

SHORT FILM - PROCESS WORKBOOK by Charles Marshall Hanley

We start off the module by brainstorming ideas for the film in our groups. I, Tom Cana, Katrina Seaton, Dan Pitts and Jade Rositter tried to come up with quick and simple ideas that we could expand on to paint the big picture. We must keep in mind that the current Covid-19 situation is escalating, and we may not be able to come back into University to film our pieces in person.

The first idea was a lone person trying to hunt down multiple people. It would be filmed and perceived as a horror film until the ending where it is revealed that it was all just a game of hide and seek. We all liked this idea, but we also agreed that it would be tricky with the covid restrictions put in place. The future of restrictions is also in limbo currently, with the government likely to put in stricter rules. Dan came up with this idea and it was nice to see him come out of his shell a bit and be more confident sharing his own thoughts.

I came up with the next pitch which was a race for prize money. It would have three different people getting an email from a mysterious tycoon that offers them the chance to win £10,000. All they must do is win a race to a specific location. The three people would encounter obstacles and hijinks would occur on the way to make the film lighthearted and comedic. At the end, one of the participants would win just before the other two. The tycoon man would appear and congratulate the winner. He then suddenly shoots the other two in the head, instantly killing them. Blood splatters on the face of the winner, with the tone of the film changing drastically. The game had higher stakes than was once thought. The tycoon congratulates the winner again and it ends.

Everyone in the group loved this idea and agreed that it would be easier to film as well as everyone's parts can be filmed separately, and the final scene can be filmed with the actors appropriately distanced. I put forward that it would be great to play to everyone's strengths as well as the film will be put out there into the world. It'll be used as a piece of evidence for our acting skills. Therefore, Dan will be playing a free runner as he wants to go into stunt performing.

CHARACTER BIOS -

The Wealthy Man – ANTHONY RICHMAN (pun) – Cocky, always smiling businessman. Always playing a character. 80s game show host crossed with Hans Gruber from Die Hard. Entrepreneur millionaire.

ELLIOT; He is in debt. Needs money for bills. His car needs repairs. Works two jobs, still not enough. Poundland and ShoeZone. Ex-gambling addict. White polo, blue jeans, sneakers. Puffer jacket.

RYAN - Baggy tracksuit. Gamer, free runner. Needs money for private healthcare for a kidney transplant. Passionate.

SOPHIA – She wants a baby. Needs money for it. Cardigan, top, leggings, brown boots. Thoughtful person. Responsible young adult. Shy, timid, passionate, innocent.

LOCATIONS - Inside houses, streets, woodland/beach

PROPS ETC. - Pink Bike, Car, Briefcase, Gun, Breakfast Props, Video game console, Phones

SETTING – current day, undisclosed town,

FIRST SCENE

EXT. Outside a flat window. Flashes of light and video game sound effects are heard. RYAN is gaming, lost in the game. It ends, he looks empty. he looks outside and looks longingly for something no longer there.

CUT to ELLIOT who is making breakfast, looks at letters and letters with bills. He shoves them into a drawer in quite a funny manner.

CUT to SOPHIA, walking down a street in town. Sees something about a baby. She is visibly sad. Walks away, disappointed.

All three scenes smooch together as three comic panels showing their mundane, issue ridden lives.

They all sit down in their respective seating areas when they all get an email alert on their phones. Shot changes from a symmetrical view on all three, to a symmetrical POV looking onto their phone. They open the email; a video presentation starts. It is from millionaire entrepreneur Anthony Richman, detailing that he has chosen three random civilians in dire need of funds. He has money, so why not give it to somebody who not just needs it but WANTS it. SOPHIA wants a baby but is unable to conceive. They are to take part in Anthony's race. A race to a specific destination. A race for £10,000. He asks them to come to the start location, ready to begin.

SECOND IDEA

Character Bios -

Tom is ETHAN. Damaged. Shy. Soft. Neutral clothing so it doesn't take away from his issues as a character. Reserved and afraid of showing emotion.

