



# Open College of the Arts

## Formative feedback

Student name	Peter Owden	Student number	515724
Course/Unit	Digital Film Prod.	Assignment	4
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Written		

### Overall Comments

This is a strong and authentic short documentary about a musician. It says something of his personality and the way this is reflected in his music. Choosing a musician has also given you a wonderful soundtrack! A really good finish to the course. My criticisms below are generally positive.

About organizing stuff for assessment: this seems to often change and so you should probably contact OCA directly. But you'll need to send in your films and a link to your blog. These are obviously connect with you. They also require all your tutor reports.

### Assignment 4 Assessment potential

I understand your aim is to go for the Photography/Creative Arts\* Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback.

### Feedback on assignment

**Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity**

Firstly, I really like the way you've added visual texture to the film - which is essentially based around an interview with Ralph - by using pertinent, amusing and historical images to help enlarge the story visually. That's really important and the more you extend that in films based around interviews, the better they are. The flashing synthesizer intro is great. Actually, I like it more than the 'outro' because filters bother me a bit and look dated, but they're not bad. You've managed to make a journey you make with your ears and eyes!

Now, about the interview itself. It's good because he's a very generous and authentic person who is able to communicate something about the abstract, emotional and spiritual meaning of making music. It's to your credit that you have used images that work consistently with Ralph's verbal content and this gives the impression the film is a collaboration between filmmaker and subject (which is excellent).

Your pacing works really well, not hurried, not too slow. There are some lip sync issues at 2:52. That could be a streaming issue. There's a shot of a painting at 2:03 that is way too quick in duration.

Also, there's a lot of 'room ambience' on his speaking voice. This tends to happen when you don't place the mic close enough to the interviewee or you're using an omnidirectional microphone (but I can hear you're not). You don't need lavalier mics to record interviews, but you do need a directional shotgun mic pointed at the subject's mouth. In small rooms with hard, bare walls, you'll pick up a lot of reflections and so the closer the mic is to the subject's face the better.

I reckon, you could have gone progressively closer to Ralph in the interview and that would have let you place the mic closer. It would also have shown up better his facial expressions. People show emotional clues in their gestures when they're remembering things or talking about things that mean a lot to them. Those register better in close up.

There are some minor issues with auto exposure when he's walking his dog. At 3:12 your auto exposure closes down the diaphragm because your point the camera up at the sky. But those shots are good. It's always better to use auto-exposure with documentaries where you don't know where the subject is going to move. But in a shot like that, which is quite controllable, you can switch to manual exposure just to avoid the sudden exposure changes.

You needed a bit more light on Ralph's face (the right side) for the interview. You could try selective brightening using a mask. Be subtle!

There's an interesting moment when you go through a list of all the many bands he's been in. It would have been good to attempt a rapid, cross fading medley of music from all those bands! (Although you'd probably have needed to ask Ralph to do it). But it would have given you a musical 'brief history'!

### **Coursework**

**Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity**

Coursework looks really good.

### **Research**

**Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis**

Your research is authentic, pertinent and extensive.

### **Learning Log**

*Summarize how you have applied what you've learned from the course to your assignment photographs. Also note down what you've learned from other photographers in executing the assignment.*

The blog looks good. It's vital that assessors can get to all the relevant sections easily and that your assignments are clearly categorized, which they are.

**Suggested reading/viewing**

**Context**

I saw a Pat Collin's "Silence" recently, (it was on MUBI) which has fascinating and almost spiritual sound design. It's about a sound recordist searching for an environment without man-made sounds. It reminded me of something Ralph said in your movie, so you may want to watch it with him!

Congratulations on finishing the course. Your work and creative process seem consistent with the Moving Image degree, so I hope you will enjoy Fact & Fiction.

<b>Tutor name</b>	Robert Enoch
<b>Date</b>	25th April 2017