

Documentary Planning

Concept:

① My concept is a personal study on my grandfather William as a videographer and as an inventor. I want to explore his passion for video and inventing, highlighting his past works in both video and his inventions. William is an inventor and has been doing so his whole life through to his current age of 87. He is also a keen videographer and has documented events and family for decades, recording a plethora of memories. I would like to use his passion for video and inventing as a medium to introduce the viewer to William.

Refinement & Reflection: I decided to more or less drop the videographer side to the documentary to give a more clear and concise direction to the finished project.

The focus of the documentary will be on his passion for inventions including a handful of his best inventions and on his passion for video and how he has recorded countless memories that he cherishes. I hope to make it both humorous and lighthearted but also emotional as William reminisces on the past. **Refinement & Reflection:** I think I have hit the nail on the head in terms of making it both humorous and lighthearted but also emotional however again, I have had to find ways of doing this without him reminiscing on things he has filmed for the emotion and instead had him looking towards the future as well as memories of the past.

The purpose is mainly to entertain and to get the audience to connect to William on a personal level but also partially to educate them as William is brimming with knowledge, something seemingly impossible to avoid by the time you exceed the age of 80. **Refinement & Reflection:** I also would like to somewhat influence teens to spend some time with their grandparents as they won't be around forever and are something that should be cherished. ②

② I believe this will appeal to my main audience of other teenagers around my age as they can relate to it through their own grandparents or other senior family members. People may also relate to it on a technological level. **Refinement & Reflection:** As I work on my doco, I can see the appeal reaching both middle aged people as well as older people as we all have parents and some children or grandchildren, making this relatable.

Practicalities include his availability as well as transport to his house in Waitakere. **Refinement & Reflection:** As I film, manoeuvring through the garage with all of my equipment is proving to be a problem as the paths through the garage are extremely tight which makes both moving and placing the tripod a challenge. ④ I will use an up to date DSLR camera for good image quality, additional microphones for good sound quality and a tripod for steady shots to capture my audience.

Treatment

Interviews:

③ As my documentary is a personal study, William the subject will likely be the only person interviewed however the focus is on his involvement in film/videography and inventions both of which are very visual. Something seen in a small New Zealand documentary on Conservationist Perry Reid - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=|seeM-kL72A>, is how a large portion of the documentary has visuals not of Perry being interviewed but visuals to match what he is talking about in the interviews.

I am considering incorporating this style into my own documentary as I feel it would work just as well as in the documentary on Perry with them both being rather similar in terms of them being h something else. For example to accompany audio from interviewing my grandfather William as he talks about a specific invention, rather than having the footage from the interview I would have footage of the invention and him interacting with it. I think this will make for more potent story telling rather than potentially long boring shots of an interview. **Refinement & Reflection:** I have stuck as close as possible to this however as mine is a considerably longer documentary, it is very difficult to have the same heavy cutaway to interview ratio.

Cutaways:

The whole documentary will likely be filmed on William's property with most of his inventions being in the large garage underneath the house which contains an absurd amount of things William has collected throughout his years including inventions and film. I want to include cutaways initially of the property, house and garage to familiarise the audience with the setting which will help them to understand and connect to William. The same is done on the New Zealand documentary on Perry in which opening shots show him shearing a sheep to familiarise the audience with Perry, himself. Refinement & Reflection: I have ditched the idea of shots of the property as they are not particularly important or relevant and focused more so on the house and garage.

Then I would like cutaways to be specific to what William is talking about in the interview. For example if William is talking about a specific invention there would be cutaway footage of the actual invention or if he was talking about a specific moment captured on film or a moment when he filmed something, hopefully we are able to locate that footage to use as cutaways.

Music:

Much of the documentary is going to be William recalling on the past with plenty of archival footage and artifacts unearthed from his garage and with him being in his 80's, it seems appropriate to accompany the footage with music from the 1920's - 1960's or music reminiscent of this era probably from the swing/jazz genre. I also think it is important to match the mood with the music and this will be taken into consideration. This matching of music to mood as well as music relevance in terms of time/age can be seen in the documentary Aquadettes <http://vimeo.com/26502243> which features jazzy, older sounding music relevant to the subject of the film. Most likely this music will be sourced from royal free websites unless I can obtain permission to use copyrighted music. Refinement & Reflection: The music I have decided on is not copyright free however William is against the upload or distribution of the documentary so there is no need for copyright permission.

Montage Sequence:

Williams garage makes the perfect place for a montage as it is a treasure trove full of interesting things including his inventions and film etc. If there is any place for a montage in my documentary it is in the garage. I think a montage would fit best towards the beginning to middle of the documentary. This will give the audience a quick idea of what the garage and William is like. Refinement & Reflection: I have also found interesting montage sequences to compose around the house which I think are a good addition.

Archival Footage:

Archival footage will play a big role in my documentary as William has countless hours of footage dating back decades. This is perfect for the film/Videography aspect of William however I am unsure I will be able to source archival footage for the inventor aspect but if it is a possibility I will include it. As this archival footage is my own grandfather's, there will be no issues with permission. Refinement & Reflection: It was actually extremely easy to source archival footage of his inventor side as it is such a huge part of his life, his footage is riddled with it.

Graphics Title/Credit Sequence:

Titles may be appropriate to either introduce the documentary once a name is established or possibly to introduce each invention. Timestamp titles may also be needed for archival footage. A credit sequence will be used. Refinement & Reflection: have decided on a title sequence, introducing the name of the film which at the moment is "William" however I am unsure I will keep this name.

I am aiming to have all filming completed within the first 4 weeks of the documentary process and all filming will be done at my grandfather's house. I will need to hire gear as I do not have my own and transportation will be provided via my mother. My grandfather has assured me he will have no issues with availability as he is always at his house and willing is prioritising the documentary over other jobs around the house etc. and I am able to drive myself to his house if my mother is unavailable. Weather is not an issue as all filming will be done indoors.

Also completed but not included here was a shot list, set of interviews questions and script.