

IADT Creative Music Production
Professional Project

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Behind the Scenes: The Making of an EP – A Video Documentary

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Introduction

This project aims to show the creative and technical process of making an EP through a video documentary. Its goal is to answer the commonly asked question of; “how is an album or EP made?”. This project aims to show everything from the pre-production stage all the way to the finished songs and show the highs and lows of the in between. This project is highly collaborative and involves different artists and musicians and a videographer to help document the process. This project's goal is to give insight into how music is made and how artists, musicians, producers and sound engineers work together to create a collection of songs. It aims to show not only the best and most fun parts of making music but also any struggles or moments of stress that arise.

The documentary follows the entire creative journey from writing the songs, producing the music to discussing the meaning of each track and finding the EP’s overall concept and meaning. It shows footage of the recording sessions and discussions among artists about the songs and their meaning. The finished documentary provides insight to those who have an interest in pursuing a career in music and be a source of inspiration.

The research gathered in the literature review section that follows will aid in producing this project. It provides videos and documentaries based around artists and how they made their music and albums. The content of these resources acts as a point of reference as to what kind of footage would be interesting to capture and include in the finished documentary. The filming and editing style of some of these resources are also used as a point of reference.

The methodology section will discuss the process in which this project has been carried out. It has been completed through stages such as pre-production, tracking/recording, mixing, mastering and then finally editing together all footage captured of this project's process. A proficient level of organisation and time management skills was required for this project, breaking this project into stages kept the project on track and was helpful in organising all the footage that was captured.

This project aims to show how music is made through the creative, emotional and technical aspects. It aims to show how something small such as a melody that is on repeat in your head becomes something bigger. As this project is very collaborative it also shows how music can bring people to work together to help each other's ideas come to life. The project's completion went beyond simply demonstrating the creation of an EP, it now depicts a journey of artistic development, self-discovery, and collaboration, capturing the core of the creative process.

Literature Review

This literature review section provides useful information in the development of this project as the research gathered consists various different documentaries and resources that will aid in the creation of this EP and documentary.

This resource “When Facing the Things, We Turn Away From: Writing the Album”¹, is helpful for the project in question as its editing and filming style can be used as a point of reference and inspiration. It is also relevant as the resource’s focus is on showing the creative process of making an album, similar to the project in question where its focus is to show the making of an EP (Extended Play). This video is done by Luke Hemmings, an Australian musician and singer who is best known for being the lead vocalist of the band 5 Seconds of Summer. The video also features Sammy Witte, a successful producer who has worked with artists such as Harry Styles, King Princess and Halsey to name a few.

This video shows clips of makers, Hemmings and Witte, producing the album titled “*When Facing the Things, We Turn Away From*”, performed by Luke Hemmings. This video was made to show the creative process of making the album. In this resource, the performer, Luke Hemmings, and the producer, Sammy Witte, are seen sitting in the studio discussing how the album came to be. In this resource the makers are trying to give a behind the scenes look and show the technical and emotional aspect of making an album. The video shows the makers not only discussing the process but also includes clips of recording sessions. The makers have also

¹ Witte, Sammy. *When Facing the Things We Turn Away From: Writing The Album*. Performance by Luke Hemmings, *YouTube*, YouTube, 26 Aug. 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5BUv9WQhg0&t=90s>. Accessed 1 Nov. 2022.

delivered this content in a way that matches the album's aesthetic, from the video's colour grading to including photos captured on film. The video not only successfully shows the creative process but achieves it in an aesthetically pleasing way.

The current project in question is similar to this resource as its focal point is to show the making of an EP. The content of this video can also aid this project in its methodology. The project in question may follow a similar timeline or process to what the makers have done in the video.

This resource is quite useful for the current project as it demonstrates some filming and editing styles. The makers have created a video that not only shows the process but has delivered it in a way that matches the album's style and has made it aesthetically pleasing to watch. This video can be of inspiration to the current project as this project may choose to show the process of making an EP in a way that matches the mood of its songs.

