

Final Review

I was pleased with my final review. The panel broadly expressed support and enthusiasm for my project moving forward, and commended my effort and organization. I would like to touch on some of the points of our conversation.

Regarding my production book and its elements, the panel agreed that my work was thorough and well organized. The samples that I provided seemed well received, and my production schedule was considered appropriate.

My proof of concept material was garnered praise for effort, quality, and development since midterm. My animatic this time provided a much clearer picture of the entire story. One panelist commented that I could perhaps lengthen the short, and noted that it moved at an entertaining pace. My screen test and train test were successful in convincing the panel of my understanding of technical challenges and their solutions. My style frames successfully communicated my attention to color, as noted by one of the group. If there was anything they wished was included, it was a style frame illustrating a further exploration of the “magical effect”, although they seemed satisfied with the style frames I did provide.

While the panel didn’t offer much criticism, they did make plenty of recommendations. One panelist suggested an opening shot indicating Christmas. Perhaps I can work that in with the opening title. Another suggestion was to consider matte control and color when choosing props, which I thought was an idea to be explored. They all agreed that the sooner I could begin production, the better. They recommended some further light testing to ensure proper shadowing for the color grade.

Overall, I am heartened at the reception my project received. Sometimes one loses the objective eye when approaching a project so closely. It is nice to hear compliments. I realize, however, that I’m only a third of the way towards my goal, and much hard work lies ahead. I intend to begin planning my production immediately. I’m cognizant of the need for an emotional connection for this story to work. I have to look for ways to bring an audience along in a personal way. As I invest more time and effort, I grow increasingly fearful that I’ll somehow miss the mark...but I guess that’s the name of the game.

Included here is a brief transcription of the notes I received from the panel, and attached are scans of the original evaluation forms and “buddy notes”.

Nisi Jacobs

- no individual notes, but she privately commented that she really thought I was doing a good job, and encouraged me to continue to invest myself in this project, which I really appreciated.
- (very evident you put your heart into it) (from buddy notes)
- (good attention to color and lighting) (from buddy notes)
- (liked the use of sound, sound effects) (buddy notes)w
- (maybe a little rushed at end, ok to open it up) (buddy notes)

Patricia Heard-Greene

- Do the shoot ASAP. Set up your rough shoot + create an animatic with this pre-shoot. The only way you will know how to put this together is to do it! Shoot day is not the time to figure it out.
- Style frame + reference of magicalness. Think exaggeration in motion, lighting, form + how these things interact shadows + glows on the envoi
- Think about matte control in your props + dressing
- Shoot as much practical as possible (light effects, shadows, movement of skates)
- Free up – don't let the technical process take over! In the end the audience is left with how it make them feel
- Look into stock for the effects elements

Mike Cushny

- Good story/excellent planning
- Stylistically – all of your reference images from Lionel and Norman Rockwell have a soft/painterly feel. Try to incorporate that aesthetic in your color grade and finishing polish
- music works really well
- try adding the xmas present shot at the beginning to create a bookend setup for the first and last shot
- the clouds in the Lionel reference are very effective. See if you can incorporate clouds or smoke in the dream sequence.

Grading Criteria

The evaluation of your thesis project may be based on but is not limited to the following criteria:

Thesis Previsualization – Final Evaluation Criteria Form, Spring 2009Student **MATT STALKER**Thesis Panelist (print) Nisi Jacobs

1. **Completeness** – Did the student deliver all components required by the department in order to fulfill the academic standards for a thesis project? Did the student deliver all components he/she intended to be part of the project?

☒ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

2. **Thesis Statement and Execution** – Does the project have a clear and concise concept? Does the execution match the intention as described in the thesis statement?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

3. **Research** – Did the student explore various avenues and apply the most appropriate solution to the project?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

4. **Originality and Effort** – Does the project demonstrate a high level of enthusiasm, ambition, experimentation and challenge?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

5. **Technical Quality** – Did the student choose the appropriate tools and techniques and have they been used with evident skill?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

6. **Artistic Quality** – Did the student develop an artistic concept and an individual design solution appropriate for the idea of the project?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

7. **Production Value** – Did the student 'polish' and refine the project ready for a professional presentation?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

8. **Presentation Skills** – Did the student clearly verbalize and visualize the intent, the process and the success of the project in form of a printed documentation combined with the oral defense?

