

Group 5-17
The Hwa Chong Story: A Century
Of History

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Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Research
 - Artist References
- Documentation of process
 - Work Allocation
 - Obstacles encountered
 - Timeline
 - Modifications on our idea
 - Experimentation
 - Testing mediums
 - Sketches
 - Final Product
- Member's Reflection
- Citations

Introduction

Our project aims to educate others on the history of Hwa Chong. Our target audience is mainly members of the public, as well as students and staff who require insight into the history of Hwa Chong. Hwa Chong celebrates its Centennial Anniversary this year and hence, we embarked on this project to create a compelling and educational visual representation about the brief history of Hwa Chong. In this report, we will go through the origin of our ideas, the obstacles we encountered, our modifications and how we produced the end product.

Work Allocation

| | Filming | Editing | Slides | Written Report | Props |
|----------|---------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Weifeng | | | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ |
| Darryl | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | | |
| Cheng Ye | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ |
| An Jie | | | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ |
| Hao Xuan | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | | | ✓ |

Research

-Artist's References

We took references from various artists as we were inspired by their artistic cinematic techniques and hoped to incorporate them into our film

1. PETER MCKINNON

- Amazing editing techniques for Premiere Pro and After Effects.
- Artistic manipulation of camera angles



Fig 1.1



Fig 1.2

2. FILM LEARNIN

- Video: Disintegration and Hologram effects
- Referenced the editing style/Tutorial



Fig 1.3



Fig 1.4

3. RYAN HIGA

- Video: Youtube Reryan FAIL!
- Referenced transition and editing technique



Fig 1.5



Fig 1.6

Documentation of Process

-Obstacles Encountered

We ran into a number of problems, namely

- Tight schedules
 - During the June holidays, some of us could not be present during the filming process. To work around it, we decided to ask some friends from other classes to act.
- Location Struggles
 - We discussed many options for the filming location, such as the studios in school, but they did not seem ideal. It was finally decided that we use a function room in a condominium as the location.
- Lack of Props and Costumes.
 - Some of the props were borrowed from the English Drama Club (EDC). The greenscreen was bought online. However, most of the other costumes and props, such as for the Japanese Soldier's uniform, we had to entirely improvise from the limited resources we had available.
- Budget Constraints
 - The relatively small size of the greenscreen resulted in a limited space to film and limited some camera angles
 - We did not have access to good lighting and had to make use of various sources of lighting through the form of lamps and flashlights.



-Timeline



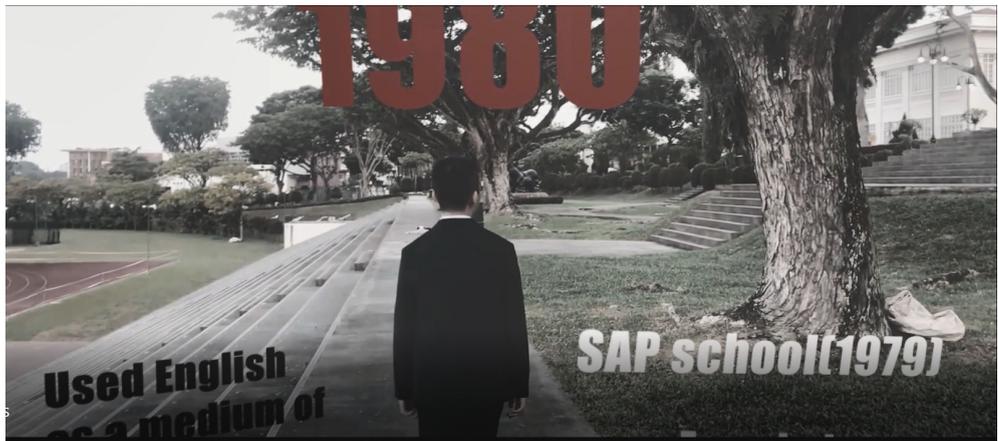
-Elements of Art

- During Filming
 - We utilized various camera angles to bring out certain effects we desired
- Post Production
 - We used Look Up Tables (LUTs)
 - Colour Grading was adjusted in accordance with the technology of the respective time periods



