

For my Zenith Project, Josh and I decided to create a documentary on the show that he is directing at Upstage Theater called “Little Shop of Horrors.” We came up with this idea, since we wanted to document the process of bringing a show to life, and to make a fun tribute video to commemorate one of the last shows that we will do in high school.

One of the first things we did to prepare for this project is do research on the different types of documentaries to figure out how and what we wanted to film. Josh and I came to the conclusion that our documentary is a mix of participatory, where there is interaction between the filmmakers and their subject, as well as observational, where we observe the subject to discover the “ultimate truth.” While we were not inspired by a specific filmmaker, we used Josh’s previous experience with making documentaries to help guide us with this project.

This project required plenty of collaboration, as Josh and I had to work with the cast, crew, and the production team to film the b-roll and interviews. We both scheduled filming based on the availability of the cast, and it was challenging as there were several conflicts and schedule changes. Overall, I believe the collaboration aspect was successful, as we were able to capture wonderful b-roll of the cast bonding and rehearsing.

Some 21st century skills that I improved upon the most are self-direction and technological literacy. Josh and I planned the whole filming process thoroughly, and we were able to adapt to schedule changes and conflicts, or unexpected rehearsal changes. I also grew more confident in using the camera on my own, but it was definitely challenging to try and film outdoors during long rehearsals when the lighting changed constantly.

I am incredibly happy with the outcome with this project, as I had several learning experiences such as being adaptable, multitasking and balancing projects, and collaborating with a team. In future projects, I know that I can utilize these skills that I have strengthened to have

the best possible outcome for my work. I also believe that we were able to accomplish some of the project objectives, such as working with our passion, and elevating our skills further. If Josh and I could do the project over, we definitely would have started editing earlier, and created time to focus more on the costume and set aspects of the creative team. It would have given a more well-rounded message to the audience, and exposed them to the different roles of the creative team more in-depth.

Overall, I enjoyed the Zenith project, and I'm grateful that I was able to work with something that I am passionate about. If the audience can take away one meaningful thought about our project, I hope they remember all the hard work that goes into putting together a production, especially when it is all student-run. I hope everyone gets a chance to watch *Little Shop of Horrors!*