RRFC Chapter 1 Assignment 5/12/18

About me, and my goals

I’m 41 years old and still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up. At least that’s what I tell people, jokingly. Then I express to them, in all seriousness, how much I love film and would love to work in it someday. And even one day fulfill my dream of directing my own movie.

Roughly 11 years ago I went through a difficult personal change in my life, leading me to believe I needed to take a step in a new direction. With this opportunity I decided to follow my head, instead of my heart, walking into the world of Microsoft and Information Technology. Thus, I have settled into a respectable career of software support, which I could probably remain doing for the next 20+ years, if I chose to.

Over the last few years I have just been content with my position, feeling more every day that it is just a job that pays the bills, and may not advance any further beyond what it entails today. Many times over I say to myself, selfishly; “I am meant for something more than this”. And I have reached my limit of making empty promises to myself without acting on it.

It is time to follow my heart.

Success in the film industry does not happen overnight, unless you are extremely lucky. But that is ok to me as I fully intend to earn my stripes. I lack the basic fundamentals of movie making, which diminishes my confidence some right now, but my passion and drive to learn what I love is almost uncontrollable at times. I am ready to learn everything I can about film, beyond what I already know. I want to learn as much as possible during my apprenticeship – how to operate a camera best, how to work lighting, how to write a professional screenplay/script, the thought process of a cinematographer, when and where special effects come into play, the decision-making methods of a director, the importance of audio, how to get the best performance from the actors, and so much more.

There is so much to learn, I know, but hard work and patience are crucial virtues for a reason. Once I get my foot in the door, I don’t intend to leave.

My mentor (Rocco) graciously ran through the ups and downs likely to be encountered. More so, the abundance of work and opportunities out there for those willing. Perhaps what excites me most is how our mentor will give us an overview of everything but work with us to potentially narrow down a particular position or function that may cater best to our abilities and productivity. Meaning, while I savor the idea of directing a movie one day, I can also find great pleasure in cinematography, or screenwriting, or producing, or DIT, or location scouting,… or something I never knew existed but relish in performing every day.

The limits are only what I make them to be.

I would take such delight, and pride, in seeing my name attached to the credits of a movie knowing I helped in its creation. Knowing I had a hand in bringing entertainment to the public.

Beyond my personal goals I hope to achieve from a career standpoint, one thing further I would like to accomplish during my time, is to be an inspiration to someone one day. Directors and actors are perhaps the most influential when it comes to being an inspiration, or professional heroes, but we know you can be that and a whole lot more regardless of your job title. I am not expecting anyone to give thanks to me when they accept their Academy Award or anything, but how tremendous would it be to see a colleague, a friend, achieve the success they sought with the help of your hand.

I am ready to find my happiness.

Action!

-Mike Whitehead