

Producing “A slice above the rest” was a rejuvenating experience which has lent me insight into new possibilities for television work. It was inspiring working with two individuals to create a work of fiction in an attempt to groupthink. Our final product represents a collaboration which represents our assumed identity. I firmly believe that by respecting each other’s opinions and insights we will gain invaluable right of way into the industry that we hope to enter. Just so I hope to use this year to build my strengths and avoid becoming a “jack of all trades”.

Firstly I was better acquainted with the other two members in our crew and have established our work mentality and our year-end goals. Amanda and Lindile are both ambitious and attuned to improving their abilities in television communication, just as I am. While our current relationship is purely professional I am confident that we will continue to grow in our understanding of each other and discover our hidden potential. Our proposed crew name (Shot Productions) represents our working relationship with each other. “Shot” can be said to mean “thank you”, but is also a realist view that says that our paramount aim is the quality of our product. At this early stage, however, I am already seeing the pitfall that we will need to avoid in our next production. If we are too ambitious in what we hope to achieve we might end up missing the mark.

Secondly I immensely enjoyed the possibility of working in the fiction genre of visual communication as opposed to the journalistic work that we have been doing before. While I am sure that I would lose interest after mastering this type of production, it seemed to me to be highly intimidating constructing reality in this way. Being the camera man I was able to incorporate my own ideas in the genre through camera movements and shots. Maybe it is misconstrued of me to think that telling a fictionalised story is that much different from telling an actuality story. Surely it is true that when producing news the journalist must choose his or her sources, decide what facts to give prominence, and what to leave out. Furthermore it is true that fictionalised stories are directly influenced by real-life experiences and must be real for an audience to assimilate themselves with it.

Thirdly I enjoyed the collaborative process that we as crew went through. From start to finish we had parallel ideas for ways how the story was going to play out in certain parts. Only when we were on the ground did we decide, for example whether our thief character was going to climb under a table or run in between seated patrons in the cafeteria. We made decisions on the ground depending on the situation we found ourselves in. Only at the end of the production did we decide how to finish the story.

And so it must be said that the entire experience was illuminating in terms of my own foreseen outcomes. My primary interest is to find what role in the production cycle I enjoy in order to build my strengths there. In order to achieve this I need break my own autonomy and form reliance between myself and my group members. I made use of the opportunity to let Lindile and Amanda work on the editing of the piece instead of convincing myself that I was the better editor and that I should do that job. If we can teach each other tolerance and faith in each others' work, I think that we will all be able to discover our own potential.