

Aaron Dworetzky
Advanced Standing Portfolio
Due: 10/18/2010

How Did I Arrive at New Media?

I had declared three majors prior to joining the New Media program. Having such a broad range of interests, including film, computers, and music, I learned that New Media encompassed all my interests into one major. Having completed all but one New Media core course, I have succeeded both creatively and academically thus far. Courses such as Shooting and Editing Digital Video, Intro to Physical Computing, and Midi Composition, allowed me to explore my creative potential, while becoming valuable additions to my professional, as well as academic portfolios.

Before coming to the New Media program, I was declared a Drama Studies major, and was very limited with my choices. Having a longing desire to take a programming course, I enrolled in Programming Games, with Jeanine Meyer. It was my first introduction into the world of programming. She challenged and inspired me to create simple games using JavaScript and Action Script. She taught me to think in steps as a programmer, and that there are often dozens of ways to solve the same problem. I expressed, to her, my interest in programming, as well as film and music. She advised me to look into Midi Composition, and Shooting and Editing Digital Video. Being a Drama Studies major, however, I was not allowed to enroll in certain film and music courses. As I expressed my frustration to my advisor, I switched my major to Cinema Studies.

As a Cinema Studies major, I was then able to take Shooting and Editing Digital Video, and Intro to Video Art. Shooting and Editing Digital Video, with Kara Hearn, was a course which opened my mind to create dramatic short films. I was inspired to apply new methods of filmmaking towards class assignments. One project in particular, was to create a short narrative. I began creating storyboards based upon several ideas I had. My best ideas for this film, however, were generated from real life events that were happening at the time. My short film narrative I titled, "Mind Games," was inspired by

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an actual event which took place in my hometown. A high school student breaks into houses and terrorizes the neighborhood. This idea evolved into "Mind Games," becoming my intense psychological narrative piece. I incorporated unique camera angles, as well as different filmmaking techniques; and feeling successful with this film, I chose to include it in my portfolio.

As I continued as a Cinema Studies major, I was allowed one more project based course, Midi Composition. For almost two years, I have challenged myself to create electronic music. My commitment to the study of classical piano started at an early age; and I continue to study with a master teacher currently. With this, I was thrilled to finally take a course in electronic music. Some concepts were already familiar to me; however, I was taught very specifically about the history as well as practical applications of midi based music. I learned, for example, to create an electronic snare drum, bass drum, and cymbal sound, starting from a basic waveform. For my midterm, I expanded upon these techniques and created an ambient electronic composition. I included piano, and a collection of ambient pads and drums to create my piece. I titled my composition, "Misty Lake," as the ambient pads make me think of mist floating on a lake. I included the piece, "Night Glider" as well, because I felt this was a nice compliment to "Misty Lake." These compositions are both highlights of my electronic music accomplishments, and is why I chose to include them in my portfolio.

With a Cinema Studies major, I ran into the same problem; most the core required courses were theory based, and did not allow me to express my creativity. Enrolling in electives was my best opportunity to explore, and have created what I felt were successful works, like "Mind Games," and "Misty Lake." As the semester was nearing an end, I was advised to find a major which required the courses I have already taken, as well as ones which pertained to my interests. Coincidentally, the majority of the electives I had chosen was the core structure of the New Media program. After applying,

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and being accepted, I was thrilled to be a part of a program which encouraged creativity which addressed all my interests.

Going forward, New Media will allow me to fulfill my creative and academic potential. With all the courses I have taken thus far, I will be able to apply my knowledge to future courses and towards my senior project. The invaluable lessons New Media has taught me are those which go beyond the class environment. My passion and commitment to New Media will allow for personal growth, and my contribution to this constantly evolving area of study.