**C229 Single Camera Production – Week 13**

**Agenda/Announcements:**

* Elfenworks Foundation has partnered with Campus Movie Fest (CMF) and has a new film competition. See: <https://community.ideasunited.com/elfenworks-2024#about>
* There is no lecture or readings the week after Thanksgiving (Week 14) so you can focus and work on your Final Projects. We will have a final lecture and Final Exam review session during the Week 15 lecture.

**Readings/Watchlist:**

* [6 Types of Documentary Films](https://www.premiumbeat.com/blog/6-types-of-documentary-film/) (According to Bill Nichols by Premium Beat)
* **From last week:**
  + [What is Film Coverage: Step by Step Guide](https://filmlifestyle.com/what-is-film-coverage/)
  + [How to Shoot a Scene Using Basic Coverage](https://youtu.be/oNePOOLv-ew) (Excellent examples of coverage and blocking)
  + [Joel & Ethan Coen – Shot | Reverse Shot](https://youtu.be/5UE3jz_O_EM)
  + [Film Coverage – A Step by Step Guide](https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/film-coverage/) (Studio Binder – Look at the [storyboards](https://app.studiobinder.com/company/580e85847e7982164664e844/collab/5ec99e4f7923417a72535bb9/projects/5e5ef47edbbaae3ec5dc890d/shots/?filter=%257B%2522l%2522%253A%2522627d1ab1a9532cb3c5a8a6a0%2522%257D&utm_source=blog&utm_medium=sb-app-link&utm_campaign=storyboard&utm_content=austin-powers-storyboards&utm_term=film-coverage-shot-list))

**Documentary Film Production**

According to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_film), “A **documentary film** or **documentary** is a non-fictional motion-picture intended to "document reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction, education or maintaining a historical record.”

Don’t do it for the money! Most documentary productions are labors of love. Some take hundreds of hours (years) to produce and more. Unlike narrative filmmaking, which is made up mainly of original (newly shot) content, documentaries often require incorporation of existing intellectual property content (films, photos, newsreels, sounds, documents, etc.) which requires a lot of time, research, effort, and usually also obtaining license releases. Like independent filmmaking, documentary production can be subsidized with commercial work.

Author, scholar, film critic and theoretician, [Bill Nichols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Nichols_(film_critic)) has postulated that there are 6 basic types of documentaries.

**6 Types of Documentaries:**

* Poetic (loose structure, more about feelings)
* Expository (Essay structure, March of the Penguins, Ken Burns, etc.)
* Observational (Minimal commentary, cinema verité, relies mainly on footage of events)
* Participatory (Include the filmmaker within the documentary, affecting outcome and story. Roger and Me, Free Solo, etc.)
* Reflexive (The focus is mainly on the filmmaker and making the film. [Man with a Movie Camera](https://youtu.be/cGYZ5847FiI?si=tT9oZLQXx3e8PYFw), etc.)
* Performative (Hybrid of styles, often a personal perspective is intermingled with fact and opinion. Fahrenheit 911, Supersize Me, Bowling for Columbine)

**Non-fiction / Documentary Production – What I do**

I’ve produced a half-dozen or so TV shows and documentaries for WTIU as work for hire. Several have made it to APT and PBS. I also produce a variety of projects for corporate, educational, arts, and not-for-profit institutions. I’ve found that it’s good practice to help underfunded, not-for-profit organizations- which sometimes leads to higher paying projects. (LIFEDesigns example)

**Process -** Preproduction for non-fiction has a lot in common with that of narrative productions. Start with a program proposal, which is a one-page document (Executive Summary) outlining the basic parameters: title, objective, audience, length, budget, description, timeline, etc.

Since I’m not an expert, I meet with stakeholders and those that are knowledgeable to find out what should be covered in a program. (Regional docs, like Spirit of Brown County often start with an open meeting.) Once I gather info, I create a script or program outline, called a treatment.

A [treatment](https://jk.media.indiana.edu/articles/script_overview.shtml) is a summary of the program- a script or program outline. There are many different styles of treatments. I prefer those that are scene-based. In these, the scene is the basic building block of the story.For documentaries, I often turn the treatment into a scriptment (that’s NOT a real word). This is a treatment mixed with narration- a scriptment. Here are some treatments of documentaries I’ve produced:

* [Elkinsville: Washed Away by Progress](https://jk.media.indiana.edu/samples/elkinsville_outline.pdf)
  + [Elkinsville: Washed Away by Progress - SCRIPT](https://jk.media.indiana.edu/resources/elkinsville_script.pdf)
* [Friday Zone: Season of the Cicada](https://jk.media.indiana.edu/samples/fr_zone_script.pdf) (half hour kid’s show on WTIU)
* [Indiana Motoring](http://www.ttop.com/docs/ConcoursFrenchLick_treatment.pdf) (sort of a scriptment, as it contains narration)
* [History of Rail in Indiana](http://www.ttop.com/docs/History_of_Rail.pdf) (never produced, but had to research)
* [Spirit of Brown County](http://www.ttop.com/docs/BrownCounty_treatment.pdf)
* [The Indiana Theatre at 100](https://jkmedia.sitehost.iu.edu/samples/BCT100_treatment_v16.pdf)

[Link to **Spirit of Brown County** on PBS](https://www.pbs.org/video/wtiu-documentaries-spirit-brown-county/)

[Link to **The Indiana Theatre at 100** on PBS](https://www.pbs.org/video/the-indiana-theatre-at-100-bkv8mx/)

**Life in a Day** ([YouTube link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaFVr_cJJIY))

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_in_a_Day_(2011_film)#:~:text=Life%20in%20a%20Day%20is,single%20day%2C%2024%20July%202010>.

**Skills** – Be able to do and use the following:

* Synchronize audio and video within Premiere
* Adjust clip volume
* Modify clips (# of audio channels, stereo, mono, etc.)
* Run audio

**Attendance questions: (2 responses)**

1. What kind of documentary type is a typical Ken Burns series (or what I produce)?
2. What kind of documentary type is Free Solo?

**Vocabulary:**

* Documentary (definition)

Documentary types:

* Poetic (loose structure, more about feelings)
* Expository (Essay structure, March of the Penguins, Ken Burns, etc.)
* Observational (Minimal commentary, cinema verité, relies mainly on footage of events)
* Participatory (Include the filmmaker within the documentary, affecting outcome and story. Roger and Me, Free Solo, etc.)
* Reflexive (About the filmmaker)
* Performative (Hybrid of styles, often a personal perspective is intermingled with fact and opinion. Fahrenheit 911, Supersize Me, Bowling for Columbine)
* Treatment (a short summary of the story, often using scenes as the basic building