

Graduate Project Presentation

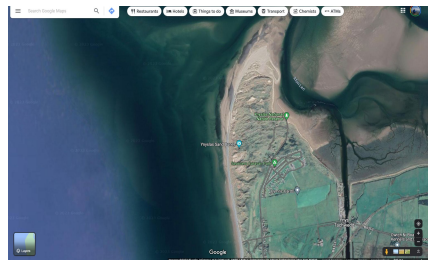
By Gethin Elwyn



Bore da, in this presentation I will highlight important aspects about my short film produced for this module. I will talk about my aspirations, outcomes and refer to the research i completed as well as critically reflecting on what I've learnt and what I need to do next as I develop my career.

My short Fictional Film: Unig (Lonely)

- 8 minute film
- 1 main character and a secondary character, confidant.
- Locations: My house in Aberystwyth, Ynyslas Beach, Borth
- Themes: Nature, loneliness, hopelessness, transformation, hope, mental health, wellbeing
- Inspirations: Wong Kar Wai's work, Surrealism in film and art, personal mission to the film's message, to relate to young people's issues, the content of the poem: Croesi Traeth



Confidant - someone who the main character can confide in and gather the truth from. I have followed themes that I believe are important with room for artistic measure for my future productions.

The Personal mission of the film is to be something of substance, something that influences lives positively. Especially being young people as they are the target audience. I believe there is not enough value and consideration of truth and reality in the media. Many are lost of how to use it properly. I think it is up for us as producers to be truthful.

Happy Together - Wong Kar Wai (1997)

Cinematography. The light, colour. Delicate emotion filmed sensitively. A Dream like reality.



Surrealism in film: Man Ray L'étoile de Mer (1928)

Based on a poem. Inspired by a star fish as a symbol of a lost love. There is no logical sequence to the shots. Experimental, especially due to the filming by a reflection from a mirror. Creates a sense of mystery.



My Aspirations

- To impress future employers within TV, Film and media.
- To help develop my cinematography and production skills.
- Submit to Film Festival and other public opportunities
- Experience of a collaboration of roles and during the production phase, while being the main producer.
- Complete the work to all specifications and within available resources.
- A production with creative use of colour and light.
- A high quality production with my new camera.
- Poetic production combining a poem with visual images and room
- To include a music track to create mood
- Use of imagination and viewer's interpretation

"A film is or should be more like music than fiction. It should be a progression of moods and feelings. The theme, what's behind the emotion, the meaning, all that comes later". - Stanley Kubrick

In future I will send this short film with my CV to potential new employers.

I wished to improve my skills of using the new camera i've purchased handheld.

I am hoping to submit this film to film festivals within Wales or the Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

I wanted to collaborate building a production of media with an actor and discovering his capabilities. I believe collaboration is something I should follow.

Developing a knowledge and style of use with colour, to reflect the scene's mood.

Using poetry to develop a narrative and personal style, interacting with welsh culture.

Using original soundtracks made for my films is something I wish to follow more of in my future productions.

Developing a full film with a meaning has given me the best of hope to keep producing a higher quality understanding a viewers interpretation.

Research

- Wong Kar Wai - watched films and read about his work and use of colours.
- Surrealism in film and art - definition, watch films, read about famous directors.
- Street photographer
- Combine my research with academic theories.
- Theories relevant to my production. Auteur theory, Storytelling theories and emotional narratives, dreams and the subconscious



I began by watching Wong Kar wai films such as Happy Together and Fallen Angels. I particularly liked his use of colours, all aspects of his cinematography, a feel of dream like state and the mood given and displayed. I wanted to use some of those influences in my film.

I then went on to research a lot of surrealism in film and art. I understood that surrealism is a release of the unconscious mind. Appealing to desires and temptations and often a mix of emotion to a non linear narrative.

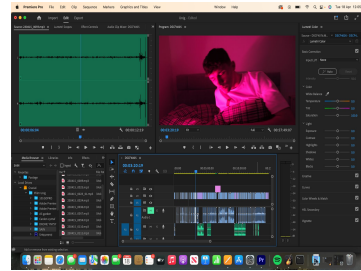
I then also researched Henri Cartier Bressons work I really liked his captivating photographs and more than anything being a well practiced photographer with passion.

Auteur theory appealed to me because in my film I took on the role of director, producer and editor.

**It's the directing that is important in auteur theory

**An andalusian dog

Achieved outcomes



- Influence of surrealism:
- Consideration of all aspects of the production during the pre production phase but also left space for creativity on the day.
- Simple plot, very little dialogue
- Use of colours to create moods.
- Suggest characters in a dream state or world and use of subconscious desires and temptations
- “Angel figure” appears out of nowhere; use of randomness suggestive of the influence of surrealism
- Own style of use of Welsh language culture:
- Use of lines from the poem “Croesi Traeth” to link with the beach location and to express the importance of making the most out of the present and each moment in life; the character’s transformation

I knew the over all plot I wished to produce meaning I kept an audio visual plan on the day as well as a script. Some things changed from the original audio visual document as I wished to give a free flow for surrealist ideas. Glyn and I spoke and left a space for ideas of action and some edit cuts to those actions until the filming.

For example, green while in the kitchen for a more sci fi alien recognition and pink in the bedroom speaking to me as a heavy dreamy, hopeful attractive colour.

I wanted a figure that was questionable to reality.

I included quotes from the poem Crossing a beach as it fitted with the metaphor of the film. The poet is also someone who worked on films in Welsh.

I feel that including poetry in my film gives my own stamp on the production. I also feel that the way I filmed the Ynyslas beach sequence I managed to create idealistic scenes using the natural environment of the beach. I think I chose the shots very well such as Glyn walking and running through the sand dunes, to convey his joy. I am very pleased with the setting up of shots. The colour I edited the sea was suggestive of nostalgic cine film.

Some scenes: Unig



What have I learnt? What do I need to learn?

- Directing skills and working with actors
- Finding the right balance between pre planned structure and improvisation; next time more structure beforehand; Avoid unwanted continuity errors
- Better audio equipment to create higher quality and ease of editing
- Possible crew members next time
- SWOT Analysis is very useful
- Gain funding for a future production
- Learn more about the process of how to promote my films for showing on S4C
- Develop my style and promote my company laith Ddigidol



I had spoken with Glyn and Huw before hand and explained my aims of the film. I gave director points towards both during scenes such as where to stand, what emotion to show, their action, and tone of voice. I would enjoy learning further experience of this. Although, I am happy with having worked with amateur actors. I did a lot of preparation, I did an AV list and a script but next time I would prepare even more about the detail of a scene to shots as there is a small continuity error in the kitchen scene.

I would need better equipment and someone else to be in the crew.

I would like to pursue funding opportunities so that I can have a more successful production.

In the near future, I am looking to follow leads that I have already had some discussions at Yr Egin about the industry.

Continue creating art to develop my style and name for a branded company.

Diolch yn fawr/ Thank you very much
Questions



"I couldn't sleep one night and I was sitting in my office one night and I realised that I was an independent filmmaker "(Darren Aronofsky)

