

Visual Treatment

The general idea for my narrative video is about a new kid in town and his/her inception into the local rollerskating crowd. I am especially interested in exploring ways to use sound effects and visual composition to tell this story (and others that I would work on throughout the quarter) rather than relying on dialog. I really like this idea because the subject is so trivial (rollerskaters who think they are really cool but are really just terrible skaters) yet it is also about social acceptance which is such a big part of our daily lives. This narrative basically brings attention to the somewhat trivial nature of social acceptance and how we take it so seriously.

The first shot will introduce the main character Aaron unpacking a box and listening to loud diegetic rock music. The only sounds that will be heard in this shot are cardboard box noises and music. Aaron pulls out a pair of rollerskates, and the camera cuts to a close-up of Aaron's feet rollerskating down the street with appropriate skate-on-asphalt noise. Next, there will be an establishing shot of the outside of a rollerskate rink (the Roller Palladium on Seabright could work as a location) with low-volume cheesy 80's music coming from the inside the rink. A tighter shot of a particular group of three or four individuals establishes the local "cool teenage" rollerskating crowd. They will be dressed somewhat similarly with popped-up collars, rollerskates, sunglasses, and bubblegum. The camera cuts back to a close-up of Aaron's rollerskates and follows until he is standing in front of this group with his back towards the camera. The camera pans back and up a little to reveal a clear shot of the group (clearly lighted) staring at Aaron (who will sort of be in a shadow). This awkward moment will be completely silent as

they all stare at each other. The silence breaks when Aaron makes a rush for the door and the music will start again with Aaron's movement.

Once Aaron is inside the roller rink, the music becomes much louder. The camera follows Aaron skating, alternating between close-ups on his intensely serious facial expressions, close-ups of his skates, shots of other rollerskaters, and more encompassing shots of Aaron's whole body. The next part can be characterized as a ridiculous face-off between Aaron and the group of "cool rollerskaters." It starts with the group sitting on a bench at the edge of the rink in a horizontal single-file line. The camera will first focus on something that Aaron does, and then cut to a pan across the upper bodies of the group as they give some funny facial expression (dissapproving or confused and eventually impressed). The camera will start with the first person and when this person gives their facial expression and when their head turns to face the next person to see what they think, the camera will also move on to the next person, and so on until the line ends. This part of the story is basically told by the facial expressions that the camera pays specific attention to. The story ends when the group gets off the bench and joins Aaron on the rink and they all skate together.

There is no dialog necessary for this narrative to make sense, but there is a lot of music and loud rollerskate noises. I do not know very much about lighting, but I would hope to avoid shadows inside the roller rink and film it with as even light as possible. Natural lighting would be used for the outside shots, and when Aaron stands in front of the group I would like him to be in a shadow with the group well-lit to make it appear almost as though he is standing in their shadow. I want to use lots of bright colors, especially in the clothing that is worn.