

Community Statement

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UAT

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I found my passion for video editing when I was 15 during a midterm project for my world cultures class in freshmen year of high school. At that time, I had no idea at the time that something so small would spark my love for editing that would stick with me for years. Since then, I've explored different editing styles, pushing myself to try new things, and the more I learned, the more I fell in love with film and video editing. There's something amazing about sitting down and creating something fun and exciting to watch. Those moments where I stop and think, "Woah, I made that!" feel life-changing, even if just for a few minutes. Looking back at where I started and seeing how much I've improved blows me away.

From my sophomore to senior year of high school, I took video production classes, which only fueled my passion more. My teacher, Mrs. Cipro, was one of my biggest inspirations, and thanks to her encouragement, I'm here today doing what I love. I truly look up to her and have so much respect for her. As for what I expect to get out of my career? Honestly, it's a pretty wide range because I just love film editing. But one of my biggest goals is to create my own short film based on my music video Quest of the Manga Carta and to have a solid freelance career.

Throughout high school, Mrs. Cipro was my biggest influence, teaching me the basics of film and Premiere Pro while encouraging me to keep pushing forward. When it comes to filmmakers, Christopher Nolan stood out to me. His films are incredible, and after learning more about filmmaking, I've gained a deep appreciation for his work, especially after watching Oppenheimer. At UAT, when he was still here, Professor Slater had a huge impact on me. His industry knowledge was mind-blowing, and the way he taught made it feel like I was truly learning. He never just pointed out flaws but instead helped me see what I could improve while

also acknowledging what I did well. Every DVA course I took with him helped shape me into a better editor.

My time at UAT has taught me a lot, especially in my DVA courses and even in marketing. The DVA classes gave me discipline in specific skills, while marketing showed me how to present myself as a film editor, especially for freelance work. Some of the most impactful courses for me were cinematography, audio design, and editing. Even though I already knew how to shoot, edit, and create soundscapes...learning the theory behind it all gave me a deeper understanding of film and editing as a whole.

Going Beyond the classroom, I've done a lot of research on lighting design, camera theory, scriptwriting, storyboarding, and blocking. Some of these skills still need refining, but what I've learned so far has given me a much better grasp of filmmaking. Before UAT, my high school classes built the foundation of what I knew, and I worked on a variety of projects like gaming music videos, short films, trailers, PSAs, skits, and even intro work with a cybersecurity company on a project. I also wrote film analysis papers, breaking down the ins and outs of the movies I watched.

Looking at what I've accomplished so far, I've built up a solid portfolio with gaming music videos, PSA's, skits, and short films, but I know there's still so much more I can do. As mentioned before, one of my biggest goals is to make a short film based on Quest of the Manga Carta, which is a project I'm really proud of. I also want to work with small businesses to create advertisement videos.

I've already had some professional experience. During my senior year, I was hired to make a fun and engaging intro video for the CIS services team. During the summer of 2024, I even interned at CIS and worked with Chad Rogers, who has even done work for Disney. In the

future, I'd love to work with small businesses to create videos that help promote them while also growing my own portfolio. There's a cigar shop back in PA that's interested in working with me, and I think opportunities like that could be a great way to build connections while doing something I love.

In the long run, I want to use film to help bring attention to things people may not know much about. Video is such a powerful tool for storytelling, and I'd love to use it to create awareness about different topics. Whether it's through my own projects or working with others, I want to make an impact through film.

Film and editing has been a huge part of my life for quite awhile now, and I know this is what I want to keep doing. There's something exciting about how there's always something new to learn, to improve, or even create. Whatever it's a new gaming music video or freelance work, I want to keep growing my skills and make work that I can be proud of. I've come such a long way since my high school midterm project, and I can't wait to see what I do next.