Student Interview 4

Interview Date: 01/10/2020

Interview Location: Zoom Meeting (online)

(TIMECODE): 00:00:57:03

Interviewer: …and I’ll just ask you first off, can you tell me about what you're currently doing now?

Participant: So, I’m just after finishing my time in Limerick Institute of Technology. I studied Creative broadcast, formally known as Video & Sound. I want to be an editor, currently not finding any work after college because of the Coronavirus. I think the best thing for me to do is getting on the road, getting a full licence and possibly do a Masters in Post-Production Editing.

TIMECODE: 00:01:45:09

Interviewer: Right Okay, and when you initially enrolled on the programme with LIT, can you just give me an idea on what encouraged you to do that?

Participant: Well, I have always really enjoyed playing around with video and sound editing, being creative with different stuff like that. And I have lived most of my life in Kilkee working in jobs that have nothing to do with that stuff whatsoever. And I applied for a must tech course in LCFE, a PLC course. And I didn’t get it cos they said the course was full. So, they out me onto Tv & Film. And got on very well and enjoyed it. And the next step was to go on to further my study in LIT… and I applied for again Music Tech in LIT and put Video & Sound down as my second choice and I guess because of my background and what I had previous studied they felt I was better suited to Video & Sound. I took it and the rest is history. I got on well, enjoyed it and it is definitely an area that I want to focus on in the future.

TIMECODE: 00:03:03:16

Interviewer: Went you were, obviously,,, that was an interesting choice on music and then the change… as regards the literature, when you were reading up on the courses on Music and Creative Broadcast… was there anything that stood out on the literature or prospectus that encouraged you that you were making the right choice here?

Participant: Not so much. It’s more of a personal feeling. I always wanted to go to LIT. When I did my leaving cert I failed maths and I automatically failed my leaving cert. I was probably unaware of the other routes such as PLC courses. It was something I built up in my own head for well over a decade that I wanted to go to LIT. That was the place I needed to study. And my family is very musical, my father’s side they are all very musical and been in creative bands. And I use to DJ myself for a long time. I Dj’d myself for about eight years and when I had seen the facilities and the equipment and …. I suppose when I was looking at… the reviews from other students about how they got on in the course and stuff, and they spoke so highly of it, I just always had my heart set on doing it. So, I was a little disappointed that I didn’t get music tech. Obviously the college knew best and probably picked the right choice for me.

TIMECODE: 00:04:35:02

Interviewer: And those students… those past guys that were talking about the course, that’s interesting because word of mouth is quite a strong thing to advertise something, And for people to have confidence in. Was there anything in particular that those students or other students, was there anything in particular about the course that they said, that you reacted to saying ‘oh, I didn’t know anything about that!’.

Participant: Well straight off the bat they said it was a lot of fun, but that they really enjoyed it and that its. You need to love what you are studying and find fun out of it. And just examples of the kind of work that became available to them that they were currently doing. That’s for me that’s what I wanted to be doing so.

TIMECODE: 00:05:18:10

Interviewer: So, what if anything did you know about editing before this course and had you experience editing before doing this course?

Participant: Well ah, my experience… I did the PLC course and we were editing on final cut pro, so that was my first taste of editing and I found it so stressful. I hated it. I was like this is not what I thought it was going to be at all. I couldn’t wrap my head around it.

Interviewer: What did you think it was going to be?

Participant: I don’t know…. That’s a tough question. I just found it very stressful having a director over your shoulder, trying to piece together content you didn’t have or shots he didn’t really have. Things that needed to be reshot and I just found it so stressful. I just kind of thought… I don’t know. The only experience I had with editing before that was I use to get two VCRs and I’d play one VCR and a blank tape. And I used to cut like that pausing and playing and stuff like that. And I know that sounds like a terrible way to edit, but it was getting to the end piece and seeing it come together that I really enjoyed. So that was my first ever experience with editing and then yes the tools I was given after that were far more advanced. Maybe I just I was inexperienced. I just I didn’t… everything was kind of daunting. After spending time with ye it you know yourself it’s gotten a lot better for me.

TIMECODE: 00:06:57:07

Interviewer: Lets talk about that a little bit so, I mean the equipment that you used, how did you find the equipment on the course first off.

Participant: With LIT? (Yeah). Well, the editing facilities are very good. The editing suites, the classroom, eh they’re not perfect. We run into bugs and we would have to bring in the technician and sort them out and stuff. Some of the computers go offline and stuff. For the most part, you couldn’t ask for any better to be thrown into industry standard scenarios and doing the best you can with it.

TIMECODE: 00:07:37:09

Interviewer: And you mentioned that the spaces and stuff like that. Were those spaces, and I know they were in an educational environment, but do you think they represented possibly what’s out there in industry?

Participant: Um, under your watch, most definitely. You need to be on the ball. You need to be quick if you run into a problem you need to be able to answer them. If the director wants a solution you need to be able to patiently give him options. I think under your watch it was as close as you were going to get without it being the real thing.

