided to incorporate dancers, I am glad I did as I think it helped to add more meaning and detail to my piece, I used less dancers than planned as I wanted to focus more on giving the fruit their own personalities and I felt as though the more fruit I used the less connected the audience would be with them and the less time I would have to build their own individual personalities. By using the dancers to emphasise movements the fruit would be unable to do, I think this will help the audience to relate more to the fruit as more than objects. At first five minutes felt like it would be impossible to fill but I ended up having the opposite issue whereas I had to make cuts, I think I would really enjoy making a longer version for my own personal enjoyment in the near future.

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