Another resource that relates to the research question and subject currently under investigation as is "The Making of Five Seconds Flat: The Album"², this resource shows the maker recording an album. This video displays the singer, Lizzy McAlpine, documenting the process of creating the album "*Five Seconds Flat*". Lizzy McAlpine is an American singer – songwriter who studied song writing at Berklee College of Music in Boston, she then dropped out in her junior year to pursue music full-time. This resource relates to the current project in question as this project's aim is to also document the process of creating a collection of songs, more specifically an EP.

In this resource the maker is trying to show the recording process of making an album. This video is filmed and edited in the style of a vlog where the maker is recording themselves and this gives a more casual, laidback feel. The maker, Lizzy McAlpine, is trying to show the process of making an album in its simplest form. The majority of the video is shot on a camera but also includes moments recorded from a phone. The video shows clips of some interesting recording

² McAlpine, Lizzy. "The Making of Five Seconds Flat: The Album." *YouTube*, YouTube, 19 June 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uugbkn7Q8vY>.

techniques specifically for drums and vocals. This resource follows a simple filming and editing style, it creates a comforting feeling and almost feels as if it's a video call from a friend.

The current project in question is similar to this resource as this project aims to document and show the process of creating an EP. The maker of this resource documents their own process and experience creating an album which involves a similar process to that of creating an EP. This resource is relevant and helpful to the project in question as it provides an insight into the process and helps pinpoint what to document and what can be interesting to include.

In conclusion, this research resource is useful to the current project as it can be used as a point of reference in terms of filming style. The maker, Lizzy McAlpine, has kept it very simple and has recorded herself and the process from her point of view. It is not professionally recorded which makes this filming and editing style very achievable for this current project.

In this next resource titled "Harry Styles: Behind the Album"³ we see the artist; Harry Styles describe the process he went through to create his self-titled album. This research resource is relevant to this current project as this project is similar in the way that it aims to document the creative and technical process of making a collection of songs.

Harry Styles is a British singer-song writer, who's career began on the *X Factor UK* (footnote?) in 2010 where he was placed in the band *One Direction* after not making it as a solo contestant. The band became one of the best-selling boy bands of all time before going on 'hiatus' in 2016. Styles has since led a successful solo career. This resource is directed by Paul Dugdale, who is one of the world's leading pop culture directors, some of Dugdale's work include '*Elton John Live: Farewell from the Dodger Stadium*' and '*Taylor Swift: Reputation Stadium Tour*'.

³ Dugdale, Paul, director. *Harry Styles: Behind the Album*. Apple Music, 19 May 2017, <https://music.apple.com/us/music-movie/harry-styles-behind-the-album/1259614011>. Accessed 25 Nov. 2022.

This resource, compared to previous resources, is very much done in a documentary style and includes a live performance of the album. This video shows the main performer, Harry Styles creating his first solo album. Styles is seen speaking directly to the camera about his experience making the music, he gets personal and expresses his thoughts and feelings throughout the process and dives into other aspects of his life, such as his experience in the band One Direction. The documentary also shows clips of the writing and recording process, shot in Jamaica, London and Los Angeles, with the live performance filmed in Abbey Road Studios in London.

This documentary is relevant to the current project in research as this project can learn from this resource's filming and editing style. This project could take the route of being more of a documentary, where all involved personnel will each speak directly to the camera about their own experiences and express their thoughts throughout the process. A live performance could also be an additional feature as shown in this resource.

The performers, directors and producers of this resource are successful in what they have created, as they have not only shown behind-the-scenes footage but have included footage of Styles speaking on a personal and emotional level which engages the audience. The inclusion of the live performance also allows the audience to hear the album whilst seeing its process, making it a very in-depth documentary.

In conclusion, this resource is very helpful for the current project in question as it provides inspiration in terms of filming and editing style. This resource captures the process of creating an album very well and allows the audience to get to know the artist and their art on a deeper level. Although this style of filmmaking may be harder to achieve, it is still a point of reference as to what can be included in the current project.