TIMECODE: 00:08:11:12

Interviewer: Okay, so you're equating the room and the equipment, there is a direct connection like that these rooms and the equipment really work properly when you have somebody who I suppose is proficient in it. You mean to be both teaching you but to also be able to you the equipment. Is that your analogy that you're trying to make?

Participant: Yeah, I think so yeah. It definitely, if you're willing to work, and it’s a tougher environment, you have clusters of people and half of them are not even doing the job they’re supposed to be doing they’re chatting and they’re making noise and stuff so it’s actually even harder to concentrate and try and just block everything that’s going on around you out. So, I think if you can manage the workflow and load and environment in LIT you're well capable of the workload and environment in the real world in the industry. I think so anyway.

TIMECODE: 00:09:09:22

Interviewer: Okay, so when you were using the equipment and spaces, was there anything in particular that you did in these spaces, you know, or was there anything, I mean your method of using the space and the equipment, was there anything that you… I suppose your preference of how you use the space and equipment?

Participant: Well first thing, take charge. If there’s people there that aren’t for your benefit or even their own benefit, you need to tell to either shut up or get out. That’s the first thing to do anyway. I don’t know, I suppose in my experience was to surround myself with people that either wanted to be an editor or at least enjoyed it and ask for help, ask for solutions. Can you have a look at this piece what do you think of this what would you change and stud like that. So, the first thing, just get rid of the nonsense that’s in the room and secondly surround yourself with people that want to reach the levels that you want to reach when it comes to post-production.

TIMECODE: 00:10:15:09

Interviewer: Okay, so you certainly saw it as a collaborative process rather than an individual..

Participant: a mixture,… (okay) if I needed time to work out, putting a story out of something say if I was doing a documentary, I would very much like to be on the room on my own, just watching the footage and making notes. But always have a notepad and pen with you and just be jotting stuff down because you don’t know what you’ll go back to or what you might need while your cutting and stuff so that would be another process as well if I need to be on my own to just block everything out.

TIMECODE: 00:10:53:01

Interviewer: Can you describe and how you felt about the literature and content that was used to teach you editing? This is separate to the equipment itself, I mean we are talking about the content in your labs and lectures, like how did you feel about that information, that knowledge?

Participant: Well, we got a wide range of editing applications to get familiarised which is great. So we have DaVinci, we have Adobe, we have Avid, so it’s a credit to the lecturer to be able to show us how to use a multitude of platforms and not just the one platform, so that was great. We are able to be shown little effects, colour grading, colour correction… I suppose what I’m trying to say is a wide range of tools in our arsenal to use as an editor outside so that was good. They also did things we’d move away from the platforms and the technical side and stuff. They would challenge our understanding of film. Why was this cut a certain way? Why did they use this piece of music? Does this shot mean something in particular. Is there a hidden meaning, or what does it mean to you and stuff? So, I don’t know I suppose to answer your question the best way is not only were we taught and able to break down the technical use of the equipment, but we were also shown to understand how to use that equipment in a more creative way. Does that make sense?

TIMECODE: 00:12:56:20

Interviewer: Yeah, well that your interpretation and that’s all I need, I’m not here to day whether you're right or wrong. I’m just looking for your interpretation of your experiences. Okay we’ll move on. Can you describe to me again your interpretation of craft and craftsmanship and whether you think editing is a craft?

Participant: Editing is definitely a craft because so many different techniques and styles and it’s a growing experience. Like I’ve seen it myself and I know the person I am editing now will not be the same style and technique that I will be in probably ten years’ time. Or maybe even five years’ time or even a year’s time. Because its, you're going to constantly see different things and different styles, different techniques and go, Oh I want to incorporate that into myself, I like that. And you might get sick of that, you might say you know what I’m… that’s old, that’s not something that you see much these days. I’m going to try something different and it’s like I keep saying to other people that, I have a couple of friends that want to get into editing and postproduction. And I keep telling them like, you need to watch foreign movies. You need to watch what not just all cultures are doing; you need to see what other cultures are doing. And not only what they are doing now but look at what they were doing twenty years ago, forty years ago, fifty years ago… I think the best thing to do is to really look back on the history of editing. Understand the process and evolution of editing and make up your own decision on what kind of editor you want to be then after.

TIMECODE: 00:14:33:19

Interviewer: Okay, do you think that your experience in the course, that you were taught craftsmanship?

Participant: I think so yea (can you explain with an example maybe?) I just feel like we were never… it was always shook up. Between the assignments we had to do, the different styles, I think it was always shook up. And then from dealing with you as well, if we gave you something, you’d always say it was, “I want to see something different now for the next one. I want to see something different. Sure, impress me and give me something different, show me that you're not just a one-hit wonder that you can do more.” So that’s a credit to ye like.

