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"Last Night" Short Narrative Film

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"Last Night" Short Narrative Film

Abstract

In Fall 2020 I started my senior capstone class, Advanced Production I, which was taught by film professor Ryan Cannon. This class was created in order to prepare students in the film and television department, for work outside of Boise State University. We were given the opportunity to select any sort of creative project, whether it was writing and directing a short film, writing a feature screenplay, creating an Editing or DP reel and so forth. For my capstone project I decided to direct my first short narrative film, which is titled *Last Night*. This poster follows my story of how *Last Night* came to be, starting from Preproduction and ending in Postproduction, and the collaborative process that took place to create a narrative film.

“Last Night” Short Narrative Film



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

By Mykah Charette | Faculty Mentor: Ryan Cannon

INTRODUCTION

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Production I, which was taught by film professor Ryan Cannon.

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LOGLINE

Two childhood best friends spend their last night together in their small town before going separate ways.

CAST AND CREW

Mia played by Dana Whitesell, John played by Ryan Uria, Sydney played by Megan Archibeque. DP Matt Czopek, 1st AD Andrea Carrizales, 1st AC Nikki Wong, 2nd AC Andi Rados, Gaffer Tyler Maynard, Sound Designer Hayden Grove and Logan Leavitt, Production Designer Ashli Foster and Editor Kennedy Binegar.



Photos by Andrea Carrizales



STORY AND INFLUENCES

Last Night follows the story of two best friends since childhood Mia and John, who both seem to be hiding their true feelings from each other. This changes when Mia is set to leave their small town the following morning and the tension between the two officially come to the surface. They must both make a choice of pursuing their feelings or letting go for the sake of their friendship and future.

I chose to create a film that focused more on the characters rather than plot. Some films that inspired me were Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird* and the aesthetically pleasing film *Adventureland* directed by Greg Mottola. I was inspired by these films because they reminded me of my own time growing up in a small town and wanting nothing more than to escape and make something of myself.

CREATIVE PROCESS

PREPRODUCTION

Once the script was completed, I immediately dived into the process of planning. This included drafting a lookbook, location scouting, hiring cast and crew, and renting equipment. This took several months to finalize and only then could I move on to production, which began on March 19th through the 21st in Emmett, Idaho.

PRODUCTION

On March 19th, a small team and I had drove out to Emmett, Idaho for day one of shooting. This of course came with many obstacles that were out of our immediate control. Such as sudden weather changes and missing equipment. All of which can be very common and occur when production day comes. Despite this small hiccup which was quickly fixed, my cast and crew were able to bring my vision to life within a span of three days.

POSTPRODUCTION

Once production had wrapped up, I handed off my 1 TB external data full of everything from my shoot to my editor. Who will then transfer everything to their drives and begin the process of editing. This includes rough cut, color correcting, fixing audio, adding music, and producing a final cut.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Once the film has been completely edited and ready for distribution, I will begin the process of film festival submissions. Some of the film festivals include, Los Angeles International Film Festival, Seattle International Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Sun Valley Film Festival and Portland Film Festival.

CONCLUSION

Through this capstone class I was able to draft and finalize a short film script, I hired cast and crew, scouted locations, and rented professional film equipment. I learned to direct for the very first time and think on my feet when an obstacle occurred. This two semester class helped me realize that while I enjoy producing and screenwriting, directing might be another mountain for me to climb. All of which I wouldn't have imagined for myself if it weren't for me taking the initiative to test out the waters and try something new.

THAT'S A WRAP!