The following resource, "The Making of 5SOS5 – Part 1"⁴ relates to the current subject under investigation as this video documents the band '5 Seconds of Summer' making their fifth studio album. This resource shows the band's process from writing to recording which is relevant to the current project as this project aims to create a video that shows the process of making music.

⁴ Fleming, Ryan, director. *The Making of 5SOS5 - Part 1*. YouTube, YouTube, 8 Nov. 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmeQEu9fRDA>. Accessed 26 Nov. 2022.

The band '5 Seconds of Summer' are an Australian pop rock band from Sydney, who came together as a band in 2011. The band consists of Luke Hemmings, as lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, Michael Clifford, as lead guitarist, Calum Hood as bassist and Ashton Irwin as the drummer. The band caught their big break as the opening act for One Direction on the 'Take Me Home Tour' and 'Where We Are Stadium Tour'. They have since then released five studio albums and have gone on their own world tours.

In this resource the band and their filmmaker are trying to show how '5SOS5' the album came to be. This video shows the band recording their album in the studio. This resource's filming style and content is very relaxed, it shows the recording and creative process to be quite fun and the video does a very good job at letting the band's personalities shine through.

This is relevant to the current project of research as the content of this video can inspire the project to go in a certain direction. This resource shows the band making their album, but it shows it in a way that is fun and almost comedic. The band appear to be having a great time working together and without many issues arising, it appears to be a stress-free environment and the band don't seem to be in any rush. This resource very much shows the highs rather than lows. This current project could take a similar approach in the sense that it could show mostly the good days rather than the bad days.

The band, '5 Seconds of Summer', and their filmmaker, Ryan Fleming, are successful in capturing the recording process of the album. Ryan Fleming is a videographer and photographer who has worked with the band since 2019. Fleming successfully captures the band making their album, from watching the resource it is easy to tell that the band are comfortable with their filmmaker and are in an environment where they feel free to be themselves. This resource also successfully shows the band's dynamic.

In conclusion, this resource is very helpful to the current project as it provides inspiration in terms of filming and editing style. It also provides inspiration in terms of what to film and to include in the project.

This next resource is helpful to the current project under investigation as it follows the alternative rock band Wilco on their journey to completing their fifth studio album, ‘Yankee Hotel Foxtrot’. This resource titled “I Am Trying to Break Your Heart: A Film About Wilco”⁵ not only shows the band's recording process but also documents the struggles the band encountered after being dropped from their record label upon completion of their album. This relates to the current project as this project aims to document the creative and recording process of making an EP. This resource provides a very realistic insight to not only the making of the music but also shows the harshness of the music industry.

‘Wilco’ is an alternative rock band from Chicago, Illinois formed in 1994. The band was formed by the remaining members of ‘Uncle Tupelo’, an alternative country group. The band continued with an alternative country style but later introduced more experimental aspects to their music, incorporating more elements of classic pop and alternative rock. ‘Wilco’ gathered a lot of attention during the release of their fifth studio album, ‘Yankee Hotel Foxtrot’. The band were dropped from their record label, ‘Reprise Records’ due to the lack of sales compared to their previous albums. This resource follows the band as they record their album and follows them as they navigate the release of the album themselves.

The band and their director, Sam Jones, are trying to show the making of the album and show the struggles of the band after being dropped from their label. It is a film about taking chances with a new sound, corporate greed and the meaning of success. Sam Jones shows the band’s journey in a black and white aesthetic giving a mysterious look to the film. This black and white approach is very simple and allows the audience to really focus on the storyline and feel the band’s struggle.

This resource is relevant to the current project of research as this resource captures the recording and music industry in a very realistic way. It does not put emphasis on the glitz and the glamour of the industry, and it shows a band working independently to release their music. The current project aims to show the making of an EP. This resource can inspire this project to show the

⁵ Jones, Sam, director. *I Am Trying to Break Your Heart: A Film About Wilco*. *WatchDocumentaries.com*, 1 Jan. 2022, <https://watchdocumentaries.com/i-am-trying-to-break-your-heart/>. Accessed 28 Nov. 2022.

process in a realistic way, to show the struggles and moments of stress rather than only showing the best parts.