TIMECODE: 00:15:20:11

Interviewer: Okay, so just going a little bit personal now, do you, can you explain if you have your own equipment or editing space or suite and if so can you describe it for me please?

Participant: I have my own setup for the moment for the best part. The problem is I was given a licence from the college. An Avid licence, which has now run up since the end of September. So I need to get on that, I have no editing software at the moment. But I have a custom PC, runs top spec i7. I was told to stay away from the i9s because they are prone to heating up. I have my own speaker system. Its only a Creative system. I will be hoping to upgrade to a pair of studio speakers, something like a rockets or something like that. I have a 4K 36 inch monitor and stuff so its… for a student with no job… its fine.

TIMECODE: 00:16:19:13

Interviewer: And what made you go for all the effort for all that technical spec and everything? What, I mean can you just explain your effort to create that. Why would you do that?

Participant: Because I know I love editing and even if I don’t find the work that the bar you sometimes set yourself when you're leaving college, I know that I will always be a creative, I’m a creative person. I will always use it. I will, even if its going back on old family home videos, I’ll always just try and make it look professional and do something for the family, so… I just love editing.

TIMECODE: 00:16:58:03

Interviewer: Its for the love of it so. (yeah) How does your experience before you started with LIT compared to your experience now?

Participant: Could you elaborate a little more on the question?

Interviewer: I can, so your experience I suppose with editing, you mentioned there you know when you did the PLC course with Final Cut Pro, you weren’t quite sure what you were doing, that you were kind of confused… how does your knowledge base stand now after doing the course?

Participant: Its on a much higher level. I have built so much more confidence not just to use one platform but with all platforms. I know I what things mean now. I know what things might… even if I’m not, I’m an Avid user and if I go jumping onto Adobe, I might struggle for a couple of minutes to figure where things out, but I will figure it out on my own. So that’s like I wasn’t nearly able to do that before. So its definitely a confidence thing because I was saying that, when I had a director over my shoulder trying to get me to piece a short film together with content we didn’t had and bad footage and stuff like that, I just found it so stressful. He was getting stressed because it wasn’t coming together. I was getting stressed because I couldn’t do it for him and I would panic and I remember one time we were doing a assignment and I just stopped halfway saying I cant do this, could you finish it for me. And credit to him he probably did a better job and I just felt very disappointed and upset with myself. Because I was like I was full sure this is what I wanted to do and that I was good at it. And now I’m still working with that person now. He sends me stuff and I fix things up for him and I put things together and I send it back to him. So there’s a big change, it’s a big, big step up and it’s all down to confidence.

TIMECODE: 00:18:54:20

Interviewer: I was just about to say it sounds like a confidence change within you and your own, I suppose, do you feel you have a professional identity now, that has formed from the course?

Participant: Yeah definitely and because of the work that you made us do at such a level, I’m not ashamed to show that to an employer or even to my friends and family or have it online and that builds confidence and that’s building a portfolio and I’m definitely making a name for myself and there’s a lot of people in Limerick that know me and know what I want to do, and when things pick up are looking for me to be on board with them so its happened. Big things have happened because a lot of doors have opened because of LIT.

TIMECODE: 00:19:40:08

Interviewer: We’re coming to the end of it now, So what do you thing the role of the lecturer is in teaching editing in post-production?

Participant: For me I think for starters, its to separate the nonsense people from the people that are serious about it and to get them to a level of not so much of great quality work but workflow. Just work ethic in the environment and in the industry because no one in the industry is going to want to hear you say, ‘I cant do it’ or I don’t want to do it or I’m so… I think that’s the main thing to get them to a level where they can take on the pressure nad stress of real-life work industry.

TIMECODE: 00:20:36:16

Interviewer: Okay. And do you feel the lecturer needs to be from industry in order to teach a subject like editing? (One Hundred percent) can you explain why?

Participant: Because the industry is constantly changing. Its constantly evolving and if a lecturer cant help you with the latest software or insight on what to do in a situation then what good is it to you? You're not going to be able to find that information, not really. I know there is a lot of information online on forums and YouTube but not everything, its not as good as the real life experience so if you can be taught by someone that is experienced, that’s far superior than anything you could read online.

TIMECODE: 00:21:18:21

Interviewer: Last one, how do you see yourself developing as an editor in the future?

Participant: Constant work. And I feel bad for saying that now, because I haven’t worked since I left college, but during the pandemic there’s only so much we can do but its definitely for me to just constantly create. Just go out and maybe film for a day around your town and just put stuff together. Just don’t forget your workflow, don’t forget where things are. And whatever work comes your way, just do it because experience is key.

Interviewer: Great. is there anything we haven’t talked about that you would like to mention?

Participant: Nothing that comes to mind.

Interviewer: Nothing that comes to mind… listen thanks very much that brilliant.

Participant: Thank you for having me.

INTERVIEW ENDS