Our Project: Singapore in Harmony

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Our Theme and Goal

Our goal of this project was to showcase the beauty of Singapore in many different aspects, namely nature, city life and cultural. We realised that most of the youtube tourism videos focused on just the glamorous city life in Singapore alone. Therefore, we felt that only focusing on city life in Singapore was a waste, as there were so many other untapped aspects in Singapore. Therefore, we wanted to make our video well-rounded, balanced and filled with places of different themes. Our aim of doing this project was to showcase Singapore's beauty to tourists, potentially attracting more tourists to come. Ultimately, our project would be in the form of a 3-minute cinematic video that covers all these aspects of Singapore, in 9 carefully picked locations representing the 3 aspects.

Artists References

For our artist references, we were particularly inspired by Naung Ye Zaw, as he manages to film beautiful montages with simple camera equipment, or more specifically an iPhone X. Despite his rather amateurish equipment, he still captures locations like a pro. We wanted to emulate what he did, as we definitely did not have any expensive DSLRs to film with. Technical wise, we took inspiration from the youtuber KOLD, as he
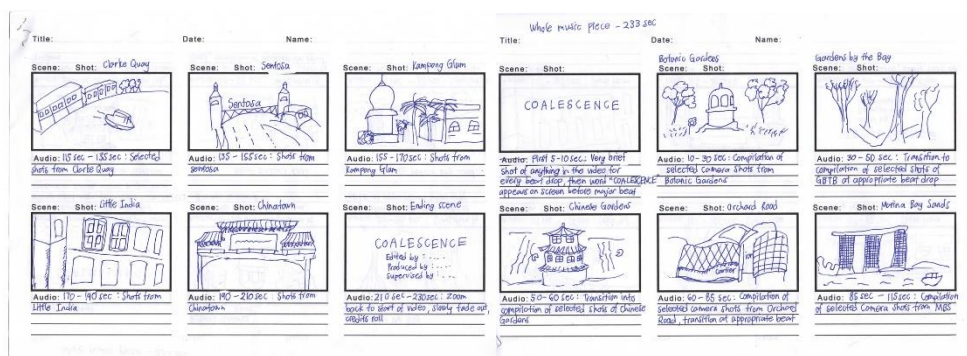
utilizes smooth and clean transition techniques to coherently string his shots together, something we were looking to emulate in our editing software.

Ideation and Creation

At the start of the year, we were deciding between the making of clay sculptures of different landmarks in Singapore and our current project, but we decided to do our current project as the making of clay sculptures could lead to the over reliance of our group leader, which is from AEP. We also were inexperienced with clay making, and it was a very risky project for us as it was a relatively new topic for most of us. Additionally, ¾ of our members knew how to edit well, which was why we chose this project, as everyone can contribute to the project, and there will be no "carry" mentality as everyone can do their part to edit, while the person that does not know how to edit can help to film the shots, therefore leading to a fair distribution of labour. After finalising what we were going to do, which is a cinematic video, we brainstormed on the locations we were going to film and crafted a storyboard of how long each place was supposed to be featured based on the duration of the video. We sketched out the different places and sorted their sequence in the storyboard;

and wrote down the main features we were going to film of the respective locations. We ultimately decided to film:
1. Kampong Glam, Little India and Chinatown for our cultural aspect;
2. Marina Bay Sands, Clarke Quay and Orchard Road for our city life aspect;

3. And finally, Gardens by the Bay, Botanical Gardens and Chinese Gardens for our nature aspect.

Our mentality behind choosing the cultural aspect was because of their diversity, the city life aspect because of the liveliness and young vibrant energy of those locations, and lastly the nature aspect because the locations were beautiful and iconic, as well as Botanical Gardens being not only to our school, making it easy to film, but also because it was a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
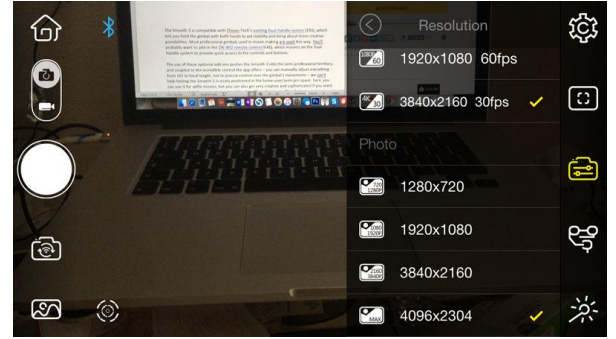
Experimentation

Filming

In May, we planned out our filming dates, and researched on equipment. We finally decided to just use one of our group members' iPhone 8 Dual Lens camera, as well as to purchase a smartphone stabilizing gimbal called the Zhiyun Smooth Q. Our reason behind this decision was because we realised that the cameras on smartphones of today is comparable to some professional cameras, and we did not want to spend an exorbitant amount of money on a DSLR. Thus, in June, we set out to film.

We met many challenges whilst filming, from trying to learn how to frame our shots properly, getting unique shots and trying to capture the beauty of the locations. We also met several technical difficulties, including learning how to operate the gimbal itself, which took almost a week. We also ran into a lot of trouble during filming, such as bad weather, too crowded locations and the biggest one, discovering that the shots we took through the gimbal's app turned out to be jittery and we had to re-film after customizing some settings. Our end result from filming was 9 locations worth of shots, shot at 1080p60fps.

Editing

For our editing, we decided to make use of a software called Sony Vegas Pro 14. This was due to the fact that it was an industry-grade editing software, which meant that we could have more freedom in editing and could achieve better results. 3 of our 4 members had experience editing in the software, although very basic. When editing, we kept in mind to want to be able to emulate effects achieved similarly to Kold's videos (see artist reference above). Thus, we utilized most of the effects he used, in hopes of achieving what he could. We tried to experiment with a lot of video effects, with one very difficult one called velocity. It was tiring and hard learning all the new effects and ways to edit by ourselves, but it paid off in the end. However, not everything was smooth-flowing. We encountered a lot of technical difficulties, sometimes losing whole hours' worth of edits because of bad file organization or corrupted files due to unsuitable video formats. However, through the use of the Internet, most of these technical errors were resolved, and we could continue focusing on editing. Some of the many effects we utilized in the end were Kold's transitions, slow-motion, colour grading, stabilization and more.

Our reflections

Marcus: From this project, I learnt the importance of time management and the importance of following your schedule. I also learnt the importance of teamwork and division of labour.

Anjie: This project has been a fruitful experience in helping me enhance my editing and filming skills, as well as teaching me core values like teamwork and time management in the process.

Edward: From this project, I am grateful to have learnt a lot of filming and editing techniques, and I have also learnt just how crucial teamwork and time management is, no matter what the situation.

Zi Jian:
This project has helped and motivated me to learn editing as well as filming, two very important 21st century competencies. It also helped me realize the importance of communication between group members.

Our Final Video

https://youtu.be/TVMo8AJ5_iw

(Private link)

CREDITS:

Fig1:URLhttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_tXKhJlqZrgr_qdhEKmrDQWebsite TitleYouTubeArticle Titlekold Date AccessedJuly 07, 2018

Fig 2:Article title: Top view of young people putting their hands together. Website title:Freepik

URL:https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/top-view-of-young-people-putting-their-hands-together_1174241.htm

Rest of the photos taken from our camera