The band, 'Wilco', and their director, Sam Jones, are successful in what they are trying to portray. They have created a film that shows the highs and lows of the music industry, the film shows the band recording their fifth album and taking a stand when their record label asks them to change the record. The director has captured the band in moments of anger and stress, the film truly captures the reality behind the making of music in the corporate world and shows the greed behind the industry.

In conclusion, this research resource is helpful to the current project under investigation as it can be used as a point of reference in terms of what footage to film and include in the final project. This resource inspires the current project to show the process of making music in its truest form, to show any issues that arise and any moments of stress rather than just showing the best parts of the process.

This following research resource relates to the subject currently under investigation as the documentary follows the music and life of Daniel Johnston, who is described as a manic-depressive musician and artist. This resource titled "The Devil and Daniel Johnston"⁶ may not evidently show his recording process, but it dives deep into his story and shows a tortured artist creating his art through a blend of home movies, his own audiotapes, vintage performances and current footage. This resource relates to the current project as it taps into the more emotional side of creating music and focuses on documenting Johnston's experiences.

Daniel Johnston was an American artist, singer and musician who is regarded as a significant figure in lo-fi and alternative music scenes, most of his music was recorded at home on cassettes. He struggled with mental illness and these struggles were the subject of his documentary, 'The Devil and Daniel Johnston' released in 2005 and directed by Jeff Feuerzeig. Johnston spent a lot

⁶ Feuerzeig, Jeff, director. *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*. *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* / Prime Video, 27 Jan. 2005, <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Devil-Daniel-Johnston/dp/B08NBZT8LL>. Accessed 28 Nov. 2022.

of time in psychiatric institutions and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. His songs throughout his career have to some degree mentioned his ongoing struggles with manic depression. He gathered a following by handing out his cassette tapes while working at a McDonald's in Austin, Texas. Johnston's popularity rose rapidly after lead singer of the band Nirvana, Kurt Cobain, was spotted wearing a T-shirt sporting artwork from Johnston's 1983 cassette album titled 'Hi, How Are You'.

The director, Jeff Feuerzeig, is trying to tell Daniel Johnston's story. Feuerzeig is really trying to show Johnston's art and his struggles. This documentary is quite dark and puts emphasis on Johnston's mental illness. It includes audiotapes and footage of Johnston talking about the devil and includes his manager talking about a time Johnston had gone off his medication. Feuerzig tells Johnston's story successfully by combining a blend of home movies, Johnston's own audiotapes, vintage performances and conversations with people close to Johnston. The way this documentary is put together feels very personal and leaves the audience feeling highly emotional.

This resource is relevant to the current project as it shows an artist's creative process. It also shows a very simplistic approach to recording and distributing music, the artist records most of his music at home on cassettes and passes them out for free. This project could possibly try out this approach to recording music.

In conclusion, this resource is incredibly interesting and deep. This documentary really shows the mind behind the music and art, and it puts emphasis on mental health struggles. This resource, compared to previous resources, feels a lot more personal and deeper. The contents and topics of this resource may be too deep to include in this current project, but this project can adapt to including more footage of the emotional and creative process of writing its songs.

Another resource that relates to the project in question is the book "What is Music Production? Professional techniques to make a good recording great."⁷ by producer Russ Hepworth-Sawyer

⁷ Hepworth-Sawyer, Russ, and Craig Golding. *What Is Music Production?: A Producer's Guide: The Role, the People, the Process*. Focal.

and Craig Golding who is a course leader for the BA (Hons) Music Production degree programme in Leeds College. This is a very helpful resource to the making of the EP in particular as the authors discuss how to work with musicians and how to get the best performance out of them. As this project aims to be very collaborative this will be quite useful information. Hepworth-sawyer and Craig Golding also discuss the importance of pre-production and project management, these stages will be greatly beneficial to the methodology of how this EP will be created.