Charlie is LEWIS. Strong personality, cunning, emotional. Confident. Denim jacket. Ripped jeans. Chelsea boots.

Dan is JAMIE. Abusive but charismatic. Great reputation.

Jade is ALICE. Warm and inviting. Understanding. Fitted blazer over a dress.

PLOT POINTS

- A man is seen next door to an apparently abusive couple.
- He is seen going through the day where his life is portrayed as great.
- A constating montage is shown of the girl next day going through her day. It's awful.
- Both days end with both people going home.
- The girl is cornered down an ally by presumably the boyfriend.
- It turns out it's the man next door and he is the one that has been abusive towards her. Her and her partner were just arguing because she wouldn't tell him where the bruises came from.
- It's revealed in a flashback when the abuse started.

- WE ARE YET TO COME UP WITH AN ENDING.

BRETT AND DAN'S PRODUCTION INFO

- Call sheet; every bit of info for the shooting day will be on here, 2nd assistant director does this
- Unit calls; hour before on camera to have breakfast
- Must wrap at certain time, if you go over, you must give the minutes back to the cast and crew
- Tell people the weather
- Don't call actors till they're needed
- Everyone needs to know what they're shooting e.g. scene, day or night, info on the scene, 8ths of a page, location, info is power, give the most you can
- Need local authority numbers
- Sides are script pages you're shooting that day; HANDY FOR THE ACTORS

PRODUCTION UPDATE

With the new restrictions put in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are unable to film in person. Therefore, we must come up with an idea that can be filmed remotely in our homes. This has made this module even more challenging, and it will be new for everyone but with a strong will to complete a good piece of film, I'm sure we are all up to the challenge.

The following is my first idea for an exclusively online film.

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE IDEA

PITCH

An online call between four friends that starts off as a game of truth or dare that starts escalating as more secrets are revealed between the group. Once pressured by the surrounding secrets and his guilt, Liam reveals a dark secret.

PLOT POINTS

- Liam on the laptop trying to connect to a call.
- After seeming like it's not going to, he connects with the host, Cody. They chat, then Steven and Olivia join the call.
- Cody asks why they aren't in the same place, seeing as they're together. Olivia says it's because she's visiting her mother in Cardiff.
- Liam asks why they are smiling so much. They both say that they are engaged!

- Big congratulations from Cody and Liam. After the congratulations, Cody says “are we gonna get one with game night then or are you guys gonna suck each other off all night?”. Liam suggests Truth or Dare.
- The group decide that it might be fun, so they give it a go. After a few turns, Cody reveals that he and Olivia slept with each other before she met Steven. Steven gets upset and annoyed but not enraged.
- Olivia gets angry and says that Cody is the one that dobbed Steven in to the police for hitting someone on a night out. Steven gets pissed off now and makes it known! He throws a bit of a tantrum and points out that Liam has been very quiet. They all pressure Liam into confessing that he ran an unknown person over. They are all in shock. The mood changes. Liam has become very anxious and unloads his confession of the event. Olivia leaves straight after he finishes talking. Steven leaves shortly after. Cody stays for a bit, in silence. Liam asks Cody to stay. He says he’s got to go and leaves. Liam is left alone. After trying to recover from the dramatic events, he ends the call in silence.

CHARACTERS

Liam – Tom

Steven – Dan

Olivia – Jade

Cody - Charlie

MESSAGE AND PURPOSE

Do not lie to the people you love, because you will always be found out in the end.

I gave this to the group, and we did different drafts with Keiron. We then performed a hot seating exercise that allowed us to create a naturalistic version of our characters. Tom and Dan seemed to struggle greatly with this as they got stressed at the improvisation side of the exercise.

RESEARCH FOR ‘TRUTH OR DARE’

SCREENWRITING RESEARCH – MARRIAGE STORY

I want to delve deeper into the world of screenwriting as it is my main passion. To do this, I rewatched my favourite film by my favourite screenwriter; Marriage Story by Noah Baumbach. This film is a prime example of naturalistic dialogue and storytelling. He is a master of character development and realistic decision making in stories. Everything he writes feels authentic. This is the type of tone I want to give to ‘Truth or Dare’. But it’s not just the script that makes Baumbach so good. It’s his attention to detail. The fact that something so small in the production design, or the make up and hairstyling or the costume design can say so much about the characters and the parallels between them; that is why Noah is one of the best storytellers. He knows how to develop characters and show who they truly are and why who they are matters to the story’s purpose.

