Student Interview 1

Interview Date: 23/09/2020

Interview Location: Limerick Institute of Technology

(TIMECODE): 00:00:02:00

Interviewer: We’ll leave the mask on obviously because of COVID and everything else. And you got he email from me containing the participant information sheet, and again you understand everything in it? (I do yeah) and again if there is at any stage and again it is in your agreement form there that you will sign at the end of this. If there’s any issues or you felt you didn’t want to answer that, you can retract it afterwards or if you don’t want to take part in anything at all or if you are having second thoughts, I can delete everything and everything is destroyed for it so it’s all explained in the participant information sheet. So well start off this, hopefully it won’t take too long, so just tell us a bit about yourself and the course you're currently enrolled on.

Participant: I’m a fourth-year student in the creative broadcast and film production in LIT in Limerick and I spent the past three years just learning all I can about basically how to leave here…. To be able to go out there and find work and know what to do in the working environment.

TIMECODE: 00:01:12:09

Interviewer: Okay, so what encouraged you to take this course?

Participant: From as long as I can remember I’ve always just had a fascination with film like watching them and then I got more into the fascination about the behind the scenes stuff and how much work goes into it and what it takes to make them and how it rolls and everything like that.

Interviewer: Okay and when you were trying to make that decision about taking the course, what there something in the literature or in the prospectus that stood out for you?

TIMECODE: 00:01:41:09

Participant: I did hear that when I was going around in… where all the collages come by and tell you about everything, and you find out about all the editing programmes and stuff like that its like industry standard that, we use Avid and everything like that it’s basically a hands on course, it’s very practical. There’s very little theory into it, so we were not going to be spending three years just looking at books about this.

Interviewer: So, you knew about it before you came here did you (yeah). How did you find out about that?

Participant: There was a thing, I forget about it now, out in UL where LIT, UL and colleges in Dublin, Galway just come down and someone form here, and I asked basically about the film course and they told me that.

Interviewer: Okay, you yourself and editing, did you know much about editing before you started here?

TIMECODE: 00:02:46:12

Participant: I knew, I would say I just knew like the bare bones of it, I wouldn’t say I was……

Interviewer: okay so you so if you knew just the bare bones you obviously, you didn’t have much experience of editing before you started here, is that right?

Participant: not much experience at all.

Interviewer: Okay, that’s fine, can you just describe, just in your own words your interpretation of the equipment available for students editing here?

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Participant: We have… I think its six, seven edit suites. They are all kitted out with top-of-the-line computers. We have two monitors with the third TV monitor. We have an Avid keyboard with all the shortcuts on it and we have access to Premiere Pro, Da Vinci Resolve, Avid Media Composer, pro tools and all the Adobe suite on the one machine.

Interviewer: And obviously, when you are working on projects and stuff with all that stuff on these big machines, how do you feel about that, Is that a good thing, a bad thing or is there issues, are you happy with it and the way its set up?

Participant: I think I’m happy with how its set up because I think its essentially like going into what other edit suites might look like when you're going into a job. So it’s good to know like the space around and the way the speakers are positioned and….

TIMECODE: 00:04:24:10

Interviewer: Okay, so that’s the equipment, can you just describe the rooms though, so I mean, you mentioned the edit suites. Can you just give your interpretation of the other learning spaces?

Participant: These edit suites, I think the space is good. Like it’s not too big, it’s not like too small either. I think the paint is good. I think it’s like a sort of shade of grey at allows the monitors to be like more vibrant in terms of colour and picture quality and stuff like that.

TIMECODE: 00:04:56:06

Interviewer: How, and again you're in your 4th year, how have you used these machines, can you describe what you’ve done in these rooms so?

Participant: So, I have done assignments and projects in these edit suites. I have done various projects and group projects and labs in here. In my third year we had to do an FYP, so I have spent a lot of time in here editing short films and getting all the pre-production planning done in here.

Interviewer: And from that experience can you tell me was it a good experience or a bad experience, can you tell me a bit more about how you felt going through using the equipment, does it work for you?

Participant: I think it does work for me. It was a good experience all around, because it is easy to backup stuff because we have the Avid ISIS server, which basically allows us to back up and it’s all in the server downstairs, so like if anything was to go wrong then at least there’ll be a backup in a server space that can be gotten and retrieved, so I feel pretty much safe working in these edit suites.

TIMECODE: 00:06:08:04

Interviewer: As regards to the content of the modules, how do lecturers, what type of content do they give you, can you just describe the type of things you’ve learned across the board, content wise? I mean as regards to what they have given you to help you learn.

Participant: My lecturers basically like, for each lecture they have like PowerPoints and very interesting information. Very factual information that’s easy for us to understand. On the Moodle site that we use to interact with lecturers, they always put up like resources like eBooks, articles to websites. They put up websites videos on tutorials and like tips and let’s say like editing and like film making, shooting on location and stuff like that. So, I think it’s very good interaction between lecturers and students in terms them giving us the tools that we need to learn and for us to easily understand and we can always go to the lecturers if we have an issue or a problem. That usually always gets sorted out.