The following resource titled “Making Music: The 6 Stages of Music Production: Waves”⁸, is resourceful to the project in question as it breaks down the stages of music production. This will be helpful to the production of the EP and aid in its methodology. The author discusses the six stages that are often involved in producing music which are; song writing, arranging, tracking, editing, mixing and mastering. By breaking the process down to these stages, it becomes easier to make a schedule. This resource will be beneficial to this project as it provides somewhat of a guideline to follow when creating the EP and is useful for methodology section of this project.

⁸ Leviatan, Yoni. “Making Music: The 6 Stages of Music Production: Waves.” *Waves.com*, <https://www.waves.com/six-stages-of-music-production>.

Methodology

From the research gathered in the literature review section above and as mentioned in the introduction chapter, the production of this project will consist of stages such as pre-production, tracking, mixing and finally editing of all footage captured of this process. These are the necessary stages to complete the project in question. As there are two parts to this project, part one being an EP and part two being a video documentary, it is important that all stages of this project are completed with enough time to edit the footage that is captured.

Pre-production consists of producing and writing each track. This stage of the project also includes meetings with dependable artists and musicians to feature on it. These meetings are held to make the collaboration process easier and allow for better communication amongst personnel. During these meetings, the artists and musicians are provided with all necessary information regarding this project and are given a thorough explanation of its plan. This is where the collaboration process begins. These meetings give the artists an opportunity to express their thoughts on this project and ensure that they are comfortable with being filmed throughout the process. The participating artists were given the chance to offer suggestions and references of their own music style to incorporate into this project. During this phase, it was important to note the dependability of these artists and musicians to avoid any issues further down the line. As this is a crucial stage of the project, most elements to do with the pre-production stage was filmed.

For the majority of this stage, the camera was mounted on a tripod; the video from this stage will primarily display the artistic and individual process of song writing and music production.

This pre- production stage was greatly beneficial as it allowed the project to see what needed to be recorded and what instruments needed to be tracked. All the tracks on this EP were composed and arranged on FL Studio. As the project is highly collaborative, the tracks were then sent to the musicians, artists and sound engineers for thoughts and feedback. From here, writing sessions took place for each track with the individual artists. Further discussions took place regarding instrumentation and song structures. In these meetings, it was agreed upon that the guitar needed to be recorded for every track, drums to be recorded for two of the tracks and of course vocals were to be recorded for all. This helped predict the amount of studio time needed to record everything and a recording schedule was made working around the availability of the participants. Ensuring that the musicians and artists were well rehearsed, and the sound engineer was aware of the plan allowed more time to experiment and record different approaches. Demos with vocals recorded for each track were also made in this stage providing a guide for the studio sessions that were to take place.

Once the pre-production stage was completed with the songs and guides prepared, the recording sessions began. As a recording schedule was made, setting up the sessions was quick. A videographer was present during the recording sessions in the studio capturing the recording process. This footage shows the technical and collaborative aspect of making music. A few technical issues occurred during the recording sessions, but they managed to be resolved. Having a videographer present was greatly beneficial as a handheld filming style allowed for more flexibility to capture different shots and angles. This also provided the documentary with some high-quality footage shot on a Blackmagic Design Pocket Camera 4k. The recording stage was perhaps the longest, as it was essential to get everything recorded to its best quality and as close to the desired sound as possible for the mixing stage to go smoothly.

The mixing process followed once tracking was completed. As everything in studio was recorded onto ProTools, mixing was also done on ProTools. This process first started with comping, which means editing and compiling the best takes of each recorded instrument and vocal. Once this was done, it was then sent to the musicians and artists for their thoughts and opinions. When this is all agreed upon, the mixing stage can begin. The method in which this process followed was mixing for approximately four hours for the first initial mix. Once the first mix is done, a meeting with the artists was held to discuss the mix and take on any feedback given. After these meetings, a second mix was made considering the artists' opinions. A third mix then took place to finalize the track. This process was carried out for each track on the project. It was important to space out these mixing sessions as listening to the same track over and over may become frustrating, it is always best to come back to it with fresh ears. Once all mixes were finalised, the mastering process began. In terms of the documentary, the mixing and mastering stage did not make the finished video due to time constraints. The finished documentary opted to show more interesting aspects of the recording process.

