

What I Hope to Get out of the Film Connection

I come from a family of artists who never pursued their passions: my mother went to school for musical theater, my father was a talented musician, and my grandmother studied piano at a conservatory. All of them set aside their passions for financial reasons. They did not see a future in the pursuit of art. For most of my life I thought I would follow in their footsteps. When I was a child, like many children do, I dreamed of being a rockstar. I began playing the guitar and started a band with my friends and it seemed like everything was going the way I wanted it too. I quickly realized that there were not many people around me that shared my passion for creating and decided that, like my family, I would suppress my passion into a hobby.

It was not until my sophomore year of high school that I developed a love for film. I spent almost all of my free time watching the works of Wes Anderson, Quentin Tarantino, and the Coen Brothers. Like music, I thought my love for film would never mature into anything other than a hobby, but in my senior creative writing class we were tasked with creating our own short films. I saw this as my opportunity to experience the thrill of creating something that was entirely my own and through that project I fell in love with the process of creating a film. Writing a script, storyboarding, filming, editing; I enjoyed all of it. I'm sure that looking back in a few years I will realize how terrible of a film it is, but it allowed me to realize how much I truly loved film.

Through the Film Connection I hope to capitalize on the motivation and desire that project gave me. I want to master the art of crafting a story out of nothing but the ideas in my head. Over the next eight months I want to develop my tone into something that will be recognizable and unique. I want my films to encapsulate my personality. One of my more specific goals is to create a visual masterpiece. My favorite movies are ones that adhere to a strict color scheme. Something along the lines of Wes Anderson's *Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* or the recently released *Atomic Blonde*. By creating a color palette for a film the director is setting the tone in a way that nothing else can. I also want to focus on dialogue. A majority of films focus on characters that don't act like normal people. I want to create something that is a reflection of everyday life while still being entertaining.

After the film connection I want to pursue a career in television. While directing feature films is the ultimate goal, TV shows have a way of telling a story that can't be done in two hours. Having a series that goes on for five or six seasons allows the viewers to develop a relationship with the characters that can easily change throughout the course of the show. An excellent example would be *Breaking Bad's* Walter White. In the first season Walt is portrayed as a victim of cancer that is just trying to make sure his family is okay after his death. By the finale he is a maniacal villain that will protect his empire at all costs. By continuing a series for a few years a director is able to go into more depth with the characters than would be possible in a standard film.