TRUTH OR DARE FIRST SCENE SCRIPT (written by myself): https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/1900667_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/EdWp9AiyEhplpLgSYOK7oicBciRQuiol7ZdFR9-dg-yMw?e=j7A1ki

OTHER IDEA

Kat has managed to adapt the race film into an online only game show type piece. Here is the link of her adaptation; https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=33908e5f36&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1693218114071719817&th=177f84e758806f89&view=att&disp=inline&sadbat=ANGjdJ8njkoieG2088njzElxpb5dCpnU0FEiDpuwu7EkZSHumenLJ9vfMxlc1vVJ23o3IY-ONZYu9esehDCcxNLqYekL_gtfXil24JnXRHK9N8wVKRvkZrAd4x04VM3wawDwaou0Y1ZMV6Jwj5wsHZJrl62xnoQ3phWrPf1jabmPrfS0d9-jNM6Q6RrNPLldq37Hl8kaDWtxFHxzt7g9Xz_1A8znsDyo9TzuPAZJ93OqanZr0WxKjT8UV21rXeJZKil-3iSEQp35K3ppCLvk2BBi455wIYJ65XtW9hMDOPPAoiMxm_etoYl9R8lbdPqvQ5y53gW5ys8F8-P4VqPETXGgQsz_ghbarh5cDVAQzjXeuZHYaYmSTNoiahXV-KJld9y-OKNZsW64sfjKmYTWXXrvrjYoy-kEFi5XXw7EBvu5VSVb7aMqzhiUPYiG-qv3HMoWLLD-KZGYG6Vx3aJPC5_8oQyU3PC2_Yad7Sbb-WMaCID3kUdLKUoR8ROVw8eTkORzqFKHSGj95xnFAGa00ctWryhR06Pw1sqfrAnP0VLV4rUzaf88P0rZphPlpjSabvHERojTrWMcJYQrkMPxcHGZjSSAIMpxKxe-iEyOXvLnztbuH3jP0cQ0hnUXNbvW8vLZom55oYScVsO6BS5MNBZTefybPcnSlkrxaZzmYWXp7MaEhfclt4r8Mg

PITCH AND DECISION DAY

We have pitched both our ideas to the rest of the class, and they have voted for us to choose the race idea. We are all very shocked by this as we have put much more effort into the other idea and had very little confidence in this one. I have put a lot of passion into writing the script of the other film and am very frustrated that it will now go to waste. However, I will work well with my group and put my energy and focus into the new idea, despite my low passion for it. I made the ToD PowerPoint and Kat made the YJR PowerPoint.

Truth or Dare Pitch: https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/1900667_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/EUyzt7Vh9OVLg5TvdBmlbEAB9LTrP9oyUBgiD5Qg_oGQ0g?e=SBgLQa

Your Just Reward Pitch: https://uowtsd-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/1900667_student_uwtsd_ac_uk/EdiwnaBS0vpHvNyObfg_01QBWwOnpE0nBbHOMqORCfdD1g?e=d1XTGi

