
Senior Projects Fall 2017

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

Fall 2017

Low Fidelity

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Drew Robinson
December 2017
Senior Project

Low Fidelity: Synopsis:

Low Fidelity is a short film Senior Project submitted to The Division of Arts of Bard C, traveling through the dreams and subconscious of a young Black male named Pascal. Pascal is processing grief, pain and loss, through a series of abstracted sequences and 'events' yet, at the same time never directly dealing with it. In a certain sense he can't deal with things properly because the segments of the subconscious (scenes/ vignettes) are so brief, visually noisy, and generally disruptive that he can't process just what is confronting him. He dreams, desires, and who he wants to be, seem to stand in opposition of him 'phoning home'. The piece plays off of how individuals suppress memory, pain, disassociate, and in turn deal with grief; or don't deal with, losing themselves to the current.

The title, Low Fidelity, is inspired by a conversation I had with my aunt, about the function of energy through vibrations. Over this past year my mother passed, after a long fight with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a disease that doesn't just get the victim sick, but the whole family; everyone close is afflicted. This lead to me thinking about how to process my own issues with memory, pain, grief, energy, and how they get solved, or don't. Depression and fear while, emotions that vibrate at such a low frequency, can serve as a comfort

blanket, something safe, familiar, and consistent. My fear to live, and let go is what inspired me to start writing a screenplay I called 'Pascal', as a means to productively process my feels and thoughts I've been bottling. The screenplay's close to my heart but, required far more time than I had.

Low Fidelity in a certain sense is a collection of ideas, most not entirely flushed out, based of of elements from my screenplay and recent dreams I've had. In a certain sense the piece is a failed experiment, there are holes in its composition and in my eyes it just feels a little sloppy. Yet, in other ways it's a success, I did a lot with little help, a very small crew, limited time, and resources. I still managed to make something that at least is somewhat of me (though a little oversimplified), and puts a spotlight in a particularly tricky area that I typically don't speak on. Throughout my whole time at Bard, my biggest fear was being across the country and getting a phone call from my father telling me my Mother passed. In the end the project is far from perfect, but I learned a lot about myself, my family, sharing something very personal with people, and making a film with emotion behind it, even if I haven't gotten through my own issues myself.