

Self Reflective Journal Digital Film Production

During the course of undertaking the Digital Film Production module, I have discovered several points in regards to my skills and enjoyments as a film maker. With this journal I will cover those points in a few key areas. Firstly I would like to say what I enjoyed, practical work has never been an interest of mine, preferring the editing and post production to actually being on set, though I did enjoy the ability to create pieces of media within the specified topics. Having a chance to think creatively while still remaining within the criteria of the assessment has been quite fun. In regards to the aforementioned post production aspects, I have really enjoyed and connected with a chance to develop my skills as an editor, with a variety of challenges brought forward from the vastly different subject matter of the individual films. I have also enjoyed learning new applications such as After Effects, though I didn't actually use it for any of my films (mostly due to the technical limitations of my Mac at home); the chance to learn more of its functions and applications has been greatly appreciated.

On to the aspects that I did not enjoy as much, previously I mentioned my lack of enjoyment in regards to practical filmmaking work, such as lighting, sound recording and camera work. I feel it is my weakest skill as a filmmaker and hinders my ability to create content. As the work that I bring in to edit often needs reshoots or extra time spent with colour correction and editing due to its lack of quality. I understand that practical aspects are a necessity of filmmaking and I am determined to improve on my skills in time for the next set of productions.

To go through each of my submitted films I will be able to highlight individual strengths and weaknesses for each, I will be submitting items with this journal to support my comments.

Sound:

My sound film is possibly my weakest film, other than narrative as I didn't submit anything for that category. I feel this as at a glance it is easy to tell that I struggled for inspiration, there is very little happening within the video(i). The concept behind the video is work meeting recreation, and the overlap that can occur. I wanted office noises to be heard over footage of nature. I don't feel that I conveyed this, to me it seems more like two different setting in one video, hence the title of 'Juxtaposition', it's a noticeable difference rather than a subtle one. As a positive for the video, I feel my sound capturing skills have improved, I found the Zoom H6 very easy to use and perfect for what I needed.

Light:

My light film 'The Interview' was intended to demonstrate the use of silhouette lighting, and how it can be used to hide identities. I feel I captured the silhouette okay but my technical skills with cameras let me down, the shutter speed was too low and a messy, sluggish (iii) image was captured. I would state that I did edit the film well, several audio and visual effects deployed successfully. I also feel I planned the film well, utilizing a script (ii) to ensure dialogue was delivered well.

Experimental:

Experimental was I feel my strongest film, though not perfect I am happy with my improvements(v) from the first attempt (iv). I choose to use stop motion for this category as I could combine it with my hobby of painting. White balance was my biggest improvement with this video, in my first attempt I neglected to ensure the camera was correctly set up before beginning. With the final version I feel I had the camera set up adequately for the purpose. On future stop motions I aim to continue to improve on preparation, as during the filming I often lost track of placement and shot counts because of my lack of adequate pre production.

Silent:

My silent movie was relatively challenging to produce, mostly because I have never done animation before. I feel the final product is serviceable(vi) but is quite rough around the edges, again technical issues such as camera and lighting decisions. In future I would look at alternatives to animation over keyframes in premier as I do not feel that I went for the correct option.

Narrative:

I decided not to submit a narrative film because despite multiple attempts at producing a two minute movie I struggled. I went through several different concepts and each time it came to production it would go wrong. Again practical issues, sound recording being difficult, unable to get footage in focus or simply equipment issues.

Summary:

To close I feel that my practical skills are affecting my ability to produce content, I aim over the remainder of my course to improve these skills and not remain disheartened at my lack of aptitude.