

## Final Evaluation and Reflection

The past nine weeks of my second year has allowed me to explore my skills and gain new ones with a range of new people. I now plan to look back at these skills within each sector of my work and how they could help me in the future.

My planning, using a Gantt Chart, made everything structured and simpler for me to plan ahead of time. Despite this, they did have to be altered a lot. The different colours for each line made it complicated to create and even harder to recreate when changes needed to be made. They were also not placed in a particular folder and were hard to find within my Google drive. I feel that using a Gantt Chart will be helpful to me in the future, although altering the multiple colours to a two colour layout in order to just differentiate the lines could make it easier to follow along with being less complicated to find, especially if based in a folder specifically for them.

At the beginning, I found that I wasn't certain of what I should research. After time I looked back on similar projects and focused on one that was almost identical, instead of those that could provide a different angle and inspiration to find my own way of presenting. Although this was done, I understand that the research that I looked at should have been more thorough and pointed in a different direction other than the plays alone. I should have spent some time looking at the resources I was using, such as the camera and premiere pro, and explored how they operated. I do believe that the images found during my research for Earthquakes in London helped me to create a poster that was suitable for the brief. I would have liked to have found more images for She Kills Monsters, as this would have given me more inspiration and a better understanding of my task. In the future I shall be looking at the major parts of a project and doing more work with the resources involved, as well as researching a larger bracket of similar projects.

There were also a few things that became an issue during my Final Major Project which had to be resolved. These included a different expectation of me by those I was following. The drama teacher thought one of my jobs whilst following them was to create a poster for their advertisement purposes, this was a completely different idea to what I had planned. This meant that I had to quickly alter my plans to include this project (for both Earthquakes in London and She Kills Monsters). I also discovered that the group's Final Major Project was to be performed after my deadline. This meant that some of my project would have to change in order to accommodate this. Therefore, instead of interviewing the make up artist whilst they were creating the characters, I instead combined their interview with the costume department. This allowed them to bounce off each other, and the interview became light hearted and friendlier than it would have been. I was also able to work around my medical issues and did the tour of the theatre on a different day to planned, with a simple email explaining the circumstances to those involved, working on communication. I found that I had originally created large pieces of writing (like this one) and transferred them to be added as a link instead of being typed on my site. This is a lot easier on the eye than lines and lines of writing. From this task I have learnt to be clearer with the expectations of a project, especially within emails and allow time for other plans that I may not have expected. Flexibility is another big thing, other people's plans may not coincide with mine, and therefore a back up plan is always a good idea. Additionally, links can be helpful to use instead of blocks of writing and can break a page up.

Planning and Production was a page that I was unsure how to use. I didn't know what to put on the page or what work came under its title. When I started to use Gantt Charts I began to use the page to display them, although the charts were not explained to the viewer and there was no real purpose in them being there. They were also not updated weekly and so was behind the rest of the site, especially the Evaluation Diary. I then continued to add in photos of the work I was doing within my notebooks, which is my preferred way of working, and explained these in text underneath the images. I think that in the future I need to ask more questions when I do not fully understand something, along with annotating my work as I progress through an activity. My work makes sense to me but perhaps not another person. Displaying how I independently work is also not a bad thing and can be used alongside a project, with an explanation to show the steps used.

Practical Skills was generally positive for me and allowed me to learn new things as I went along. Looking at how I displayed my work and using masks with Wix was entertaining and creative and has allowed me to produce my work in a way that I have never done before. Creating Thumbnails within Canva was also a new challenge. This allowed me to once again let my creativity out. These skills will be helpful in the future when I need to livestream or create posters and websites. I found that my notes from Production meetings have become neater and easier to understand because of the time spent within them. I'm sure I will be involved in future projects where notes will be needed and this will make them easier for myself or others to understand. I have never been great with computers, therefore the main thing I feel that I have learnt is how to transfer images and videos from an iPhone to a Mac. The ones I originally recorded or photographed were too large to be transferred through email or into my drive straight from my phone and therefore I had to import them onto the computer with my charging cable. This process will be helpful in the future and will allow me to save vital minutes when against the clock.

I believe I have learnt a lot from creating an Evaluation Diary as It has made me analyse myself along the way. At the beginning of the project, everything was written in one big clump with a few images thrown in. It was hard to understand and wasn't very attractive to the naked eye. All the writing was in one colour and it was difficult to differentiate where one entry finished and another started. This was until I added another colour in, titles for different sections, spaces and decorative lines between entries. I find that all these things, added together along with the images, help to break the page up and make it easier to understand. I also added a filmed diary in, which I feel makes the page a lot more exciting than plain text. Along with this, a small letter was written at the beginning. This makes the Diary more realistic and as well as personal to each reader.

My Presentation came with its ups and downs but allowed me to try new things as I have never recorded a full length show before. The video ended up being half an hour long, being recorded in both horizontal and vertical with a long hallway shot that music was added to. It also included a lot of talk that didn't need to be included which I should have cut out. I do feel that in particular the hallway shot should have either been deleted or reduced to make it faster. Changing the way everything was shot became confusing and seemed unprofessional. I also realised after filming what I wore was consistent but the video was actually supposed to be filmed over a period of time and therefore I wouldn't be wearing the same thing on different days. In particular, I like the work that I created at the beginning and

end of the presentation. I feel it is enticing and creates a more professional feel to the documentary. It was a shame that the work between these, for me, doesn't have the same feel to it. In the future I would like to keep the same standard throughout the documentary instead of it changing.

The website itself has a few flaws in it that I have learnt from but also a few things that I am proud of. I found that the original text size used was too small for certain people to see and sometimes the links I used wouldn't work. As well as this, the background chosen would sometimes merge in with the text colour used. Despite these things, the site looks consistent and has a range of techniques within it. I do feel that in the future a pattern that compliments the website should be used along with a text colour that clashes, I also would use text size that is visibly easier to read. I should also make sure that the text size is consistent across the different pages on the site and uses the same font, I would also check the links work on a regular basis. The different use of techniques across the site, I feel, made the site more enticing to the viewer and is something I will be using again because of this.

Overall, I found working with new people and using my photography skills, whilst following a project in an area that I already enjoy an exciting change. Learning about the skills that others have that will compliment mine. Even though I am on a completely different course it was interesting to learn about another course and it has improved my teamwork and taught me the importance of learning about other sectors. I feel that my photography skills have allowed me to really follow the story in a different way by catching actors' emotions and delving deeper into a character, making it easier to understand and create the documentary and posters. I didn't enjoy not being in control of my own project as I couldn't plan everything the way I normally would, but learning the flexibility needed, I'm sure will help me in the future with different projects. Despite all the things that I didn't like about the project, I would do it again. I'm sure there is a lot more to learn that I didn't realise this time around that would be helpful to me.