



DINNER AND A MOVIE

Lydia Berns
001016-004
IB HL Film
Nichole Lemmon

Dinner and a Movie

Movie Rationale

Dinner and a Movie is a romantic comedy that looks at the “Original High School Dilemma”. This movie documents a conversation between two teenage boys. The boys discuss ways to woo the most popular girl in school. Their ideas are over the top and have many defects. In the end one of the boys decides that the best way to approach the situation was to just ask her out. The twist: instead of the boy doing the asking the girl steps up and asks him on the date. My role in this film was that of Director.

Word Count: 97

Trailer Rational

For the trailer I wanted to play up the differences between the nerdy boy and the popular girl. I also wanted the trailer to show a different side of the story. This idea is similar to *Wicked*, for example, which looks at the Wizard of Oz from a different perspective. The plot is introduced by the main female and shows fast clips of the boy’s ideas of ways to woo the girl. The conclusion of the trailer teases the ending where one of the boys asks the girl out, however, it cuts to black right before her answer is given.

Word Count: 100

Pre-Production

Conceptualization

My role in the movie was director. One of my favorite genres of films is romantic comedy. I wanted this film to fall into that category. As part of a collaboration with the elective IB classes in my school, our group received a poem from which we were to take our inspiration.

“Patience”

Waiting and waiting, time passes by me.
I wish the mail knew how to fly.
Patience escapes me; it must be good news.
Sadly for me, the mailman has no clues.

Waiting and waiting, time stands still.
A shadow stares over the hill.
The mail is here.

This poem refers to waiting and patience. When using this poem as a jumping off point for our film, it would have been easy to make this film dark and depressing but we wanted to take a different approach to it. The waiting part of the film comes into play when the two boys, Andy and Drew, are waiting for the perfect idea to come to them.

Research

We took inspirations for the plot from movies and songs that we had seen in the past. One of the movie titles that Drew and Andy kept bringing up was I Love You, Man. Since Drew and Andy were editor and cinematographer, respectively, the film has a vibe that is similar to I Love You, Man. When trying to come up with an idea I turned to a song by John Mayer titled My Stupid Mouth.

I could see that she was offended
She said well anyway, just dying for a subject change
Its another social casualty, score one more for me
How could I forget mama said think before speaking...
We bit our lips, she looked out the window
Rolling tiny balls of napkin paper
I played a quick game of chess with the salt and pepper shaker

The setting in this song is a boy and a girl sitting at a table at a restaurant. The boy offends the girl by something he said and the song speaks of the awkwardness of the situation between the two at the table. I wanted a simple one setting movie that documents the moments after a boy says something offensive to the girl. The waiting portion would be the awkward time spent waiting for the check.

Planning and Organization

As director it was my job to keep things organized. This included planning the scenes, the props, the locations as well as setting a schedule for the production process. I made a chart that described in detail the scene, the situation, the way it fails, the props needed and the actors needed for that scene.

Scene	What happens	Fails because?	Props
Window Paint	Written on car "Dinner + a movie?"	Wrong Car	- balloons - window paint - big black guy - Two cars
Flowers	Sends flowers with a note that is supposed to say "dinner + a movie?"	Note actually says "Sorry for your loss"	- flowers - note - delivery boy
Sporting event	Andy sits next to Lydia in hopes of getting on Kiss cam with her	Cam moves towards her and Andy but at last second shifts to her + black guy	- big black guy
"Irresistable" Pictures	Drew decides to make some pictures of Andy that Lydia will not be able to resist	Pictures end up being really awkward and repulsive	- envelop with "Dinner + movie?" written on it - awkward pictures
Banner	Banner during lunch asking Lydia out reads "Sam...dinner + a movie?"	Too many people named Sam think its for them, including black guy	- banner - black guy
Mix CD	Andy makes a Mix CD for Lydia.	CD Gets mixed up w/ Andy's dad self-help weight loss CD	- CD
Boom Box	Andy tries to win Lydia over by standing outside her window with a boom box	First he gets the wrong window, then the sprinklers come on, then people yell at him because its too late	- boombox - trench coat - music

Because we needed one person, Michael (boy Sam), that was not on our production team I had to make arrangements with him for filming. Most of our scenes took place at school so permission wasn't necessary but I did have to make arrangements with our selected restaurant for filming.

Production

The beginning of the production stage was rocky. We had trouble with time management and getting quality work done in a reasonable amount of time. The first scene we filmed was place in the school's gymnasium during a girl's basketball game. Our extras were actual spectators in the gym to watch the game. One crucial person for this scene was Michael, or boy Sam. His job was to act as a spectator sitting next to girl Sam waiting on the kiss cam to focus in on them. Andy and Drew had a vision that I did not see and I grew more frustrated as time went on, so learning how to direct and not dictate was a huge part of filming this scene for me.