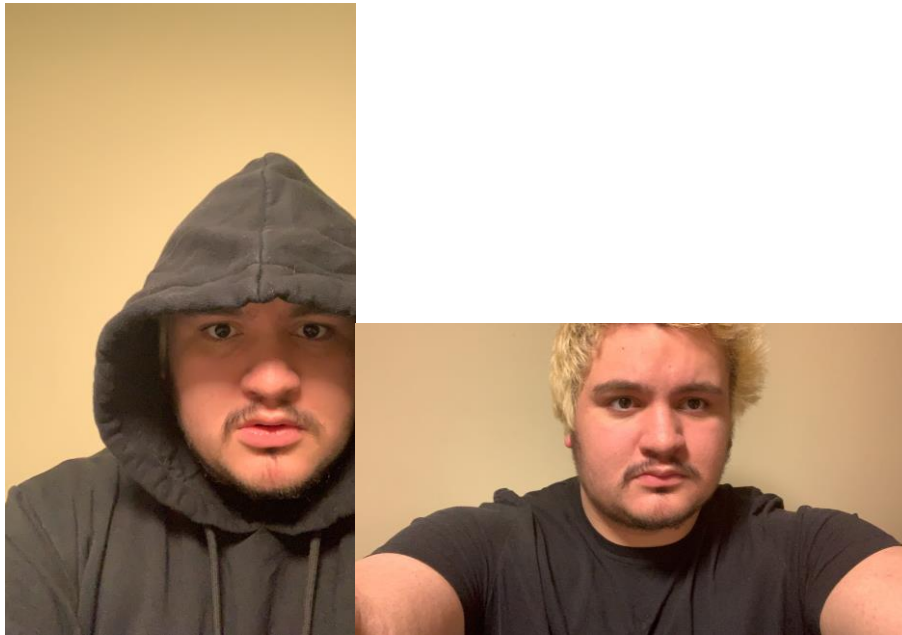
MOODBOARD & COLOUR PALLETE FOR 'UNKNOWN MAN'



MOODBOARD & COLOUR PALLETE FOR FILM



EARLY PRODUCTION PHOTOS FOR 'YOUR JUST REWARD'



PEOPLE have not been taking part. Arranged different meetings that people did not turn up for. Jade messaged me privately to ask if I wanted to go over some things with her because no one else is and I agreed.

OTHER ROLES DURING PRODUCTION

Throughout the production, I have been assigned to multiple roles for different sections. For the PowerPoint pitches, I oversaw assigning props and gathering character bios from every member of the cast. I was essentially Katrina's right hand man for anything she needed and made it known that I was available for anything if she wanted help.

COLLABORATION UPDATE

Tom is being very rude to almost everyone in the production. He swore at Jade for no apparent reason and is trying to take control of everyone's characters and their lines. There is no designated leader of the group and yet, Tom is trying to make everyone perform his way.

SCRIPT UPDATE

The 2nd draft's dialogue still needs to be more naturalistic. This is an ongoing problem that I had predicted. I still believe that a film with this premise will not be able to provide very naturalistic dialogue. This is exactly why I put more effort into the script of the other idea and left most of the writing to Kat and Jade. I tend to write much more naturalistic dialogue so I thought that the film would benefit if I stayed away from the writing aspect of it.

RESEARCH FOR 'UNKNOWN MAN'

LIGHT from 'DEATH NOTE'

Light Yagami is the main character from manga and anime 'Death Note'. He comes to be in possession of the titular notebook that has the power to kill anybody whose name is written within it. He begins killing petty criminals but soon becomes obsessed with it and aims to become, in his own words, a "god of the new world". He is a prime example of a character that believes he is the protagonist of his own story but is actually the antagonist of the whole piece. Light's god complex is what makes him so dangerous, as he believes he can never be stopped due to his intelligence and newly found powers. This is why I chose him as a starting point for my research into my own character.



Here are some key quotes of Light's I have based some of my character's personality off;

"Look around you, and all you will see are people the world would be better off without."

"The world is rotten. And those who are making it rot deserve to die. Someone has to do it, so why not me?"

"I am justice!"

DEXTER from 'DEXTER'

The titular character from the show 'Dexter' is one of the most well-known tv show figures from the past 20 years. He was the victim of childhood trauma and uses this as an excuse to kill other serial killers. He has convinced himself that he is doing good as he is murdering criminals, but murder is murder, and he is not the saviour he perceives himself as. The unknown man embodies these characteristics perfectly so I decided to channel the sociopathic nature that Dexter portrays throughout the series.

