Post-Production

For my AS Media pre-production coursework, I decided to create a storyboard for a sequence of Thriller film. In this sequence I planned to introduce two main characters, the Protagonist and the Antagonist and a range of micro-features and genre conventions to create suspense and bring threat to my film.

Audience Research

Before starting the filming of my thriller sequence I had to make sure that my audience would respond well to what they see, in order to do this I showed a group a few pictures from my storyboard and asked them to comment on what they thought the image showed and what they think was happening in the sequence.

In the first image that I showed a group of people one of the main character at the end of my sequence, many of them said what I had wanted from the image, they had said that the image made the character look dark mysterious and that she looked almost like a silhouette, from this response I was confident that my storyboard portrayed what I needed it to for it to be a thriller sequence.

However I did show my audience more than one image, although 2 out of the 3 that I had shown got the result I expected to hear one of them didn't, in one of the shots the second character that is introduced in the sequence is looking down at something on the ground, this was meant to create confusion and curiosity within the scene, however the audience response to this image was that they thought the character was just standing in the middle of the woods looking for something or maybe that he was lost. Although this response was not what I had intended it was a part of my sequence that I was able to improve when actually shooting my film.

From this research that I had conducted it showed me what my audience expected of a thriller, most of them had picked up on the dark lighting shown in my story board and that the character seemed mysterious, from this it allowed me to shoot my film in a certain way to contrast the light and dark that were in the scenes, this helped me to introduce the characters in the way that I wanted them to seem.

Research in comparable media products

In order to complete my storyboard I first had to research what codes and conventions of a thriller as well as how audiences would respond to them, for this research I studied thriller films to see what they did to create the feeling of suspense as well as how they used different micro-features in order to do this.

The first text that I studied was *Silence of the lambs. In the opening sequence of the film one character is introduced, Agent Starling, as the victim. This role is established through the use of sound and mise-en-scene, the audience are led to believe that the character is being chased through the woods, this is achieved by her heavy breathing and the dark bleached out setting that she is put in however; the audience then learns that she is in fact on a training course. This use of micro-features is a very useful tool to set up the audience to believe something that isn't there.*

Another similar media text that I used to inform my pre-production was *Donnie Darko*, for this I also looked at the opening sequence and how one character was set up. In contrast to *Silence of the lambs* the character, Donnie, is in a setting that is bright and colourful as it is shown at dawn, however through the use of mise-en-scene the audience feels that something is wrong and a mystery is created around the character as well as this the setting around the character makes him seem small. As well as the use of mise-en-scene in the opening sequence the use of sound also creates a certain atmosphere, this relates to my storyboard and my film production as the use of birds help create an idealistic place that is calm and happy.

My audience research has helped to indicated the importance of micro-features within my thriller sequence and what I need to help create certain aspects of my sequence, the texts such as *Silence of the lambs and Donnie Darko* proved to have some useful ideas to use in my own film sequence to create my characters. In my storyboard I used a character that was at first made to look like a typical thriller victim like in *Silence of the lambs*, as well as this it also helped me to create a fake persona about this character. I used very calm music to create an idealistic happy place like seen in *Donnie Darko*, this made the character seem unnerving to the audience as it was pared with unnatural extreme close ups of the characters face. The music I picked contrasted well with the music that is heard in the rest of the film when the character changes.

Evaluation of product

My group combined ideas from each pre-production to develop the final film –a sequence from a thriller film that showed equilibrium the disruption.

I was very pleased in how I set up my scenes in my film sequence and introduced each character; with my research of comparable media products I was shown how important sound had been in creating my characters personas, the use a calm happy song at the begging of the sequence helped to show the purity and innocence of the character contrasted with the harsh loud sounds of the second character that is introduced, this is something that I had taken from another film *Blue Velvet* that also used a similar sequence to set up the film.

For my sequence I would have liked to increase the length and develop the story further, throughout my sequence would have liked to really create the feeling that the second character was being chased like in the opening sequence to *Silence of the lambs*, I think this would of helped to create a real sense of thrill and intense at the beginning of the film contrasting the scene with the first character.

I am particularly pleased with the way I added and edited the sound into my film sequence, *towards the end of my film I really felt that I was able to create tension as the two characters eventually met. To create this I over layered different sound effects to make a loud unnerving sound, I also made the sounds come quicker with the shots. As well as this I thought that the way I lined the footage and sound was particularly effective. However, If I were to remake this film, I would spend more time in the filming process and take more care in creating variable shots that I could freely edit from as well as this I would try to get stable shots if it involves an running scene, I would also like to develop the story a bit to make it clearer to the audience what is going on; I would also like to re shoot some of*

the scene in different ways and at least 3 times to get exactly
what I wanted from the scenes- currently there is a scene that jumps, showing the mistake in the filming and editing.
Overall, I think my media product is very effective, I think that I fulfilled the codes and conventions needed to create a thriller and also the first two steps of narrative, equilibrium and the disruption, I feel that I have used my audience and comparable film research to put into effect techniques that were similar to those of the films I have watched and what my audience told me. It is also effective as it meets many expectations of a target audience that is both male and female due to the main character subverting the thriller female character.