Minutes Drama/Cinema/Performance Arts/Digital Filmmaking
Advisory Committee Meeting, Boardroom
4:30-7:00 p.m.
November 28, 2007

Professor of Drama/Cinema Jane Winslow called the meeting to order. Committee members did self introductions:

- **Ann Hedreen**, principal of White Noise productions, had done a film on Katrina. She has done a great deal of producing and recently published a letter to the editor on Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Russ Thompson**, Ann’s husband, has worked in film for 20 years, full-time for 7 years, and they do films for non profits mostly. He is also a photographer and editor and does radio.
- **Todd Licea**, actor, does corporate video and independent films. Todd is teaching here this quarter and will be teaching an Acting for the Camera class.
- **Catherine Wadley**: specializes in Women in Film and is an independent film editor. She does corporate work, freelance, etc.
- **Ann Paxton** is a writer, makes movies, and works on small non profit videos.
- **JD Sumsky**, quit her job a year ago and now does independent film making. She has been a PA for a while, a student, commuted 5 times week from Port Orchard to get to our Program. *I loved the program*. She has worked on a lot of projects, freelancing, recently shot two short films, and is currently writing a feature. She has a Final Cut system in her home (as did several of the other members).
- **Todd Szekely**: started small production company and now directs films and plays at New Space, here at the college and for TPT pictures. She graduated 10 years ago from SCC, trained as actor here, and is a founding member of New Space Theatre.
- **Jesse Ross**, is a Drama instructor here and has done children’s theatre. He assisted Tony with his recent college production.
- **Berta Lloyd**, Dean for Workforce Education, helps support the program and advisory committees. Berta supplied SCC pens for each member and refreshments. Her major role is to find money for professional-technical programs like these.
- **Norma Goldstein**, Dean of Humanities, is the dean for the program and will set up a list serve so that committee members can use it for exchange of information.

Discussion was about the Odd Fellows Home in Capitol Hill turning into condos which would displace several aspiring artists and dramatists and filmmakers. The committee considered making contact with these occupants and inviting them to Shoreline.

**Action Item**: Minutes from the Spring 07 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Next Jane identified the need for an Advisory Board Chairperson. Board Chair. It was important that industry lead the committee, run the meetings.

**Action Item**: Ann Paxton was voted in and unanimously approved. [Thank you, Ann.]

Jane then asked about the regional and local job market: How is it out there?
Student suggestion: Needed job recruiter for actors, getting them internships. The group discussed how casting is the way for an actor—through internships in the theatre, and places like Intiman, production companies. Some internships were not paying and most had to get an agent. Most agreed that actors have to work on their craft and market themselves.

**Preparing our students:** Can students from here do voice over, putting a reel together, make a pretend commercial that becomes their calling card.

There is always work for young actors, maybe not in Seattle. Most have to work their way into the union. Sometimes it was not good being in union. Everyone has their own path; for an actor, there is no clear way. Recruiting talent: hire voice talent, recruit from church choir, kids friends, etc. word of mouth, lots of small production companies,

Todd L: suggested that our students graduating could leave here with a reel, maybe a capstone requirement, a piece that they edited, everything that could represent them in some way. Ideas: One credit-actor and editor together to finalize portfolio. Norma called this Portfolio development, or possibly capstone course.

**To Do:** The program would look at these suggestions and review curriculum.

Jane: student who went to Guatemala, did special projects 1-2-3 credits so that students get credit for their work., part of their reel. Other students have big projects and come out with a reel. Essential when they walk out door with compilation of their work, actor, director, whatever it is.

Tony: We’re realistic with our students about income, be prepared to do a lot of things, be a PA, start their own companies, wear a lot of different hats. In LA, NY different beast, more direct work on getting jobs because there are more jobs to be had.

Russ Thompson: We are finding do a lot of shorts for non profits. They will hire most anyone, opportunities for students, have little money. He told story of a BCC student who gets work from them and now has steady gig at Microsoft, access to the gear, etc. a real tech head.

