**Assignment 1 – Aspirations and Expectations**

Since I was little I had always wanted to become a filmmaker. Not to be famous or have a lot of money, but because the work interests me in a way nothing else does. It gives me a rush and a passion that I had never experienced before, and I’ve been hooked ever since. So when it comes to what ‘goals’ I have and what I hope to accomplish, I’m not really sure what to say. I hope to accomplish a lot of things, but I don’t really mind where I end up so long as it’s doing something I love; and in the industry there is no short supply of things I would be happy doing. I want to learn everything. I want to eventually be comfortable taking over anyone’s job on set, in post, or preproduction. I want to know what everyone does, why it is important, and how it all works toward making a great film.

As for my main interests, directing is one of the things that interest me most, followed closely by cinematography. Directing, which I have recently discovered can be incredibly hard, is something I would love to be able to do with a better sense of how you actually do it. That sounds weird but the main thing I’ve run into thus far is how in the world you manage to direct everything at once, on top of having to clearly explain your ideas to people who, if they don’t get it, could end up throwing off the tone of the entire production. Of course having a production team that knows what they are doing is a very important step to being able to direct well, but even then it seems like a lot to handle. Out of this program I hope to be able to learn how to better direct people with more confidence, and have the ability to clearly share my ideas with the actors and production team.

Cinematography is another part of filmmaking that I am extremely interested in learning more about, because damn if you’re good you can make things look absolutely gorgeous. I want to be able to make beautiful shots that help set the mood of the production through angles and light- which I hope to learn here- along with learning how to better use different types of cameras and camera rigs. Knowing the shots I want before I shoot them is possibly the hardest thing about cinematography for me, and is something I also hope to learn through my time in the program. Basically if it has something to do with cinematography, I want to know how to do it.

As far as screenwriting goes, I like storytelling and I understand the importance of getting ideas out of my head and on paper, but I kind of suck at it. Not at the writing part, but at the getting my ideas on paper part. I expect that this entire process will be an exercise in getting my thoughts written out and understandable to others, as that’s what I struggle with most. Having said that, I do want to learn how to communicate better through a script and I’m sure the screenwriting portion will help with that. It’ll be a learning process though!

Editing, while not really my thing, is still something I would like to know how to do better since I’ve been recently figuring out the importance of it through trial and error. The micro-managing part of me needs to know how to do all the editing things so I can get something looking the way I want it, while the creative part likes to see how someone gets to the end product through a jumble of recorded clips. A few things in particular that I would love to learn in the editing area are how to do things like SFX explosions, guns firing, and things like that, since I’ve got absolutely no experience in that area. (While I doubt I would end up having a job doing special effects, it’s something I see as important to at least know the parameters of for good directing)

Sound design, I have recently learned, is actually one of the things that I think is the most exciting about post production. I love the complicated simplicity that is sound recording, and the creative ways to do all sorts of things. I really wouldn’t mind learning how to do more than just hold a boom mic, things like messing with sound in post-production and adding sound effects. I also love choosing and creating soundtracks, but I haven’t really gotten the chance to mess with music and sounds as much as I would like, so doing that would also be cool.

How do I plan on getting where I want to be in the film industry? Well, I’m not exactly sure. I don’t have a yellow brick road to follow and I’m not sure where I really truly want to end up anyway. In the future I’m hoping to end up lots of places and do many different jobs in the industry, but there isn’t really a set plan for me. However I do plan to take opportunities as they come, work hard, and end up where I end up.

**Assignment 1 - Screenplay Synopses**

**-Love Transplant:** John and his wife Jane end up in a terrible car accident coming home from a night out. Jane ends up in critical condition from her wounds in the accident and the only way to save her from the threat of death is to transplant her brain and entire being into another body. After the surgery John isn’t sure if he can love Jane the same way ever again.

**-War Crimes:** Commander John Doe and his long time war buddy Steve are the only surviving men in their platoon after they were sent on an impossible mission. When they return Commander Doe is wrongly accused of committing war crimes and Steve is the only person left to vouch for his Commander’s humanity, leaving him to question the motives of his commanding officers and his own personal morals.

**-It’s Them, Not Me:** After having several nightmares of a strange white room Jane begins therapy to control her odd dreams, only to have them occur with more frequency than before. As she beings to question reality and spiral into insanity she lashes out at her teachers and peers, and even becomes a danger to herself.

\*Note: all names are simply filler names and are subject to change