

The Art of a Life Well Spent: An Exploration of Death in a Creative Context

Program of Study – Film Production & Content Development

Presentation Type – Performing Arts

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Abstract:

The Art of a Life Well Spent is a drama short film about a young man who creates art based on the journal entries of his recently passed grandfather. Along the way, he gets to know his grandfather after he is gone, whilst figuring out how to grieve for family he hardly knew.

Losing someone distant and getting to know someone after they are gone are both topics close to my heart. Therefore, as the writer and director of this short film, I sought to explore these subjects through the medium of film. *The Art of a Life Well Spent* is a drama short film that blends animation and live action in order to explore these topics and tell a unique story.

When embarking on the challenge of creating this short film, there were several areas of research required to make it happen. All phases of production required different areas of study in order to discover the best methods to tell the story. Research included but things such as story structure, effective story-telling devices, directing techniques, creating animation, and much more.

Not only has making this short film given me great experience that I will use in the future, it also has the potential to do what all art does—touch others in a meaningful way. Something unique about *The Art of a Life Well Spent* is its exploration of grief in a way that has not often been depicted. Moving forward, I hope that my short film can not only impart a positive message with

its viewers, but also increase awareness of what it is like to experience this type of grief in a unique and impactful way.