

4th Year Arts Award Outcome Report

Gabrielle Richardson

Faculty Mentor: Kim Brooks Mata (Dance)

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Project Title: Explorations with Dance Film and Nature

The first phase of this project began over the summer during the week-long intensive designed by OrangeGrove Dance (a dance, design and film company). During the week I spent at Sweet Briar, not only did I become immersed in a very new and challenging modern/postmodern technique and repertoire engagement from the company, I got to learn, move, and develop my improvisational and contact improvisation skills with talented dancing practitioners from across the country (many who were a few years post-grad) and professional dancers from the OrangeGrove company. I was able to explore the process of making site specific work and engaging in site specific improvisation. I will admit that some aspects of this week were difficult; many folks knew each other, had danced together before, knew the company and their work better, and were able to form more organic partnerships to jump right into collaborative film projects and compositions or scores for the sharing nightcaps. I did still find value in being able to see and hear about the process, inspirations and impetuses of the work that emerged for folks in such a short time together while I worked exploring and being inspired by place and specifically the nature that surrounded and was integrated into the campus. I found time to work solo and test some of the framing I could do on a tripod on my own with just a cell phone camera (this intensive did have a focus on being able to do DIY film with a phone, while still opening up workshops to use larger cameras and more sophisticated equipment and accessories such as gimbals). Though I did not have any polished work to come out of this experience, I did find that the feedback I was able to receive on previous work and what I was able to learn about light and design (even for indoor settings) was super helpful in shaping how I started to approach filming during the semester.

The execution of this specific film project has been operated on a modified timeline. In the original version of this proposal, there was an outlined start date for casting, filming and editing to start in the fall semester of this academic year. However with the academic load I had on my plate and the need for a structured independent study to accompany my mentorship for the project, an agreement to gear the production to be framed for the Spring concert was reached. I had taken the fall to consider the logistical parameters of my film and points of inspiration (mostly by spending time in nature) and through other modes of art (mostly music). This most certainly was for the better given the unforeseen and quite unsettling circumstances that swirled around in the fall. With these initial difficulties I had finding dancers to set movement on to film, and for the shift in the timeline, the initial idea to play with a mapping of the seasons throughout the work has been abandoned. I had also been able to shift the cast from one to two dancers to a trio. At the current state, rehearsals for this film to be shown at the concert have concluded and after one main filming session and an upcoming pick-up session the work that engages directly with my dancers will conclude soon. In this accelerated timeline there will be a rough cut finished for review at the end of the month and a final cut produced by the first week of April to be premiered at the Spring Dance Concert April 20th, 21st and 22nd. In preparation for the Outcome Presentation the day following the close of the show, I am also in the process of building a website to house and showcase this work in an accessible manner.

Actualized Timeline

July 3rd-July 10th: OrangeGrove Intensive at Sweet Briar College

- The first couple of days were spent more so on getting acclimated with the technique and repertoire from the company that we were being taught to perform at the end of the week. Gradually shifted into doing more site specific improvisational work, mini-flash film creation and editing prompts, as well as more contact improvisation. In the last few days there were more specific workshops on editing, filming techniques and technologies, as well as on lighting and projection technologies that are in use for some of the production that this company does.

Fall Semester:

- On my own time developing ideas for sound, place and aesthetics for the film.

Spring Semester: Preparation for filming and the concert

- January 23rd, participated in Spring Concert Auditions as a choreographer
- January 25th casting was announced, preparations for rehearsals began
- First rehearsal started February 5th, and repeated each Sunday until February 26th
- February 26th was the first main film shoot, spanning the 3 hour block of the rehearsals
- In the weeks following, footage from the first shoot has been scrubbed, though after evaluation a pick-up shoot has been arranged for Sunday, March 19th
- The projected date of a rough cut completion is [the week of] March 20th and final cut is April 5th, 2023.

Budget

Item	Description	Anticipated Cost	Final totals
Orangetrove Dance Intensive	One week dance and film intensive at Sweet Briar, early July	\$1,300 prior to 5/22, \$1,350 afterwards	1,350 for registration/tuition
Travel + miscellaneous	Travel (gas or train) and additional living expenses for the intensive (July 3rd-10th)	\$250	\$277.45
Shooting expenses	Travel to/from film site (gas), food for dancer(s), costumes + miscellaneous	\$150	\$114.22*
Recommended Camera	Canon Vixia HF G50 UHD 4K camcorder	\$1,250	\$1,197.57
Backup Camera Battery	Additional camera battery, particularly important for longer film sessions since I will be outdoors	\$100, average price	\$60

Camera Bag	To ensure the safe transport and storage of the film camera, a camera bag such as this model would be beneficial for working outdoors as well.	\$45	\$45
Memory Cards	2, 128 GB or larger storage memory cards will be needed to shoot the films in 4K	\$60	\$172 (SD card reader & additional hard drive also purchased)
		Total: \$3,155	(actual) total: 3,159.24**

*there is additional filming to be done at this time, thus not a final total

** The \$159.24 came from my own savings to be used towards this project