The last step of this project involved editing all the footage gathered from pre-production, recording sessions and everything in between. Watching the footage back after every session and taking notes of what should be included in the documentary was greatly beneficial in speeding up the editing process. This process included colour grading and audio mixing; this was done on DaVinci Resolve. The finished documentary takes inspiration from the resources above in the literature review section. The completed documentary shows the entire process of making an EP, everything from the pre-production process to the finished EP, including the ups and downs of the in between.

Analysis

Observations of this project can be divided into two major sections for the purpose of analysis. The first section of this chapter examines the work completed in the process of making the EP. This section discusses the collaboration process, the benefits of choosing quality over quantity and the importance of creating a schedule. The second section examines the work carried out and completed to create the video documentary. This section discusses the benefits of collaborating

with a videographer, the use of multiple cameras and the narration that was included in the documentary.

When reflecting upon the music production process, collaboration was one of the key elements. The process of collaborating with numerous musicians and artists was beneficial to this project as it allowed this EP to reach a greater creative potential by bringing individuals with different skills, ideas and perspectives together. This also provided a learning opportunity, allowing the personnel involved to learn new skills and approaches. Some of those involved entered a recording studio for the first time, thus this provided them with the knowledge of the technical steps involved in making music. Another benefit of having this project be so collaborative is the sense of support coming from those involved. Making an EP can take quite an emotional toll on an individual, by making this project collaborative, it was important to choose the right people who would not only be a right fit for the project, but it was also important to build a reliable and supportive team, who would encourage and uplift each other in the process. The video documentary benefited from the collaborative nature of the music production process as well. The documentary sheds light on the collaboration between artists, producers, sound engineers, and musicians.

Even though the collaborative process proved to be successful, some problems did arise. When working together in the creative industries, compromises are often required. In a sense, there is a lack of creative freedom as an individual and involves sometimes sacrificing one's creative vision. During the music production process, issues did arise where an artist decided to step away as they did not like the direction the song was taking. However, by making compromises and finding common ground, this problem was resolved and all involved were happy with the changes made and the outcome of the song. Despite these difficulties, this was beneficial to the video documentary as it highlighted challenges that may arise during the process of making music, maintaining the documentary's focus and keeping the audience engaged.

The music production process resulted in three completed tracks. It is important to note that while the original plan called for four completed tracks, the decision was made to limit the number to three in order to produce top quality recordings as opposed to a large number of tracks. Keeping the EP to just three tracks was beneficial to this project for multiple reasons. The tracks could be produced and recorded over an extended amount of time since "quality over quantity" was chosen, there was more room for flexibility in case of unforeseen events or illnesses occur among the participants. The extended amount of time was helpful for this project as there were a few instances in which those involved could not make it to their designated recording day, due to limiting the project to three tracks there was room to accommodate for these issues. By creating more time to produce and record the tracks, it assisted in decreasing the tension and gave the project a sense of less urgency. Focusing on delivering high-quality tracks, resulted in a more rewarding and satisfying experience keeping the participants engaged and preventing burnout.

In order to successfully complete this project a well-planned schedule was necessary. Creating a clear schedule improved communication among participants, increased productivity and improved organisation. As this project is highly collaborative, scheduling was key. Although it was difficult to sort out a schedule to suit multiple people's availability it proved beneficial in the long run. A schedule was made for each stage of the music production process, as mentioned above in the methodology section. By doing this it created a clear guideline of what needed to be completed to ensure the next stage went smoothly.

