

Lauren Goodman

Independent Study & Mentorship

Mr. Speice 4A

5 November 2017

Interview Assessment #4

Name of Professional: Tom Rubeck

Profession: Senior Producer and Director

Company: AMS Pictures

Date of Interview: 10/27/17

My fourth interview conducted was with Mr. Tom Rubeck, a senior producer and director of AMS Pictures. Being that he was my mentor last year while I was studying film and video production during my first year of the independent study and mentorship program, my interview with was a lot more casual and friendly than most of my interviews because we've kept in close contact over the summer. While I did go to him for an interview on his knowledge on television writing and production, my interview felt more or less like a mentor visit instead. This was great because not only did I receive his expertise on my work, but helped me evaluate my mentorship last year and evaluate if this same mentorship may be the right course for me this upcoming year.

Since I already knew most of his background before, a lot of our conversation consisted mostly of catching up. The reason why I was just then visiting him then was because he had previously been on a month long trip in Europe where he traveled to Croatia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. He told me that since his trip, his perspective as a producer and director

has completely changed. Being in such a vastly different environment was an almost surreal experience for him. Rubeck described that he witnessed the poverty of these countries when he traveled through some of the villages, yet there were certain oddities such as children living in poverty having iphones. While this may seem like a cultural anomaly, this can actually be quite normal in poverty-stricken areas. I drew connections to my own surreal experience last year when I learned about youth homelessness in my community. Despite having already formed assumptions before even filming, those preconceptions were thrown out as I quickly realized that I did not have a clue what life being homeless was like. It is experiences like these that put you out of your comfort zone that not only introduce unique cultural perspectives to directors, but also help directors and screenwriters draw from experiences that are not just their own. This concept is meant to show that even if a person knows all about the television and film industry, it doesn't matter because there is always still more to learn from others and we have the power to translate to viewpoints to mass audiences.

Thankfully, Rubeck was also kind enough to take a look at one of my recent works and give me critiques. This new project is a two-minute non-dialogue short film that will be submitted to numerous colleges for film school. It is about a girl who is torn between her allegiance to her best friend and doing the right thing when a fellow classmate is being bullied on social media. While Rubeck did have some constructive criticism, as he should because no film is perfect, overall he seemed to really like the storyline and elements featured in the plot. He loved the different angles of the protagonist such as the numerous shots where the camera seems to be the phone that she is currently on. He also liked the graphic details that represent various social media applications, the acting, and ultimately the way the story was understandable to the average viewer despite the complexity, short time, and absence of speaking. Since most of it was silent to highlight the noises of a cell phone, he advised me to add a bit of ambient music

as well as a longer opening and remove parts that are unnecessary and just add time to the film. I ended up following most of his advice; as a result, my short film turned out to exceed my expectations and go beyond. Thanks to his help, it became something that I was extremely proud of and can't wait for colleges to see it.

All in all, I loved my meeting with him because I always learn so much from him. Even though it was supposed to be a simple interview, it became a teaching moment for me on so many levels. Under his guidance through the past year and even at this single meeting I recognize the massive growth I've had. His expertise, support, and opportunities he can give me in this field are priceless. While he was my mentor last year for film, I've come to figure out that he has a ton of experience in television and that AMS Pictures is actually a studio that films many TV shows, including some of the ones I visited last year. Having him for a mentor and getting a chance to work on TV sets is just too good of an opportunity to pass up.