

Solleder THEA Foundation Essay: Film

Since the creation of film in 1878, it has established itself as a form of expression. While film has evolved into many forms, one such form, the music video, has remained one of the most creative, with little boundaries on what a music video should be.

The first step in my process was to understand the artist's process behind the creation of "Tulips" by speaking with the artist. The message of the song sets the backbone for the music video. The video must reflect the tone, feelings, and mood of the music it is set to. After understanding the message of the song, the next step was to visualize shots to communicate it.

Shooting film is a process within itself. The first step is to pick a location, or in my case several locations, that fit the song. Once a location has been chosen, a time must be scheduled in regards to availability of the location, availability of the talent, and lighting. For example, the first location I shot was during sunset, and therefore we had to allow time for setup prior to sunset and move quickly while shooting in order to maximize the time spent in the optimal light.

Adaptation is an important characteristic to have during the filmmaking process. While shooting footage of the ballerina for the "Tulips" music video, the placement of the lights going on to the stage caused my shadow to fall across the frame in certain shots. Those shots had to be reinvented and shot again from an angle in which my shadow was not visible.

While shooting video, many shots have to be retaken several times. While shooting "Tulips," because I was only shooting with one camera, if I wanted shots of one movement from several different angles, I had to take several different video clips. Often times, consistency does not happen on the first try. I must have shot the dance footage dozens of times until I finally got

footage that matched my vision. It is important to be patient, flexible, and open when taking footage, as there are many factors that cannot be controlled.

On the contrary, for the time lapse capture of the dying flower, nearly every factor is controlled: the background, lighting, angles. Yet, the time lapse was by far the most involved shot of the “Tulips” video. Because the capture lasted around two weeks, every element of the shot had to remain uniform. In order to accomplish uniformity, I set up a closed area in which the lighting, movement, and focus of the camera could remain untouched.

Although I came into this project with minimal experience, I learned quickly by doing. I grew as a filmmaker through this project, and did my best to capture the spirit of the wonderful music I created video for. Because of this project, I have discovered a passion that I believe will stay with me for years to come. Being awarded the THEA Foundation scholarship would allow me to continue pursuing my passion in the arts.