

Harrison Wyrick

2018

idiot film

“Idiot” Essay

“Idiot” is a film about a man confronted by a giant, talking animated bird who explains the trials and tribulations of life and death. It is my reflection on personal growth and teenage emotions.

The movie developed from the idea of producing an entire story based around dialogue. This is a concept I would normally hate but I wanted to challenge myself.

My end product is very different from what I initially envisioned. Besides knowing that I wanted it to be a dark comedy and that I wanted my smooth-voiced friend Landon to voice a main character, the production surprised me.

I wrote out a rough script, recorded the lines in a Skype call, and edited the audio, not thinking that it would be the finished audio that I would actually be using. Then I animated the talking bird. After that, I filmed the rest of the movie over a period of two weeks at my house and within my school's auditorium after school time. It then took me one month to edit as I passed the movie back and forth between my two best friends, who are also my creative partners for editing.

Originally I wanted the main character in the movie to be a puppet since puppetry is one of my true passions. Unfortunately I was constricted by time, money, and resources and had to

scrap the puppet idea. So I adapted and made the bird character an animation instead of a puppet.

I made the film for the Arkansas Thespian Festival which my school's Drama department attends each year. I won first prize in the statewide film contest and got to showcase my work.