

Self-Reflection

My initial dilemma when starting this module was deciding upon which path to take. I was split between a decision of whether to do a Short Film or an Advertisement. Based upon my previous work, an advertisement seemed like a fitting idea, and it was also a career path that I've seriously considered putting myself upon. But the idea of taking on a Short Film was one that I simply couldn't shake off, as this current year is a great opportunity, given the time allotted, to produce something that can showcase everything I've been working on over the last three years.

Once I decided to do a Short Film, I then had to draft up a few ideas of what kind of film I would go for. This proved to be much harder than I first thought, as I simply couldn't nail down a specific idea like I would normally be able to do. This led me to going back to the drawing board and looking at what resources I actually had to work with. It turned out to be a refreshing step-forward, as I decided to simplify the basics (location and cast) in order to work on a more effective story.

Going on the basis of having one location with two actors, I decided to look back at what has inspired me over the past year. Films such as *Mandy* (2018) and *Hereditary* (2018) had a large impact on me as a film enthusiast, but rather than simply copy an idea from them and run with it, I decided to look at what made those films so effective and implement that into my own Short Film. I worked on how my film would look visually and tried to see how I could cram in as much visual storytelling as possible, without trying to produce something that was unachievable with the budget and resources I had.

The script was one of the harder preproduction documents to work on. Although I had the story beats in place, I couldn't figure out how to make the dialogue flow to each point. This took a lot of trial and error, and I ended up wasting days on streams of dialogue that I eventually cut out. Finally, I decided to pin down at least one path of dialogue and refine it later if necessary. Overall, I was pleased at what

appears in the first draft but will reflect back on what I have in a few weeks to see if I still have the same feeling.

Unfortunately, this had a knock-on effect with my other preproduction documents. Because I couldn't nail down a completed first draft of the script in a timelier fashion, the storyboards and shot list suffered as a result. I was able to cover the first two scenes of the script through the storyboards and shot list, but unfortunately, for the assessment, I wasn't able to complete the rest of the script. This doesn't mean that I plan to leave the documents as they are. I have no intention of even trying to attempt production without a thoroughly detailed set of preproduction documents – for the benefit of myself, the crew and especially the cast.

Overall, I'm pleased with how my preproduction folder reflects my inception of the idea (inspirations, techniques etc.) but I'm very disappointed with the final execution of the essential preproduction documents (storyboards, final script, shot list). My plan to amend this is to consistently work upon these documents throughout January, so that by the month's end I'll have a thoroughly detailed portfolio with which I can move forward into production with – and hopefully make up for these shortcomings with a film that faithfully reflects my vision.