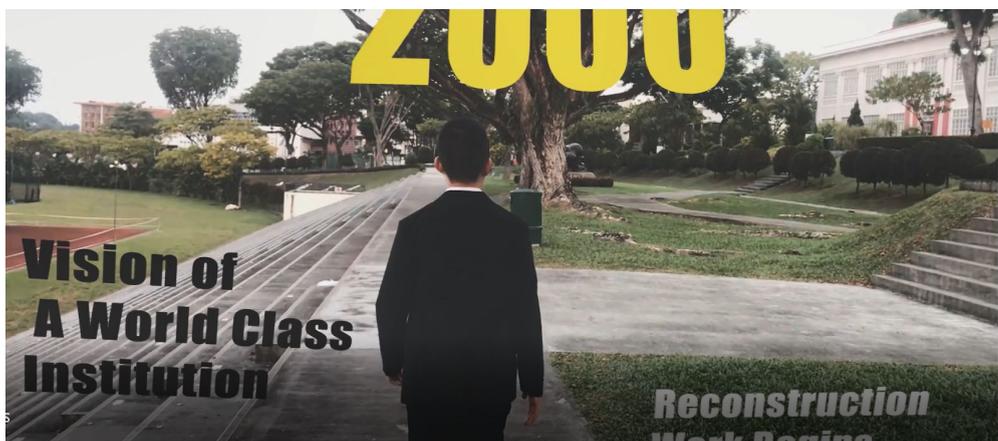
○

■ Portraying the 1900s, Monochrome and old Film-look



○

■ Portraying the 1980s, Desaturated



○

■ Portraying the 2000s. Saturated and Colorised

-Modifications on our idea

Before Proposal Evaluation(IDEATION)

We had two ideas

- Video on the history on Hwa Chong
- Video on various CCAs in Hwa Chong

We chose the former as we felt that we would not be able to fairly represent all CCAs in Hwa Chong within the time limit of the video, and if we were to select a few to go through in-depth, it would be a false representation of the CCAs in Hwa Chong. Hence, we went with the idea on the history of Hwa Chong as we felt that documenting the history of the school was more meaningful since we are also celebrating the school's centennial anniversary.

Proposal evaluation to Mid-Terms

We took into consideration the judges' feedback for proposal evaluation, which was:

- The entire history of HCI might be too ambitious to cover in one video.
- Take note of greenscreen lighting.

To address the feedback, we selected only scenes of importance, such as the Second World War and the construction of the HCI campus, using time-lapses to cover the less important events that were still worth a mention. We also experimented with different lighting set-ups to get the optimal greenscreen lighting.

Mid Terms to Finals

Due to the fact that there was some negative feedback from the judges, we decided to change and re-film large parts of the film, which took place during July. The feedback included:

- Too sudden transition of music
- Texts flashed across the screen too quickly to read
- Some scenes not being thought out well

We also decided to ask some of our friends for feedback, which included

- An undesirable text contrast with the background

- Props can be improved

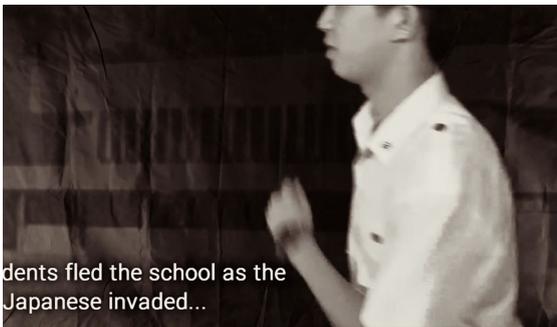
We took these into consideration by drafting the revised scenes accordingly, choosing the sections of texts that were too fast and extending them, using a more gradual fade effect for the music, adjusting the text colour in the hope of rectifying the situation in the final product.



