

Self-reflective report

From the outset, the group decided that our production roles would be relatively fluid. The fact that we were only (eventually) all together a short time before the commencement of shooting, and the prospect of working with new equipment (that was really quite foreign to us) were just two contributing factors in making this decision. Thus, we would all work and learn together.

So, when shooting finally began (after extensive brainstorming and scripting sessions), we all shared directorial power. When someone saw a possibility, they felt free to suggest it (and even demand it). Inevitably, one person found himself manning the camera for longer periods than the others, but this was largely because both Richard and I were required as supporting actors in the piece. Despite this, I played cameraman on occasion and anyone who saw a possible shot was entitled to go ahead and capture it. By the end of shooting, I felt that I had a reasonable idea of how the camera functioned (and how it functioned differently from the cameras we used in last year's course).

Likewise, we had no cast-iron "production manager" or equivalent role. As Richard knew our actor well, he was responsible for organising shooting times. However, the rest of us were also involved in hunting down costumes and props and organising the location for the shoot. At the end of the day, this was a thoroughly team effort and it was a very rare occasion for there to be any less than three crew members together on one mission.

It was decided early on that there would be only one pair of hands on the editing keyboard throughout post-production. As Bryce seemed best equipped to handle the Avid system, we all were quite happy for him to assume this role. However, this did not mean that the rest of us simply lazed in the background. We all were equally involved in editorial decision-making, and no change could be made by Bryce unless it had the crew's full support. Further, we all took an interest in the finer details of Avid. When Bryce did something, we all made sure that we knew exactly how it had been done. Thus, in a sense, we all acted as assistant editors, and we all gained equally from the process of coming to grips with Avid.

To be honest, I have felt more involved during previous group projects we undertook last year. I think this can partly be attributed to the fact that I had no clear role in the making of this production, and thus no clear goals to fulfil. In the future, I think we will have to stipulate particular roles for each of us, so that we all have a certain amount of work to complete. However, this was undesirable on this project for a number of reasons (the new equipment and editing suite, the formation of group dynamics, and the fact that no real research or production management was required for this production). Thus, while I feel I did not do much during this process, I feel that I could not have done much more. I matched my peers, and – as a group of equals – we arrived at a final product we are all proud of. In the future it is inevitable that we will have to set up very specific individual production roles, but this was not the case during this project. Thus, it is almost impossible for me to reflect on my role in the group in any less general terms than I already have.