BOB BARKER from 'THE PRICE IS RIGHT'

The first game show host that came to mind was the iconic Bob Barker. I watched an episode of The Price is Right that I found on YouTube. He is very well spoken but lacks the energy I want in my character. The unknown man must hype up the participants and someone else does this in TPIR show.

STEVE HARVEY from 'FAMILY FEUD'

Steve Harvey maintains a great level of energy throughout the Family Feud TV show. The show rides on his comedic nature and energetic charisma. This is the exact persona I want my character to portray throughout most of the film.

'UNFRIENDED'

I thought I would benefit greatly by rewatching the found footage horror film 'Unfriended'. The entire film is filmed through a computer screen, viewing a Skype call between friends. The naturalistic relationships seen throughout the film are important to focus on for the rest of the cast. Although the characters in YJR have only just met, their relationships drastically change over the course of the piece. Also, viewing a film that is filmed the same way as ours gives us inspiration and ideas for what to do in the editing stage of production.

COLLABORATION UPDATE

We had a meeting with Keiron about Tom Cana's behaviour today. We explained that he has been rude to the other members of the group, he won't let other people voice their opinions and he tries to take over the production without concern for everyone else. He explained that he couldn't tell that there were problems within the group and that's a sign of dealing with it well and with a professional attitude. After this, our session with Tom was so much better, and we got a lot of work done. It seems that he has taken this issue seriously when it was brought up, so that's good.

