

Filming Scene 9: The Collectors' Mansion

After finishing chapter seventeen, I was tasked to direct a scene from my script. Since I had absolutely no money to do the scene with, I did the best I could with what was already available to me. I called up my friend to see if she could help me. I went to her house [since her room was better suited for the scene than mine] and spent four and a half hours filming and editing the footage. The scene came out to a minute and a half.

We started by tidying up the room and getting the props together. I came with the costume she had to wear and some of my books. I accidentally forgot some of the things I would need. Thankfully, my friend is awesome. She provided me with some of the props I needed and helped make more. One of the props was a letter, so as I had her write it out, I went about the room spreading the props around.

While I set her away to change, I went around acting out the scene myself. When she came back, I walked her through everything she needed to know about the character and how I wanted the scene to go. We acted it out a few times and made some sample footage before I picked up the camera. We were originally going to use my old flip camera, but luckily, she had a newer Nikon camera, so we used that instead.

We had to do a few takes for certain scenes because my friend kept saying the wrong words like Hadalane instead of Haldane and Riverpool instead of Liverpool. Also, my friend makes herself laugh, so I had to keep stopping the camera because of her giggle fits. After calming her down, we experimented with different angles. When we finally got done filming, we sat down to edit the footage.

We ran into some issues, a lot of issues, with the editing process. We had our master shot set up and ready go. My master shot was solid. When we started putting the other shots into the scene, I was frustrated that the other shots did not match up with the master shot. For about an hour, we were bent over the computer trying to make the other shots and close-ups line up with the master.

Once done, we put everything away. Then we high-fived and I went home, plopped on my bed, and fell asleep.

What went great for me was the filming process. Again, I was so thankful for my friend. She gave me the best acting I could have hoped for given my restraints and gave me another perspective on the scene during our editing session.

What went terribly for me was the editing process like I already stated. It took us the whole hour and a lot of creative cuts to make everything flow together.

While doing the filming, I learned that I need to pay better attention to the way my actors move. I only had the one camera, so I had to keep moving around the room. During three shots, I found that because I had to keep moving and starting over, my friend never had the same body language. This made is very difficult when it came to the editing.

Next time I get behind the camera, I will give myself more time to plan everything out and get myself a budget. With no money and proper equipment, I did not have the best way to tell my story. Also, I will do the entire script and not just one scene.

*Video Sent in Email to Campos