The picture scene was filmed in a classroom at school. The teacher in the classroom was willing to allow us to interrupt and film during the class. She was also willing to act as the teacher in the scene. I felt awkward asking her to take a break from her teaching and allow us interrupt so that we could film our scene and so that she could act in the scene. I think I might have been the only person to feel that way because the others in the group didn't seem to be bothered by the situation like I had been. Overall we were able to get the scene done and it turned out quite nicely.

Later that day the opening scene was filmed. We had to use people from our film class to act as extras in the hall because the scene was supposed to take place at the end of the day or during passing time so we needed the halls to look full. The plan was to use a giant fan so that my hair would blow as I walked past the camera. My favorite part of this scene was the slow pan following me as I walk down the hall then the quick jump to Andy watching me. This was one continuous shot but it is filmed very well.

The scene in the parking lot was difficult to plan. We waited until December to film this scene which was a mistake because it was an out scene and it was cold but we worked to find the warmest day to film. The scene required window paint and balloons, which we did not have. Andy and Nora retrieved those items and I went to pick up Michael for the filming.



The main scene was probably the easiest scene to film. It was in one location with two cameras rolling throughout the whole filming process. The original plan was to film at Village Inn but because they were having breakfast with Santa on the day we wanted to film we had to move our location to another restaurant. I have some small connections with Panera and they were willing to let us film at their restaurant. For one particular shot we needed an older lady to provide Drew and Andy with some advice about how to go about asking Samantha out on a date. We didn't have anyone to play this part so Nora and I asked a lady that was at Panera if she would be willing to play the part. After finding out what school we were with she was more than happy to help.



It was important in this scene that we filmed introductions and transitions for all of the scenes planned for the film. We wanted to have a variety of angles and options to choose from. In directing this scene I had to pay attention to the dialogue used so that when we filmed the same scene at different angles the lips would match as closely as possible.

Our last scene with Michael was the biggest to orchestrate. This scene took place during lunch and was going to be quite a disruption. We had to get special permission to film it because of the use of an air horn. Once Michael and I entered the cafeteria I could see at least six cameras already set up ready to go. I explained to Michael and his table mates what the situation was and how they needed to react. The whole event went really well, especially with administration. They seem to be one of the biggest road blocks when producing something.

Trying to figure out a closing scene for the movie lasted throughout the production process. We had a few ideas of what we wanted to do but we couldn't settle on just one. When the time came to film the ending we decided to film it both of the ways we had planned

and in multiple locations. Post-production was when we decided on how to end the movie based on what we liked better visually.

Post-Production

The post-production process consisted of editing, adding non-diegetic sound, color correcting and graphical design. At this point in the production Andy had really stepped up and took ownership of the production. He and I worked together every night for three weeks trying to finish the movie. Since he was cinematographer and had story boarded the entire movie he knew how things should flow. I was there mostly for quality control and time management.

Producing musical scores was another issue we had to address. Drew made a few musical scores for us to choose from. One of the scores he made became the main score for the production. This score was titled *Lighthearted*. This song became the theme of the film and very catchy.

The only problem that came about during the post-production process was a slight debate about a matte screen used as a transition. Andy and I had placed the matte screen in as a transition piece from the imaginary to the reality. The idea behind it was to show Andy imagining the kiss and then right before Sam and Samantha are to kiss he blocks it out of his mind and comes back to reality. We also had a voice over for that part that explained to the audience what was going on in Andy's mind. When Nora saw the matte screen and the voice-overs she was not happy and wanted to cut them both out. I had to calm my emotions over the situation and let a third party decide. This was important to me because I thought that the black screen was important because it made the storyline flow and make sense. I felt that without the matte screen the story lost some of its coherence and as director it was my job to make sure that the film was completed in a way that made sense to the audience. We ended up keeping the matte screen and the voice-overs how they had originally been.

Conclusion

The outcome of the film was impressive. We were proud of the final product. Even though our background is more of broadcast news as opposed to film we were able to pull our individual skills and observations from other films we enjoyed to produce a quality film. This romantic comedy has a part of each of our team in it and the coloration for the film was impressive and successful.

The movie is narrated by Andy and is seen through his eyes; however, the trailer is seen from Samantha's point of view. The musical wicker tells the story of The Wizard of Oz from the point of view of the witches and show some of the background story. While this trailer didn't show any background story it did tell the story from the point of view of a different character. The ending was teased by asking a question, leading right up to the answer but response off

right before the question is answered. I like this technique because it can draw the audience in and make them want to see the film in its entirety.

Word Count: 1,736