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Intro to Film Section A

LINK TO YOUTUBE: https://youtu.be/1P66m67ilCM

One Day: Applying What I Learned

I was assigned to the group who created a presentation on the film *Boyhood*  for class. While preparing for the presentation, I came to greatly appreciate the style of the film. I love independent films because they say whatever they want and have full creative freedom since they are more focused on creating a piece of art rather than a product. I was inspired to try to create an independent style film of my own.

First, I wanted my characters to feel relatable. I created a basic outline for my film with a few main topics that I wanted my characters to hit in their discussions. Other than that, I let the dialogue flow freely and choose its own course. I felt that leaving the camera rolling while my friend and costar, Dakota, and I were having real conversations added clips that felt extremely intimate and genuine. I also wanted to tell the story of young people who suffer from anxiety, depression and substance abuse because it is so prevalent with my own age group. I have personally watched friends suffer from these dark parts of life and I wanted to express their pain.

I tried to use lighting to set the mood in my film. In the first scene Dakota is asked if she is ok and she gives an unconvincing "yes." I lit her from the side and created large shadows behind her. I wanted this to show ambiguity. Her face that she showed the world was brightly lit with her shadow and backstage self lingering behind her. I also used brighter light as the two of us drove to the park, setting a happier carefree mood. As the conversation got deeper, talking about the expectations of life not being met, the sun was going down and the lighting got darker and darker until Dakota and I got into the car to leave. Here I made the lighting low key to ominously foreshadow Dakota's fate as she talks about a future that would never come true for her. In the last scene this lighting was very gray to illustrate a depressed feeling.

I used the quarter as a motif in the film. When we first see the quarter, it is a symbol of hope for the future. When we see it again, it symbolizes all that was lost: Dakota's life, all of her dreams and a friend. I used an eye-line match during this scene, first showing my character pull something out of her pocket and look at it before cutting to a close up shot of my hand holding the quarter. I also used an image of a dead single brown leave barely hanging on to a tree branch in the last scene. I wanted that to represent my character after losing her friend: wilted, alone, and barely hanging in there without her.

I also tried to use a variety of shots in the film. I started the film with a close-up shot of Dakota to show the detail of her face and clearly display her emotions. When we arrived at the graffiti wall, I used a wide-angle establishing shot to set the scene. I also used a Dutch angle when Dakota used drugs and alcohol to show her disorientation. During the same scene I choppily cut scenes together to add to the franticness.

I also used some rudimentary special effects. I used dried ketchup as fake blood and crushed sweet tarts as fake drugs. Although these were not digital special effects, they still added to the film by making scenes appear real that would be dangerous to actually carry out.

I felt that music greatly added to the moods I wanted the audience to feel during my film. In the last scene, I made sure to synchronize the climax of the song with the dramatic throwing of the quarter into the river. This use of non-diagetic sound greatly improved the film. I also included diagetic sounds like the wind and cars passing while outside and muffled party music heard through the closed bathroom door.

Overall, the knowledge I learned in our intro to film class greatly inspired me and helped me to create a film I am proud of.