



## Los Angeles Valley College – Cinema & Media Arts

### **Visual Effects Subcommittee Advisory Meeting August 15, 2018**

#### In attendance:

- Marty Mullin – *Cinematographer*
- Jon Stout – *Independent Filmmaker*
- Robert Rodriguez – *Director of Technical Operations, Technicolor* (on phone)
- Jeff Murphy – *CEO/Owner, Quest-Pacifica Visual Effects and Post Production* (on phone)
- Chad Sustin – *Faculty, LA Valley College, Cinema/Media Arts*

#### Introduction:

Los Angeles Valley College's Media Arts department is looking to prepare students for jobs as Visual Effects Artists and Colorists. After looking at labor market data as well as considering personal industry contacts, we are confident that there is a need to train prospective digital image manipulators for work in various visual effects and color-related positions.

This training also benefits those getting into image capturing related positions such as cinematography as more and more of the photography of projects are involving post production specialists. With all this in consideration, we have developed a new program. There are two versions with only General Education separating them. If a student decides to pursue the AA degree, they go through our program along with taking all necessary general education classes. If they decide a Certificate of Achievement is their goal, they can earn that with the same major classes as the AA. Both degrees prepare the student for employment in various positions in the entertainment industry with a focus on visual effects.

Program Information:

AA in Media Arts: Visual Effects  
and

Certificate of Achievement in Media Arts: Visual Effects

Catalog Description:

The successful completion of this degree will give students a thorough background in the aesthetics of film and media, and experience in titling, 3D modeling, color grading/correction, and various other visual effects for motion picture and episodic projects.

Program Requirements:

Year 1, Semester 1:

- Cinema 105 "History of Motion Pictures" (3 units)
- Cinema 107 "Understanding Motion Pictures" (3 units)

Year 1, Semester 2:

- Media Arts 100 "The Entertainment Industry: Breaking In" (3 units)
- Media Arts 116 "Introduction to Screenwriting" (3 units)

Year 2, Semester 1:

- Cinema 101 "Beginning Film Production" (3 units)
- Media Arts 104 "Photoshop for Motion Pictures and TV" (3 units)

Year 2, Semester 2:

- Media Arts 105 "Visual Effects and Color Grading" (3 units)

Program Narrative:

Students who earn this degree will begin their journey with basic understanding of the aesthetics and history of motion pictures. They continue by learning about the inner workings of the entertainment industry and basic storytelling/screenwriting. Their next step is to make a short film of their own. They finally land on the specialty of visual effects by learning the basics of Photoshop then more intermediate and advanced visual effects and color grading

skills using programs such as After Effects, Illustrator, Maya, Da Vinci Resolve, and others.

#### Labor Market Data/Occupational Demand:

In Los Angeles and Orange County, the number of jobs for film/video editors, and animators is projected to increase by 5%. There will be nearly 4,500 job openings per year through 2022.

#### Questions/Answers:

##### Question from Faculty to Advisors:

- Question (CS): What are the biggest challenges right now with entry level employees who you may be considering promoting to a visual effects related position?
  - Answer (RR): There is simply not enough time for on-the-job training. Some entry level employees who are interested will come in on their off hours to train but that still requires time with a current VFX Artist who is on the clock and if they are in with a client or up against a deadline, then training is not an option. It is exciting to hear about this degree as these potential employees would be coming in without the need for training.
- Question (CS): Based on that answer, do you ask about these skills when interviewing entry level candidates? If so, would you be more inclined to hire someone to an entry level job knowing they have these skills and can apply them in due time?
  - Answer (RR): Absolutely and absolutely.
  - Answer (JM): Yes, agreed.
- Question (CS): I've talked to all of you during the course of developing this program and have implemented your great advice. Thank you. What additional questions/comments do you have for us?

##### Question/Comments from Advisors to Faculty:

- Question (MM): Will the student who earns this degree/certificate take any production classes where they make their own film? This way they know how to apply the visual effects they learn in a practical manner.

- Answer (CS): Yes. Cinema 101 is a beginning production class where the create a short film from script to screen.
- Question (MM): Will there be soft skills taught in these classes or is it only theory and practical application?
  - Answer (CS): We teach soft skills in all of our production classes. This program consists of three production classes...four if you count MA116. So yes, they have to learn these skills so they can best navigate the industry.
- Question (JM): Everything VFX starts with Photoshop. I love that you have that class in there. Are the students mandated to take that class first before the VFX/Color class?
  - Answer (CS): Yes, MA104 “Photoshop” is the one prerequisite for MA105 “VFX/Color”.
- Question (JM): So, will the students use Photoshop in MA105 at all?
  - Answer (CS): Absolutely. In MA104 they learn the basics of Photoshop. In MA105 they learn more advanced techniques in Photoshop especially how the program is used in conjunction with After Effects and other programs.
- Question (MM): As a Cinematographer, I love that color grading is part of this degree but it only seems to be a part of one class. Are there any plans to develop a full program for color?
  - Answer (CS): That’s a great question. We are keeping a watchful eye on the market data specifically for jobs in color. The data is, unfortunately, not broken down to that granular level. I know there’s a need having worked in post production for over ten years and I’m sure Robert and Jeff would agree...
  - Answer (RR and JM): Yep...yes for sure.
  - Answer (CS continued): ...so we’ll see if we can get some clear numbers on that, specifically. That said, if your companies have opportunities for prospective employees with knowledge of color, the students with this degree will be ready!

Closure.

CINEMA/MEDIA ARTS – DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS

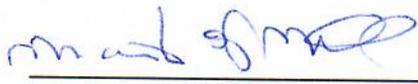
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MEETING WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS

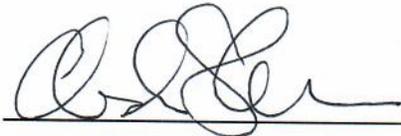
Sign In – Name and Date

  
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JON STOUT 8/15/18  
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M. Mullin 8/15/18  
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CHAD SUSTIN 8/15/18  
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