SHORT FILM: NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION
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PROJECT INSPIRATION

- Interest in filmmaking
- Search for project that could incorporate music, journalism and mass communication, and performing arts
- Desire to create a project that could entertain as well as inform
  - Fictional film based on nonfiction research, not documentary, called “Meet Me At Seven”
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the goals of modern communication?

- How much can be said without saying a word?

- What forms of nonverbal communication exist, and can they be equally effective as verbal communication in expressing a message/story?
SILENT FILM GENRE

- Overdramatic gestures and acting to tell story without the subtleties spoken word allows

- Heavily reliant on actors, inter titles (words on screen to replace audible dialogue) and soundtrack to share story of film
THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN HEAD AND HANDS MUST BE THE HEART!

Intertitle from “Metropolis”
“METROPOLIS” AS TEMPLATE

- 1927 science fiction silent film by Fritz Lang
- Futuristic urban dystopian story
- Use of “Dies Irae” theme to underscore apocalyptic moments in film
- Early editing techniques make sometimes choppy film
MY FILM A LA “METROPOLIS”

- I settled on a romantic comedy as being the simplest modern film form to convert into silent film
- Light subject matter in dark “Metropolis” template
- Dramatic music paired with picking outfit montage
- Stylistic choices reinforce silent film genre, add to comedy
METHODS OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION SHOWN

- Acting and facial expression
- Written language
- Body language and gestures
- Miming and charades
- Music
Acting and facial expression
Written language

MEET ME
GET
TOMORROW
THE
WOODS
Body language and gestures
“MEET ME AT SEVEN” CLIP
Miming and charades

Skip!

Football!
FILMING PROJECT PROCESS

• Script-writing
• Casting
• Filming schedule
• Filming via iPhone - visuals
  • No need to capture actors’ audio
• Recording score piano score
  • Partially pre-written, partially improvisatory
• Editing in iMovie
COMMUNICATION SUCCESS AND FAILURE

- Wanted to explore what happens when communication succeeds and fails

- Translates directly into film title and ending:
  - Two main characters attempt to meet, but one arrives at 7 a.m., and the other arrives at 7 p.m.
“MEET ME AT SEVEN” CLIP
RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

• The simplest goal of communication is to create an informational and/or emotional connection between two human beings.
• The manner in which communication is organized is just as important as the message.
• In making a film that imitates an outdated genre, I developed an appreciation for modern communication technology.
• Communication skills and practices are often just mimicry of communications one has received or witnessed in the past.
• Distilling a message to its simplest form gives it the greatest chance of being effective and of being interpreted as the creator of the message intended.