Film /Video Winter 2009 Advisory Meeting

February 3, 2009

Room 1524  6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Pizza and salad served.

Norma distributed Shoreline pens and Spindrifts to new committee members.


Tony Doupe started the meeting with introductions around the table.
Action Item: Minutes of Nov 2007 were approved; however, there is a search for the last spring’s minutes.

Committee Chair
Action Item: Brion Rockwell agreed to serve as Chair for the committee.

Working in Today’s Economy
Tony continued with the meeting opening discussion on “working in today’s economy”
   Committee members voiced that work in the industry is painfully slow, and it’s hard to know when it may turn around. Bidding and pricing are reduced just to get the jobs and money. Some work is for trade. Some clients are asking for the basics or less time just to get the job done and save money. In independent films, funding has noticeably dried up.

“How do we prepare students?” Norma pointed out that typically in this field, a lot of the work/employment is undocumented and hard to track. How do we better prepare our students for that reality?
   Committee members expressed that you have to show students how to focus on both, art and income and making choices. Sometimes the income can support the art side. Commercial jobs may not be fun but most in the industry understand you have to “pay your dues.”

Internships
The creation of internships – in a form of a capstone and making real world connections, and the creation of a demonstration reel or portfolio for getting work. Let students know the realities of work – that Seattle is a good starting place to get acting and film experience and then move on south to LA.

Student demographics
One committee member asked about the demographics of the film/video students. Ruth explained that of her 20 production students, 2 are female, about 18 -20 yrs in age. Tony explained that in his acting writing for the camera class of 37 students – the age is 16-65 yrs.
**Knowledge base**

A question was raised about training in video or stage – most agreed that those who had traditional training in stage were better in their jobs. Having flexibility is great, and being able to know all aspects of the work makes a better producer, or editor, etc. That knowledge base gives them a leg up on the competition and easier to work with. Taking acting classes creates a natural progression for students to learn and makes them better directors.

Committee members also stressed the importance of community and voluntary involvement helps them prepare. Being able to tell stories in the real world is what they should want to do. Learning how to prepare for the future by combining resources and networking is important.

**ACTION ITEM:** Follow up with previous students; track what they are doing to inspire current students.

**Summer Program**

Jesse briefly explained a proposal for a summer program with HS juniors and seniors to produce short films, with monologues and interviews with industry information gathered by field trips into industry. This will show students how to get involved with the drama/film community and learn Seattle industry resources and collaboration.

**Teamwork, Crossover skills, Business Skills**

A quick discussion around web crossover skills and the need to integrate into teams based upon multiple skills is important. Students should learn all parts of the job; sound, shoot, produce, direct in a capstone class, something like the “Business of Media” where students could understand the relationship of business and the arts. This could show students how to write grants for funding, entering film festivals, creating budgets.

*Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts* is a resource for students to learn about – workshops and topics are put on for those in the entertainment arts.

**Web distribution**

Some discussion about web distribution of reels versus the reel tape was discussed. Jim explained that all VCT students should walk out with 3 forms of their portfolio; hardcopy pdf, dvd, and website.

**ACTION ITEM:** investigate opportunities to coordinate students in VCT and drama/film for website as well as industry paying and non profit work.

**“How do we invoke an Entrepreneurial spirit with our students?”**

The industry is not turn-key, and students have to have a willingness to step out of their comfort zones and with other people. Internships are very important and students need to “pay your dues” as it is expected in production. Maybe an introduction to the industry type of class
could emphasize that. People can do okay in industry without the classes but in corporate jobs
do require degrees and HUSTLE.

Andre spoke of his high school experience where the whole departments participated in a
school- wide production. The projects were set up for collaboration in all areas so that
progression allowed students to learn all aspects of the production.

- Could we look at a campus wide collaboration with one event to showcase all areas
(Drama, Film, Video, Mustc, VCT)?

- Perhaps there could be open houses for each area for drop ins and create
collaborative events and relationships?

**Mentorships/Internships**

**REQUEST from Committee members:** The Committee mentioned internships or mentorships
and thought about how to provide advice for the employer on how to be a good mentor...

Teaching students soft skills—reliability, knowledge,

When asked the question about versions of software, employers mentioned using Final Cut 6.

The next meeting will be scheduled in the spring.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.