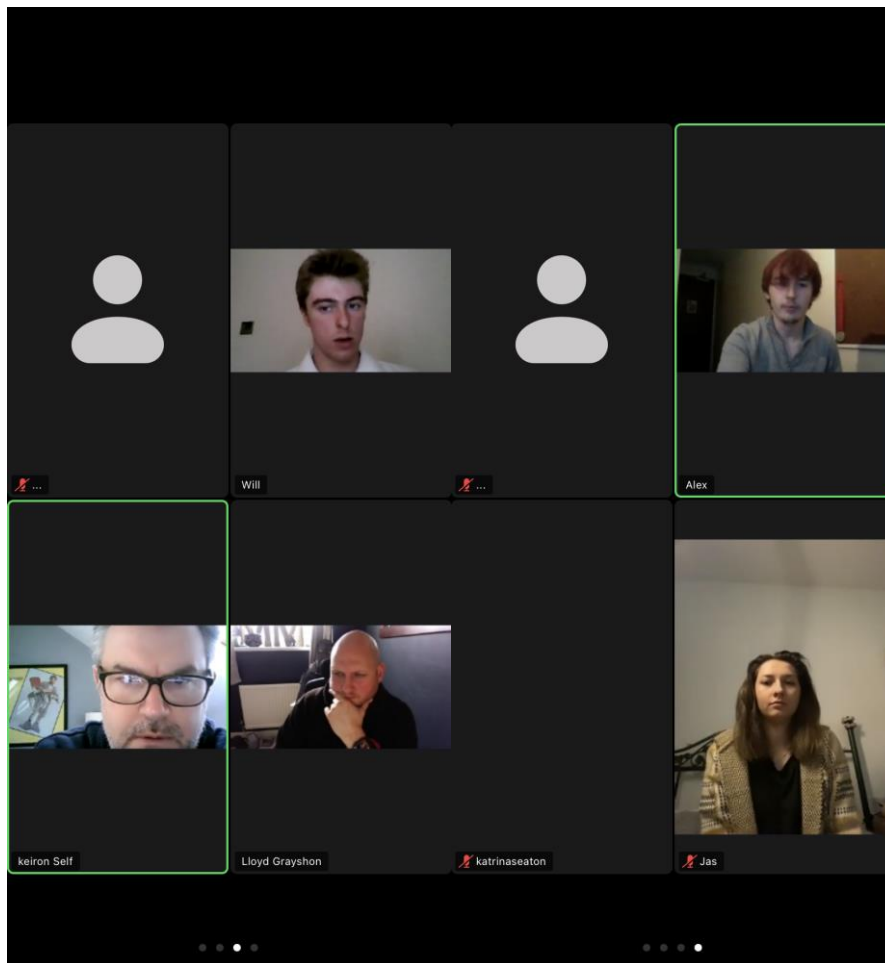
FINAL 'YOUR JUST REWARD' SCRIPT

https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=33908e5f36&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1693217206274413950&th=177f8413fb90d57e&view=att&disp=inline&sadbat=ANGjdJ1pI9JAjxnRo4TfTzwuNt8HZwFXKeHsneJEmsqHEJoBWfj2CpfpxCBRP-99CRrdRNmi3sKOci8DdK69N4n2xd_0hHnDDRReXTD0TojPxIhOWV8AWg1fYSHuGMO8d12zKah8lhcsx5lF719urpmcKO4hzE6oyb2AfUr8lDNnog5G4bogEghHtsVdLOS3CdUP5DSrEw2krIha41jH7A6aQ8DMTI3xuUwcjhdElhvCLTZu9yIDzKM3paZwdiElvIc6vCva28xN3Pi2mXjcFU0bSWNDJU7MjeFAe6xIA9aKSBt8s_SKVtMJMWzY6n-fC9TloXA7MDp6Zuv2n7y7I7QNQYlX-fPQble8AsCt3lFoB_ur4ZRny3GsPByx13iPRqvSMlU7rfssPMKm5fi0Biut92J1D1QVf98MCBQdOcQ3H1TBS4ZxH1dts2sgRu_pSw05ChtS3wl5Npl7z15ADVmJxe3tUBf8Jw8tHCgzQtH5XBchPlbj9pxJhocva9U0LMiU3kiG8Qk9T-3Mt-aXE4d9LKKtCrRabS8L0uUpQt8Et1Vy2oEF2trsH-LBcNrNZtxEhPKiScMPe5Xtlz6_CD3TC46ZO-1Bthbrr8urFTY8cSnzNdsC4KP4m1YQ7I8XwLIVmOedZoUmCsXCjlej0Wo45aFpz19hpmLLIFzfXgMJJ0hzgXXEG47D2PYck

FILMING DAY

Dan had no lighting set up again!

These are the following confirm lighting states for the filming day. Confirmed at 10:30AM.



First run through;

- Dan didn't have props ready. He didn't make his up.
- Jade needs to be more shocked and play the victim until her secret is revealed.
- Tom still is improvising random stuff for the ending and not listening to Keiron's notes.
- My lines were sometimes odd. I chanted the inflection on some parts so they weren't as effective as they have been in the past.

Second run through;

- My connection wasn't too good, so it's been decided that we will use my pre-recorded lines for my own dialogue.
- Play the fun and don't reveal the ending too early.
- Dan didn't get a proper bag for his death scene.

APPENDIX

UTA HAGEN'S STEPS FOR MY CHARACTER

1. WHO AM I?

- **What is my present state of being?** - The Unknown Man is having fun. Even though he is acting out what is justice in his mind, he is playing a game. It's all a game to him, to he's having fun with it all.
- **How do I perceive myself?** - He has a god complex and sees himself as an almighty figure of justice.
- **What am I wearing?** - All blacks. A hoodie with the hood over his face so no one can see him.

2. WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES?

- **What time is it?** - It all takes place in the late afternoon. 5PM.
- **Where am I?** - In an unknown location.
- **What surrounds me?** - Nothing. The room, when it is finally seen, is blank.
- **What are the immediate circumstances?** - I am introducing the "participants" to my game. Little do they know that it's not the game they signed up for.

3. WHAT ARE MY RELATIONSHIPS?

- **How do I stand in relationship to the circumstances, the place, the objects and the other people related to my circumstances?** - I believe that the people I have recruited are bad. They have all committed crimes and deserve to be punished. There is inner hatred for them that can't be shown too much as it will take power away from me.

4. WHAT DO I WANT?

- **What is my main objective? My immediate need or objective?** - My objective is to kill them. All. Justice must be served, but in my own special way.

5. WHAT IS MY OBSTACLE?

- **What is in the way of what I want? How do I overcome it?** - The participants' constant questioning and chatter could be an obstacle, but I know the power I have. I know that they will get what they deserve.