Tony: Great to have you come into class and tell them the real stories. Students need to learn that they have to sacrifice and pay some dues.

Jane: met Ann and Russ when they were talking to a class on entrepreneurship, filmmaker from Anita McEntyre’s business class, spoke on setting up a business.

Catherine: asked if any established internship programs were ongoing?

Jane: Students some do…with Ben Sabushian, KIRO; Victory Studios, King 5/NW Cable News, Experience Music Project, FX Video
Cathy: How about Bob Palmer; Microsoft Studios To Do: Cathy is willing to contact them.

Mentorships: Norma mentioned the mentorship program in the VCT program, not as formal as an internship, with less scheduled times for students and mentors. Jane and Tony screen students for job shadowing opportunities.  
To DO: Norma to get mentorship paperwork from Visual Arts. The program may develop its own model for our program. We can modify and shorten the internship paperwork.

Berta noted that it was hard to prove employment.

Tony: catch-up on jobs and work for students, find ways to capture those students who have own companies. Track 6 months after students leave the program.

Cathy: Ever have a Job Fair? Or graduates party, geared to these different disciplines, open to other colleges as well. An idea to explore is a regional job fair. Bring employers and students together.

Russ: Do you guys produce anything here? That airs on Utube? Channel 83, Seattle marathon, Folklife. One of UW learning tools—every week we produced a news cast, 30 minutes that aired on closed circuit channel, organize a showcase of what we do,

Jane asked about copyright ability to have on Channel 83.

Russ: campus news, anchor person, actors doing scene, photography, showcase this, becomes marketing tool, Tony: suggested a 48- hours film festival or competition. Broadcast it, make it competition, Maybe do once a quarter to become a marketing piece.

Norma invited them to Funkngroove and Tony’s new productions

Website, some streaming media there from Jane and Tony.  
To DO: We will review website and critique it, etc.

JD: Never got job from reels, got it from grips, biggest resource, call board, equipment, experience in sound, etc, put together a crew, keeps in touch with those people. Be a self marketer, bulletin, skills, our website, so employers can find our students, students post bios,

Todd Licea: posting on Craig’s list is now powerful tool.  
To Do: Norma to talk with Dave Holmes and find what he needs for call board and streaming media

A Call board could have 10 different voices on it for potential employers seeking talent  
To DO: Tony call Central and see if they have it. Voice editions over phone and get script call this number and record it. SCC is the only place that teaches Avid. Faculty is working professionals.
Jane asked about current technology. She is trying to get educational pricing for Panasonic 100Bs. Do we go to HDV or do we wait?? Jane is trying to get folks to be bilingual with Avid and Final Cut so that they are more marketable in the job market. Do we still keep sending students out as bilingual Avid and Final Cut or jump to one horse or the other?

Cathy: It’s nice to give students both.

NO HD Cameras at all, rent in summer, having some problems with getting data off, Students hollering for 100B cameras, mini DV, 24 key, JVCs- Jane make them use real professional lens in Field Production class.

Clamoring for HD and HDV and some students have better cameras than we have, we are getting new equipment, one floating deck and camera

How much is HD? No one watching it in HD… Just did promo for T-Mobil, got trashed and not show in HD Cathy: Learn the techniques in shooting, and the message they communicate, but rather focus on gear. Firestore digital card, records to tape and drive simultaneously, an save time and dump on your system,… 

Russ: just bought new HD camera and realized cannot afford monitor and deck, using it for depth shots, can use old camera sand use filters… 
No to HD and new decks. Focus on techniques; it’s about the lens. 
Russ: Final Cut, cheaper and works well in the home, 
Jane: Students learn Final Cut Pro from high school; Avid gives them new tool, used in LA. Students need to know both architectures, can cut on anything. Is Final Cut cheaper? Software…Avid Express Pro use it here. Educational discount. Final Cut goes on any system.

To Do: We’ll set up next meeting over list serve.

Meeting adjourned 7:12 p.m.