

Self-Reflection Report – Tom Williams

First Year: Level 4

First year was very simple in what we were asked to do, the modules at the start of the year were a nice introduction for people who weren't familiar with the real film making process as apposed to the more watered down version they teach you in college and uni was a nice way to enter that starting with the script analysis module where we had to break down a script and analysis and then we made our way to the cinema of the self-module.

The cinema of the self was a hard one because at the time of making it I feel like a lot of people myself included were still finding our selves and being challenged to looking into our own personalities and our own egos to see what it was about was a great help in moulding our film making style and pattern

Next was the ways of thinking module, this module I enjoyed a lot because I was given the opportunity to investigate the hidden themes in some of my favourite films and for the visual essay I chose to look into the Indiana Jones film series and I had a lot of fun because it meant I was able to re-watch some of my favourite childhood films but obviously they were ruined for me after I started to analyse them all thanks to my lecturers giving me this "analytic eye" for film, but I did really enjoy this module and I quite liked the editing behind it, rather than going for a more educational, loads of more on the screen kind of style I went with a more minimalistic look, using little to no text and when there was text, the text was the only part that was important by blurring out the background.

We went through other modules quite quickly as they became more and more enjoyable such as the Nordic noir which was really interesting to look into the mythology of Nordic gods and legends and how stories from so long ago are still relevant in today's culture and film making methods, looking into the subliminal tricks that some people use to make it so that some characters relate to others, and this I think is where my patterns started properly emerging is with the Nordic noir I enjoyed researching myths and creating a whole world and back story just for this 2 minute video that I became slightly obsessed with world building and fantasy themes in a more realistic setting and I think this obsession is what has driven me to go with my idea for my final major project which I will touch on a bit later in this report, but I really enjoyed creating my own world in which all the rules are mine to make and this was a blessing and a curse which the next module proved it to be.

The last module of the year was John Hill's module, it is a module that is shrouded in mystery as to what really happened and is legend within the film course, it is the tragedy of the set build. I'm joking of course but the set build was a very chaotic module for us as we were given a task to perform and very little guidance from John as I'm unsure where John went but he wasn't in and left us to it for a number of lectures so obviously conflicting ideas and different personalities clashed, this was a really bad time for myself as just finding my foot in and patterns. The problem was some people got a bit overly attached to the set build and when other ideas started to come about the project started to fall apart. I wrote about this more in detail in my actual report for the set build, but again this wasn't the send off I would have wanted for my first year but it was a very good learning curve for me to see who the best people are in the course and who is serious about film.

Second Year: Level 5

In year 2 I had just finished some summer project I was working on for my own passion, creating shorts and I also took the passion I had developed in the first year of world building into my social group and dragging my friends into playing a very comedy oriented path finders game, which was also really good for me because I started to learn a bit more about story telling itself, I read a few books on it and even started working on a few scripts one of which I was going to do for my final major project but I decided against it half way through this year but in second year my ideas were at their peak.

The ghost story module was a lot of fun because I always like ghost stories and creepy stories about people going missing and ghosts haunting people and being close friends with Jordan is a nice balance because Jordan really doesn't like ghosts, during the ghost story module we went to a book opening for a book by a guy called Mark Rees the book was titled ghosts of wales and in the book there was a story about a man who was able to see a maid in a house but the maid had died years before, this is where I got the idea for my ghost story, the module went well and was quite easy to research but unfortunately due to my very obvious time management skills I worked on everyone else's film and left very little time for my own work and in the end I had to settle for the proof of concept route that Timi had suggested to us but I had a lot of fun working on other people's films, I was a grip and the drone pilot on Celyns project because I have a drone and I was made to carry everything so that was fun.

Post production 2 was the Chris's module where he wanted us to pitch a script every week and pitch it to industry standard, as much as I really liked our idea to start with after going over it again and again it became a sort of inside joke between Talisha, Jordan and myself because we just hated our own film so much, we settled on the idea for our film called daisy because we were meant to look into new papers and stuff like that and we couldn't find much so we went with a story about a teenager who had run away from home

The module where john set us to make a introduction to a tv show was a lot of fun and was where I could show of some of my film maker styles, I decided to create a title sequence for a cop show called Swansea vice using upbeat 80s music and having Jordan and myself play the 2 main cops in the which special guest appearances from talisha, matt and George, making it was a good laugh and I really enjoyed the module, the other side of this module wasn't the greatest I will be honest, we were tasked with creating a small advert for the Microsoft surface and we had to come up with themes and ideas for it and as well as it went I didn't have that much fun doing it but it was an overall success.

We also had modules with bay tv where they set us out to do stuff for the market and take interviews with shop owners, which some stall owners were incredible nice and very funny with there interviews and some people who just lead us on which was quite annoying but learning curve.

The creative research essay was a good researching opportunity for me because I was able to look a lot more into sound design and music scores which I love immensely

And I also created a rip-o-matic for a mockumentary called the junior team, it was a "the office" style show but about a junior team of super heroes who are left to fight off a super villain after all the bigger heroes go missing, this idea was a lot of fun to work with and I had a great time bouncing ideas of everyone and actually filming some parts were great because there was a lot of coming up with things on the spot and personally this is where I am really showing off my comedic side and really filling my boots.

Third Year: level 6 Now

This year has been incredible so far for me as I've been able to develop ideas and run with smaller ideas I usually would of given a second thought but with the encouragement from my lecturers and class mates some of my ideas I have really been able to flesh out and make into bigger and better ideas.

The only two modules I have done this year that I would like to speak about is my final major project pitch and my dissertation.

My dissertation was a very helpful researching opportunity as I was able to really look behind what made British tv so funny and the same for American tv but funny in a different way, the diss was a very long process as I kept changing my ideas for it but after relating it to my final major project I was able to come to a solid idea and really start some proper work on it, I was able to complete it relatively well as I was looking into a feel I have already looked into before, but I was told by some people that the way I write is similar to the way I speak and that wasn't very good for a academic piece of work so about a week from the deadline I have to go through again and correct myself where I spoke quite casually.

Now for one of my favourite modules, the final major project even when I came for my interview for university I was incredibly excited not just to learn filming but to be able to create and show of my film making styles, the project I have constantly thought about and I have gone through many different ideas of what kind of story I want to tell, and I'm talking a good few dozen ideas for the major project, but I eventually settled on a film called Luna and Riley, an alien film about an outsider and an alien becoming friends and learning from one another, it's a story I have been developing and thinking about so much that I have created this whole idea behind it which then Talisha decided to call it "*The Tom Williams Cinematic Universe*" which some people in the class, mainly George decided he wanted his film to have Easter eggs to the universe and so he's made sure that some characters back stories have ties to mine and it's just been a real big stress relief to think about these things, it's been a good laugh.

Conclusion

Overall the last 3 years have been incredible module wise and I feel like I've really grown as a film maker and finding myself in the first year, finding my friends and style in the second year and really coming into my film maker mind set this year has been what I think is critical to my future as a film maker, I've really enjoyed all the modules some more than others but honestly I wouldn't change any of them.

Also I came up with "*Emotion Board*" if Chris Buxton says it without me present I deserve royalties