TIMECODE: 00:07:27:06

Interviewer: Okay, so can you describe to me your interpretation of craft and craftsmanship?

Participant: Craftsmanship to me I think, its, I think I wouldn’t say like its professional because everyone is learning something new about this industry everyday but I think you have to get to that level of craftsmanship where like you basically know what to do and let’s say you're given a problem in like an edit suite if you're working on a series and you just basically you’ve been given the tools form learning in college and stuff on what to do in that situation so I feel like craftsmanship has a lot to do with that. And As well as that we are told from first year to have like an ident, which is basically is like advertising yourself essentially, so if you made a short film and that short film was like in a film festival and an employer was there and he saw your ident and he’s seen that before and he’s like ‘oh I know this guy, he’s done good work in the past’ so I think that has a lot to do with what good craftsmanship is as well.

TIMECODE: 00:08:55:05

Interviewer: So, do you feel that craftsmanship is inherently linked to identity, or can you link those together… or what’s your interpretation of that?

Participant: I think I would link it with identity because employers should be able to identify you with past work and seeing if they want to take you on from your past experience, so I think having that level of craftsmanship in your past work would really help like identify you to potential employers in the industry.

TIMECODE: 00:09:33:08

Interviewer: So do you feel you're learning about the craft and craftsmanship of editing in your programme?

Participant: Yeah I do (why?) because essentially we are given the tools to produce good edits and we are always shown examples of good edits and also with that we have basically creative freedom on an edit so we can like put whatever we think comes to mind into an edit and if someone questions on that we have like an answer to like why that is there and should stay there.

TIMECODE: 00:10:16:03

Interviewer: We are going to get a little bit more personal, do you have your own equipment, like an editing space and editing equipment at home and if so can you describe it and explain why you’ve made the effort to create that?

Participant: I do , I have my own desktop PC with the Adobe Suite, so its essentially a two-monitor setup. Like a keyboard, mouse, and my room is painted in this kind of grey colour, so everything is setup the way I like it and it’s an environment where I can just kind of lock myself away for a couple of hours and just work.

Interviewer: Do you feel that that type of setup obviously makes you and you have hinted at it, makes you feel comfortable when you're working, do you feel more, that your identity is more professional in that type of environment that you set up yourself?

Participant: I do it think, I think (why is that?) I think it’s because I can get a lot of work done form home and in that space I feel like again more comfortable like doing work I can just stay out there for hours just working on it and I’ve all the time then in my free time to like I think if I made a mistake, I can just go up and fix it and everything.

TIMECODE: 00:11:49:07

Interviewer: So how does your experience before you started the course compare to your experience now?

Participant: Well from before I started college, I really didn’t get much opportunity to like get hands on with different equipment and basically to make stuff. I did watch a lot of films and tv series and stuff so coming into this course then I was basically able to learn like everything that goes into one production, between pre-production, principle photography and post-production. I was basically blown away by how much jobs can come out of it and how much work goes into it, like 12-hour days and just go into a scene of shooting stuff like that.

TIMECODE: 00:12:51:19

Interviewer: This is just your interpretation; I’m just looking to see what you think the role of the lecturer is in teaching editing?

Participant: I think the role is essentially to make sure that we’re on that level of craftsmanship by the time we leave college, that we can go out and basically like to have good knowledge on what it takes to edit and produce a good edit and basically like advertise yourself to an employer but creating a showreel and showing off our work essentially. So I think they’re preparing us for that, while also giving us content to edit and giving us feedback on our assignments and stuff like that.

TIMECODE: 00:13:44:24

Interviewer: So do you feel the lecturer needs to come from industry in order to teach that particular subject?

Participant: I think that good industry experience is helpful because they have an insight in what that working environment is essentially and they have tips on their own personal experiences, like good and bad that like they pass onto us and that’s good for us to learn off I think .

TIMECODE: 00:14:16:11

Interviewer: So do you think you have learned about the industry like through stories is it or whats particular about the industry you’ve learned about the industry?

Participant: My own lecturer like his stories like form the past as an assistant editor and then worked his way up to being an editor on the series, so he would like tell us that story. And working on producing a good edit and making sure its at the top of its quality that it can for the employer and knowing how they react if there was a bad situation with editing and things like that.

TIMECODE: 00:15:01:18

Interviewer: Okay we’ll finish up with this last one so, where do you see yourself working in the industry in the future?

Participant: For me I have fallen in love with editing for the past couple of years so I find myself going into that. Trying to get into that and the overall goal would be to direct and write. I’m very interested in doing that as well so they would be the kind of roles I would be looking into going into.

Interviewer: And do you feel that the course here has helped that, has sealed that for you or is there something missing from the course that you feel could have helped you a bit more?

Participant: One thing I think is learning more like writing screenplays and maybe more on location shooting. I think that in terms of experience they would be below other things in this course.

Interviewer: Okay, is there anything else you wanted to add to that, that’s all I wanted to ask you today.

Participant: Nothing that comes to mind as of now.

Interviewer: No problem, listen thanks very much.

INTERVIEW ENDED.