

Here we are some, two weeks into the Live Project module, most of which time I've felt confused and somewhat out of place to the rest of the group/team due to being positioned in the role of taking on behind-the-scenes material once again. This isn't necessarily a bad thing since it was confirmed that I could work independently of the group because it enables me to oversee all aspects of the pre-production process. Agreed, this is too much for one person alone but knowing 'what's going on' with all aspects gives me a better idea of the whole picture. There have also been personal issues which have made it difficult and awkward to interact and communicate with the rest of the group. With all these points in mind I haven't felt that initial enthusiasm and motivation I feel at the beginning of any new project and with this one I feel that my heart just isn't in it. This is regretful on some levels as I don't feel I'm giving the project my full commitment when I would actually like to feel I've contributed something to both CBFF and Kelvin Guy. But despite these problems and their negative aspects I still feel there is the possibility of working positively in an independent manner.

With the many encounters I have had being involved with behind-the-scenes material, I have always been involved with camera work and collecting stills and footage. My camera work is a long way off what it needs to be for such roles as I still do not understand the basics of camera settings and seem unable to grasp them. I have also found out recently that one of my eyes has deteriorated significantly over the last twelve months or so which has made me want to move away from camerawork when it involves work for a client, for instance, although I will still enjoy taking 'snaps' for my own gratification. Even so, I have had an extra camera tutorial with my head tutor and while I feel I haven't retained all the information he gave, I do feel I have another starting point to begin from – learning from scratch. I am hoping to have more of these tutorials too.

Within the initial tutorial my camera was also set to basic settings with less reliance on automated functions. I have had a couple of chances to experiment with this with both bad and interesting results. I am looking forward to further experimenting with these new settings but I am both aware and concerned

that the deadline of the module and the project itself will not allow the necessary time I would need for this. I also need to keep reminding myself that my role is for pre-production anyway and I should be focusing more on the written aspects – But even they require some photography/footage for such things as a mood board.

Another problem arises with the time allotted comes with the necessity to research documentary structure. I have had problems for some years involving an inability to keep focused on the paragraph, or even sentence I am reading and I have to keep reading them over. But even after that I struggle to retain the information I have read.

Until now?

I have been advised to read *Introduction To Documentary* (Bill Nichols), particularly chapters 1 & 6. I'm through the first chapter and now onto the next. I have still had to re-read paragraphs and sentences but I'm finding that some of what's written appeals to me and is drawing my interest. I've never considered being able to tell a story through documentary form but in retrospect, some of the subjects I'm interested in are well suited to them. This can be accomplished in fiction films very easily but they tend to lack the 'realism' of real people in real life. The elements of truth and unrehearsed action and response are some of the things that are appealing to me.

I have little doubt that some of the things I'd like to write into a documentary would be controversial and from experience they tend to be things people get uncomfortable about if prompted to speak of them socially and sometimes in personal and intimate surroundings. But I have a feeling that *Introduction To Documentary* may show possible ways to ease this discomfort.

The reason I decided to start writing this reflection now is because I've just started reading chapter 6, about ethics. I think I'm a reasonably ethical person. I'm certainly considerate of others' feelings. So this aspect of the chapter is going to be particularly interesting and somewhere I feel I may learn a great deal about what I may have to offer the various documentary sub-genres. This is also the second time while reading the book I've found myself inspired to the point where I wish I could move away from my part in the CBFF project and immerse myself into experimenting with documentaries for the module instead... And even... Having more time to read the book!

It's now a week or later and I'm still only half way through chapter 6. It's been a busy week outside of the module but getting to read more of *Introduction To Documentary* has been prominently on my mind. I have managed to write some of my research notes though and I am quite surprised by how much I have actually covered but still have a long way to go. I wasn't very happy with the treatment, mood board and work examples I submitted to CBFF. Even though there was plenty of time on some levels. On other levels I felt I rushed these items. It has been the same with most, if not all my work throughout the course. I have become so used to working in my own time and at my own pace which in most 'real world' situations wouldn't be acceptable. When I feel inspired and motivated to work on a project I can spend all my waking hours (for days, even weeks) working on whatever. I suppose I then burn myself out some degree and need to take a step back, put whatever aside for a while, and then go through everything afresh. I have become accustomed to this approach because after a break from it all I have found that it's much easier to see any mistakes.

As I have been writing this I have found myself thinking back to my previous self-reflection for the Celtic nation's module. I seem to be repeating myself once again but with a few variances. I can't put my finger on what they are (yet), but I can feel them. But the point of this paragraph is more about my self-awareness of how I handle myself in the working aspect of film production and it seems my current approach is fine for my own projects but I really need to be looking at changing the way I'm used to working if I wish to get

anywhere within the industry. I am hoping that the deadlines we receive for modules/projects is a first step towards that goal.

31st May 2019 - It has been obvious from the beginning of the module that I wasn't wanted on the project which I don't have a problem with in itself and can even understand to some degree, but it has made my efforts for this module much more difficult. I tried to work as independently as possible while remaining professional and objective, but because of the barrier my work has suffered. The main problems have been the initial confusion of what was expected of me/my role at the beginning of the module and feeling unable to communicate freely and openly. I also repeatedly ask for several pieces of information which I never received. This is no reflection of Carmarthen Bay Film Festival or its committee itself as I really wished to see this years event do well and wished I could have played a bigger part in that. But I am not happy with the amount of work I completed for this module. The paperwork alone is very short and lacking – especially compared to other such work I've submitted in the past.

I may not have gained much from this module but the things I have gained carry a certain strength and determination about how I wish to proceed in the future; I still feel some drive/motivation with looking and experimenting with documentaries and I will probably be trying something with that during the summer break. I also feel more determined where working independently is concerned but I am aware that for this I will also need a dependable team to work under me. And I haven't had much chance to work on my assertiveness as mentioned in a previous reflection, but I have noticed a slight change for the better with the chances I've had. I also need to grow a thicker skin.

1,494 words

References:

Introduction To Documentary, Bill Nichols, Indiana University Press. 2010. Second edition.