6. WHAT DO I DO TO GET WHAT I WANT?

- **How can I achieve my objective? What tactics do I use?** - I will use guilt and my intelligence to distract them until it is time for them to be taken care of.

COLLABORATION WITH KATRINA (FILMMAKER)

Working with Katrina was very rewarding overall. She is a very knowledgeable filmmaker with an intuitive outlook on how to create tone and characters via lighting and sound. Throughout the module, she is the person within my group that I had the most collaboration with, not only because I wanted to make sure that she wasn't secluded due to being the only non-actor, but because I

thought it would benefit myself to see the film through the eyes of a creator and not a performer. She was very clear about giving constructive criticism and helped a lot of us develop our characters, even if not everyone was grateful about it. Katrina and I worked the majority of the powerpoint pitches and we gathered specific info about characters from the other actors. Her professional attitude towards everything helped the piece come together over the weeks and I very much enjoyed and benefited from collaborating with her on 'Your Just Reward'.

COLLABORATION WITH ACTORS (DAN, JADE, TOM)

DAN - Working with Dan again has been hit and miss. He is a talented actor, but let's his aggression and lack of work ethic let him down. When he gets annoyed, it greatly effects his performances and attitude and it ends up slowing down the whole filming process. He is far too laid back and tends to miss a lot of important factors in what makes a good collaborative effort.

TOM - Working with Tom was not good. He doesn't seem to know how to work within a group. He has an issue with controlling everyone's actions and taking over creating other people's characters. He also has an attitude issue and has been both inappropriate and rude towards members of the group. I kept a professional attitude towards him throughout the process though and no major arguments occurred during the production. However, given the choice, I would NOT like to work with him again.

JADE –Jade is a talented actor that understands what goes into both a film production and storytelling. She has a confidence issue that tends to sometimes effect her motivation and performance, but she gives far more great performances than bad ones. She works professionally when a session starts, but she has problems with punctuality. She and Dan were late far more than anyone else in the group. As far as the other actors are however, Jade collaborated with Kat and I the most. She never fails when it comes to adding in valuable ideas and information into the pool.

SELF EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

VOCAL QUALITY

Lacks a bit at the start, but diction and projection is clear throughout. Difference between serious and comical is clear.

LIGHTING AND CINEMATOGRAPHY

I believe the lighting for only shot in the film was good. You can't see my face which was the main aim of the shot, as for cinematography, there is not much to say. It was a medium close up shot that only had my torso and head on display. It was simple and needed nothing else.

RELATION TO RESEARCH

I believe I portrayed the energy and excitement that Steve Harvey exhibits on Family Feud very well. He was the basis for my vocal energy and tone and helped me develop the persona of a game show host. I thought that I could have maybe added a little more humour to some lines to make it even more corny and cheesy, but I am satisfied with my overall performance. Both Lloyd and Keiron

persuaded me to go further with the cheesy voice and Steve Harvey's vocal inflections helped my characterisations a lot.

One part of my character is the god complex he has. I think that this factor was portrayed but only subtly. It is obvious that the unknown man sees himself as a saviour and a giver of justice, so the research into Light Yagami was more for my benefit than to be shown in the film.

Dexter – Katrina messaged me after we wrapped asking for some lines performed in a different way. A more psychotic way. I emailed her these lines and they work perfectly in the final draft of the film. It shows the split personality of the unknown man and how crazy he really is.

EVALUATION OF MODULE

This module has been a huge challenge. I have been struggling with new personal issues throughout the last few months that have taken its toll on my mental health. Working on this whole module online has not helped. Obviously, this could not be helped. The concept of screenwriting and filmmaking is the thing I am most passionate about in life. This module was very informing, enlightening and helpful. It has cemented my decision that screenwriting is what I want to focus on in the future, as well as my acting. Collaborating with different filmmakers and editors has contributed greatly to my knowledge of producing films. I am very grateful of my group and their efforts and the lecturers that have helped us develop our characters, scripts and filming sessions.

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