

Sept 10th, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to help you understand Zhuoer Qu's performance in the Introduction to Cinematic Storytelling Online Research Seminar. To provide an overview of what the student has achieved in this program, I am also including a program summary for your reference.

This seven-week intensive production workshop guided each student through the process of developing their story, writing their script, preparing their production, and making their film. Each student was expected to bring their own life experience and their individual point of view to their creative process. Creative work that was derivative of others in content and/or style was strongly discouraged. Students who learned the most and made the most effective short films were those who drew their material from their own life experiences.

The first five weeks of the course were intensive 90-minute lecture sessions followed by a 30-minute question and answer period to help the students advance their projects. Additionally, the students met 90 minutes weekly with a mentor who followed the course lectures with more additional detailed training. In the sixth week, the students screened their rough edited films in an extended 2-hour class session, to receive creative, constructive criticism from their teacher and fellow students. In the seventh week, the students screened their final projects for another extended 2-hour session.

In order to succeed in the class, the students were required to actively engage in the creative process. They were required to face the discomfort and open themselves to a way of working that was alien to many of them. For many, this course marked a series of firsts. Prior to this, they had not written properly formatted screenplays, they had not completed a production breakdown, they had not directed actors, photographed them, and edited the material into a cohesive film. Indeed many of them had not offered nor received constructive criticism in a creative setting from their teachers nor peers.

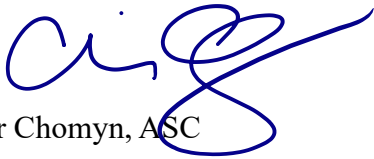
Their grade was calculated based on their mastery of the course material as demonstrated in their weekly assignments, their ability to give and receive criticism and to respond accordingly, and the success of their final film.

Overall, Zhuoer Qu's performance in this program was fair.

Zhuoer was the first to submit her edited film in week six and she did not submit a refined edit in week seven. She stated that she feels more like a writer than a filmmaker. She found editing too technically challenging for her and she made no effort to confront the challenge, despite the fact that she had plenty of time. Having said that, her story was an interesting premise and worked to some degree in the rough cut, and I am convinced that had she applied herself, she would have made it markedly better in her final edit.

I hope this letter will be helpful as a reference for you to assess Zhuoer Qu's academic capability.

Sincerely,



Christopher Chomyn, ASC

Professor, Cinematographer

Department: The American Society of Cinematographers



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Academic Committee Chair

Path Academics