Similar to how collaboration and planning was beneficial to the music production process it also proved to be greatly helpful during the process of creating the documentary. Perhaps one of the most helpful elements in terms of creating the video documentary was getting a videographer involved to film recording sessions in the studio. By bringing in a videographer, it provided the documentary with high-quality footage using their equipment and allowed the recording sessions to be fully captured. Prior to bringing in a videographer the original plan was to film the recording sessions similar to the pre-production scenes, by setting a camera up on a tripod. This

method would've still worked but it would not have had the same effect. By having the camera handheld, the documentary shows versatility in its shots, from wide shots showing everyone in the room capturing the collaboration process to close up shots giving an intimate feel. This also allowed for flexibility, capturing the room from different angles and getting b-roll footage. Collaborating with a videographer proved to be successful as all key moments were captured and more, leaving plenty to work with in the editing process.

When in the process of editing the documentary, demonstrating and underlining the difficulties encountered while producing the EP was key to delivering an accurate representation of the music production process. The problems and difficulties of producing an EP are a significant component of reality, as documentaries are intended to be accurate portrayals of real-world situations by including these problems and difficulties gives the music production process a more realistic perspective. Highlighting the challenges and difficulties that arose during the music production process was beneficial as it keeps the audience engaged. The difficulties let viewers understand how much time and effort goes into creating an EP, allowing them to appreciate the hard work and dedication. Viewers can also learn from the challenges faced by those involved, by observing how the participants overcame technical and creative issues and differences. By portraying the ups and downs of the process, the documentary may generate a sense of drama and tension that may drive viewers to become emotionally invested in the story. The documentary may show difficulties that arise, but it also showcases the enjoyment of creating an EP and collaborating with others. The finished documentary includes both the challenging and humorous moments, allowing viewers to laugh and get to know the participants.

In the finished documentary, it is quite clear that the camera quality fluctuates throughout. This is due to the fact that it was difficult to have a videographer present in all aspects, especially during the pre-production stage. This will be elaborated more in the discussion chapter that follows. As a result of this, the project intended to have all pre-production material shot on a

single camera and all studio footage shot on the videographer's camera. However, due to scheduling issues the videographer could not make it to two studio recording sessions, resulting in some of the studio session footage being mismatched. This raises the topic of the importance of having backup personnel, while a friend was available to film those two studio sessions, maintaining the handheld filming style, there was still a lack of access to equipment. This resulted in the footage to being of lower-quality visually and blending in with the pre-production scenes that were also shot on a lower-quality camera. Having footage filmed on multiple cameras caused issues in the colour grading process, due to this the decision was made to leave the lower quality footage as it was. However, the colour grading process was successful in terms of the raw footage captured on the videographer's camera. Although the camera quality fluctuates throughout the documentary and may not be the best visually, it does add an element of realism and enhances its authenticity.

When it comes to the documentary, perhaps one of the aspects that worked really well was including a narration. It was beneficial to include a narration as it gave context to the footage and provided additional information about the process of making an EP. This is quite useful for viewers who don't have much knowledge about music production. The documentary's narration also aids in telling a story, the narrator discusses the emotional aspect of the process and guides the audience on the journey to completely the EP.

Discussion

The following section will discuss the learning gained from undertaking this project as well as highlighting any interesting points that have arisen from the project.

When creating this EP and documentary, the emotional component of this project is possibly the most significant lesson learned. It can be seen in the documentary in the range of emotions the participants feel. Through the documentary's narration it becomes easier to follow this emotional journey. It is visible in the beginning of the documentary that feelings of anxiousness and pressure are present upon certain individuals, however as the documentary progresses it begins to

feel more cheerful and light-hearted. The documentary shows moments of frustration and moments of self-doubt but despite these emotions the participants persevere. The narration adds an element of vulnerability as the speaker describes how they are feeling throughout the process. It was found that having everything filmed for the documentary added more pressure to certain individuals, the pressure to perform well as everything is being captured on camera. However, as the documentary develops it can be seen that the participants become more comfortable in front of the camera and their personalities begin to shine through. The emotional aspect became very important to the documentary as it created a storyline and a narrative, originally this project aimed to show the creative and technical elements of creating an EP, but it now evolved into something more. The finished documentary illustrates a journey of artistic development, self-discovery, and teamwork rather than simply demonstrating how an EP is made.