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ agree ☒ strongly agree

Final grade recommendation by the Panelist

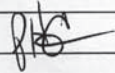
☒ Pass with Honors ☐ Pass ☐ Incomplete Pass ☐ Fail

date 4-30-09 signature Nisi Jacobs

Attach an additional page with additional and comments to this paper.
Reference your comments with the number index of the grading criteria on this form.

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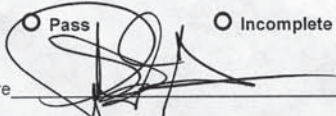
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SPRING 2009 THESIS PREVISUALIZATION

Student Name: Matt Stalker
 Panelist Name: PKG
 Date: 4/30/09

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- Style frame & references of Magiciness
 Think Exaggeration in motion, lighting, form & how these things interact shadows & glows on the enviro
- Think about matte control in your props & dressing
- Shoot as much practice as possible (light effects, shadows, movement on skates.....)
- Free Up - Don't let the technical process take over! In the end the audience is left with how it made them feel
- Look into stock for effects elements

Grading Criteria

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Thesis Previsualization – Final Evaluation Criteria Form, Spring 2009

Student MATT STALKER

Thesis Panelist (print) CUSHNY

1. Completeness – Did the student deliver all components required by the department in order to fulfill the academic standards for a thesis project? Did the student deliver all components he/she intended to be part of the project?

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date 4/30/09 signature [Signature]

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SPRING 2009 THESIS PREVISUALIZATION

Student Name: Matt SPanelist Name: CUSHNYDate: 4/30/09

Great story / Excellent planning

- stylistically - all of your reference images from Liewel and Norman Rockwell have a soft / painterly feel. try to incorporate that aesthetic in your color grade and finishing Polish

- music works really well

- try adding the xmas present shot at the beginning to create a backward setup for the first and last shot.

- the clouds in the Liewel reference art are very effective. See if you can incorporate clouds or smoke in the dream sequence.

~~Mike~~ - Matt - Sugar Plums

Mike - you have shown this to me -

Your minor touches are impressive

You have addressed these problems

you have a convenience w/ the studio here

Know your measurements of the
bed. Market off. Know your
dimensions

Biggest concern that the scale
of the train matches the ~~just~~ boy
The # of sections in the track -
need to be comparable

you can fix the blur in -
Post. Matching the ~~scale~~ works
well.

You can get optimal line-
up - Capture & try it. Do
some research on the software. ~~A~~

You have done GREAT work
shows forward thinking you have a
good lay of the land.

Patricia

You are really well prepared
Start now! You have the ability
to use it. The hardest part is shooting
Shoot at the time of day
nervous about skates & bike -
feels like it will be so still

shoot it so you can try different things. She would treat the next month as production.

Shoot the train & bed -
Just to Get elements -

Reference frames for what your frames should like
Get some good reference.

A lot of magical stuff is never straight lined. It will find its way into production.

On walls shoot still plates for grain - shoot for texture.
Be careful not to get too stuffy. You can do anything - You are a compositor. You should think about your pillow sheets & blankets - Think about your lines - You can color correct w/ the right sheets. Try to think about your elements in props for compositing.

Very evident you put your heart into it. You spent a lot of attention to color & lighting.

The only thing she worried about was the development was too clipped space out your piece. Felt a well rushed.

Let it open & condense it if
you need.

Really liked the sound
the sound effects are
nice. Go out & record
some of their own.

Liked the way you used sound
to meld out the dream.

You have the sound of the
conductor coming late the
train sound earlier.

Its subterranean sound work
its all these layers.