Before: No hat



After: With Hat



**Before: Too near the camera,
awkward running**



**Further away from the camera,
less awkward running**



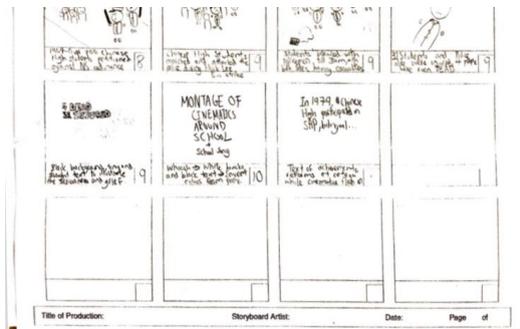
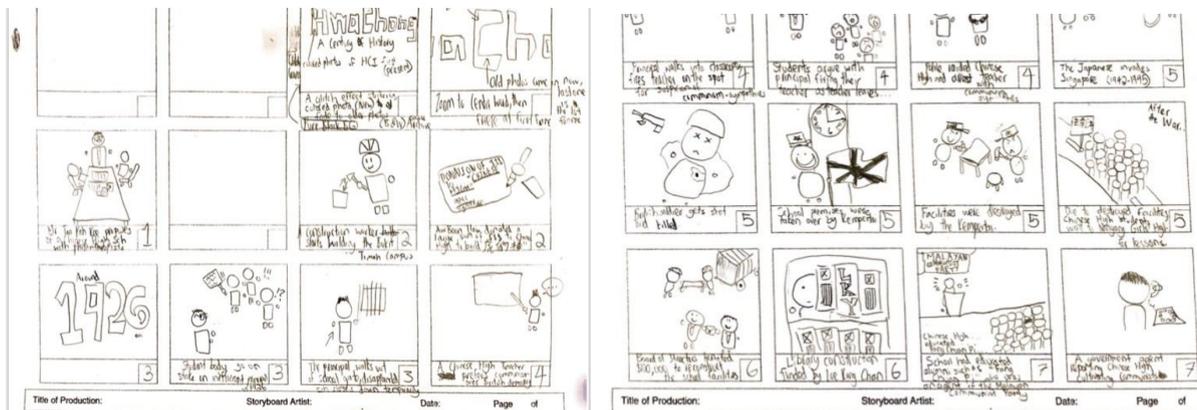
Overly tensed up facial expression



More Natural facial expression

-Experimentation

Sketches



Some of our initial scenes in these sketches did not make the cut as they were either too ambitious, too time-consuming or of less significance.

Lighting



Side Light(Key Light)



Key Light + Fill Light

We experimented with different configurations in terms of the placement of our lights until we found the optimum one. We found that having a key light with fill lights at the sides gave the best result, as depicted in the second photo.

-Final Product

https://youtu.be/y4B9T-w_NIU

Reflection

[1]Chen Weifeng (3O202):

This project gave me a deeper insight into the history of Hwa Chong and allowed me to experience being a part of the film-making process. As the leader of the group, I feel that I definitely have many areas for further improvements, such as being able to effectively get the group to be on task so as to avoid doing last-minute work. As a group, we could have met our mentor more frequently, to have more time to make changes and rehearse. I'm really grateful for this experience and I would like to thank my group-mates and our Mentor for this invaluable experience.

[2]Yang Hanming Darryl(3O122):

Embarking on this project was indeed a step out of my comfort zone. Despite being in Mediatech, this is my first time working with a green screen and Adobe After Effect. This challenged me to learn the basics of Adobe After Effect, and I realised that there is little similarity between After Effect and Premiere Pro. Furthermore, we had to improvise different lighting techniques to make the budgeted green screen better so that it will not affect the post-production (which was partially unsuccessful). However, through this experience, I have definitely grown and became a more capable media-technician.

[3]Wu Cheng Ye (3O230):

This project served as an eye-opener for me, both in terms of the history of Hwa Chong and the intricacies of film-making. I learned of the complicated process that goes into making a good film, as well as gained a deeper understanding of how Hwa Chong became what it is today. I feel that our group could have better managed our time so that we could be more productive during our filming sessions. All in all, I find this project very insightful as it has taught me many practical skills and lessons that will help me in the future, and I am definitely grateful for such an opportunity.

[4]Chew An Jie (3P15):

Throughout the journey of embarking on this project, I have learned to make the best out of a dire situation. During the June holidays where most of our filming took place, many of us had different commitments that we had to attend to, severely restricting the free days we had. As a result, we worked around this problem by each of us doing our own assigned roles such as prop creation and research, and discussing our further steps in a call. This also inculcated values

such as teamwork and perseverance in all of us. I'm thankful for the experience and opportunity to embark on this project to give me a new insight on Hwa Chong's diverse history.

[5]Tan Hao Xuan(3P126):

Our Project, "The Hwa Chong Story: A Century Of History" has been a very fulfilling experience. As the director, cameraman and video editor, I have learned that the concept of green screens is not easy to use without a large budget. Even though the editing of the film took a lot of time and effort, I felt that the journey has been an insightful one; as I explored the history of Hwa Chong's roots and how we have areas for improvement like the music transitions. I am grateful for my mentor and groupmates for their cooperation and effort put into this project.

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