Perhaps another important lesson learned from this project is that it may have been beneficial to establish an overall concept, theme or genre before starting to create the EP. This would have helped greatly in ensuring the EP is cohesive. The decision to begin without a predetermined theme or genre was chosen to provide greater artistic freedom, due to the project's level of collaboration, it was believed to be beneficial in that it would allow all involved to have a say and be satisfied with the final tracks. However, there were a few issues to this decision, one being creative burnout. The lack of established guidelines led to perhaps too much creative freedom to the point of becoming overwhelmed with the endless number of possibilities and directions. Secondly, with no predetermined theme there was a high possibility that the EP would not appear cohesive. Although the project had no established theme it coincidentally ended up with one. Every song on the EP mentions "night," and as the majority of the songs were composed at night, the EP's name "Nights Like These" was inspired by this. While the EP eventually discovered its theme, it would have been preferable to begin with one which was already well-established due to the fact that it would have prevented creative burnout, as there were endless directions to take.

In terms of filming certain aspects for the video documentary, an important lesson learned from this project is that it was challenging to record some parts of the preproduction phase. Most pre-production footage included in the completed documentary are filmed on a lower quality camera, as mentioned in the analysis chapter above, due to lack of access. The majority of the pre-production phase involves the composition and arrangement of the songs. This process involves a lot of trial and error and is often quite long especially when experiencing creative blocks. Due to this the completed documentary doesn't show much of the pre-production process apart from a few screen recordings and writing sessions. Just like the pre-production phase, filming the mixing and mastering stage also proved to be quite long. Originally, the project aimed to show the process from the very beginning to very end. However, due to time constraints towards the project's deadline, the documentary was edited at the same time as the mixing and mastering stage, so the mixing and mastering phase was not shown in the finished documentary.

A major take away from this project is the video production knowledge that was gained during the process. Creating the video documentary involved having to watch back all footage, choose what was important to include and edit it all together. As a majority of the footage was filmed on the Blackmagic camera, the footage was raw and needed to be colour graded. A significant amount of knowledge was gained during the process of colour grading. Despite the lack of colour grading knowledge prior to this project, the process still proved to be successful as the footage from the studio sessions appear to be visually pleasing.

Overall, this project proved to be quite a learning experience. Although there were certain things that weren't achieved such as including the mixing and mastering stage in the documentary and failing to plan and establish a concept or theme. The project still worked out successfully, answering the frequently asked question of "how is an EP or album made?". The project now displays a journey to finding the EP's concept and shows more of process of recording music in the studio.

Conclusion

In conclusion the project was a successful and interesting experience. A wide variety of skills were practiced in the process and most of the work that was planned has been accomplished. While there were certain aspects such as the mixing and mastering stage that wasn't shown in the completed documentary, it still shows the majority of the process demonstrating the pre-production and recording phases. The documentaries and sources referenced in the literature review proved very helpful in the editing style of the finished documentary and the stages mentioned in the methodology section played a huge role in ensuring both the EP and the documentary was completed.

The narration and emotional journey depicted in the completed documentary created depth to the finished project making it more than just a demonstration of how to make an EP. The project became more than just completing a set of songs, but it became more of a journey working through the emotional turmoil of creating music. It shows the participants coming together to create something that just started with a melody in one's head. It also shows the fun part of creating music and working together. The project started with its main focus on showing the creative and technical aspects, but along the way it captured both the sad and humorous parts which prevented the documentary from being somewhat dull. It truly depicts a journey of artistic growth, self-discovery and collaboration.

If there was more time to complete the project, more time would have been spent on the mixing and mastering stages. Due to time constraints and the amount of footage captured during pre-production and recording sessions, it was not possible to spend a great deal of time on mixing and mastering as editing and colour grading the documentary was quite time consuming. As for the future of this project, adding more tracks to the EP is a possibility. All participants involved in this project have enjoyed the process and are open to collaborating again in the future. The video documentary now stands as a fond memory to look back on.

Overall, this project has been a great experience. A lot was learned about the collaboration process and the importance of organisation and communication when working with others. A lot of knowledge was gained in video production by editing and colour grading the documentary.

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