

## Personal Essay

The chase sequence was not what I thought it would be. Beset by technical niggles, and 'burdened' with an overambitious concept that required a mammoth shooting schedule, the chase sequence turned into a war of attrition for me personally. As I was responsible for the initial idea of the project, that of a hamster running on a wheel coming to symbolise the arbitrary and seemingly endless chase we as people indulge in, I also blame myself. While I think the project worked well and the piece effectively communicated the simple idea, in hindsight it may have been better to attempt something slightly less taxing on our time.

As a result of the shooting schedule, I don't feel I was able to really get to grips with the camera or hard drive to a level that I am satisfied with. As this term is a learning term, I would have preferred one long shoot where we would have been able to test and experiment with the camera.

Another by product of the schedule was my increased level of stress, and the way it affected my interactions with my crew. Both Jess and Terry bring everything to the table, but as they explained, they had not done much practical work last year. Their desire to work with the camera and editing software collided with my desire to get things done quickly. I found myself continually trying to take charge in order to speed up or improve the level of our work.

Their tentativeness with the camera led to frustration on my part, which I tended to let spill out and affect our working relationship. While we all took turns filming, I generally felt the need to take charge when filming what I considered to be the more important shoots of the film (for example, the child running on the drum) and to "micro direct" when the rest of the group filmed.

I was also expecting to bear the brunt of postproduction, but Terry really stepped up to the plate and in my opinion, did the lions share of the editing. I really feel that in terms of our process, we work most effectively together in postproduction. I tended to edit the more complicated sections of the piece, or show Terry and Jess how to accomplish some of the more convoluted techniques in Premier Pro.

However, I found the music to be the most frustrating. Lacking ambient sound, I composed the final piece in Garageband. Personally, I think our initial choice was better, but due to differing opinions and the need to build some kind of soundscape, the piece was composed. However, by this point my frustration over the

music was too much and I gave up on it as a job half done, as we had finished the edit the night before.

Overall, I thought that we functioned well as a working group, and that ideas and thoughts during the shoots and edits were all entertained and debated equally. Personally, I think I have a lot of room to improve in my team interactions when I get stressed, and that I tend to want to take charge and get on with things. So there is probably room for me to sit back a bit more and get more involved in the conceptual discussions of our projects, rather than bulldozing my way to the practical part of production.