Final Film Project Plan Yasmin Lazu

Upon searching for ideas for the final project, I tried to think of ideas that interest me as well as aspects of film that I find particularly fascinating. Although at first I had thoughts of filming a coming of age narrative, I realized that I wanted to somehow challenge myself and instead thought to explore the genre of science fiction. I have always taken an interest in using colored lighting in my work and was really inspired by cinematography in Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey, Ridley Scott's Blade Runner and Alex Garland's Ex Machina. I think that the blues, reds and oranges that are present in these futuristic settings could be something I explore. Additionally I think playing with the contrast of a "sterilized" space that seems robotic versus a space that is textured is something I am very much interested in working with. In terms of my narrative, I want this short story to be focused on an AI robot (that appears human) that practices a series of programmed rituals, however as time progresses this robot begins to ask questions until perhaps it reaches a point of self awareness. To portray this I would use one actor, and display a "sterilized" space through lighting and symmetry and perhaps by the end we ascend into a chaotic world through layering and lighting. I think it would be an ironic contrast as well because I am using film as a medium for a concept that uses advanced technology, yet one that I think is worth exploring. Moreover upon exploring manipulation of film in our second individual project, I was struck by other student's use of layering and use of painting to create an abstracted motion picture. These are some additions I would also like to tackle in my film towards the end. An installation project that inspired this is called, "Golden Gnomon" by Rose Kallal (on Vimeo). Lastly, in terms of sound, i will add narration from the POV of the AI character and experiment with creating a techno futuristic soundscape that would add to the viewer experience.









<u>Final Film Project</u> <u>Script</u>

Actor: Ott - Sean Zhan (21) Male 5'11 Robot #2 - Jazmyn Babler (20) Female Narration- (Using an AI generated voice to narrate) Ott (AI): 'Grab Fold Deliver'

The three main words of my program. And a sentence to calibrate and complete a day of work,

'A crane standing amidst a flock of chickens.'

And so I will commence my duty.

Step one: Grab- Grab a square piece of white printer paper

Step two: Fold- Fold the paper 52 times in a variety of lengths and angles

Step three: Deliver - Deliver the paper animal to the tube

"A crane standing amidst a flock of chickens."

I finish approximately 108 paper animals, and promptly sterilize my designated work area before returning to Pod 1164 to recharge and update my installed program.

After my sleep period in Pod 1164, I awaken to once again

Step 1: Grab

Step 2: Fold

Step 3: Deliver

To complete my duties, 100% satisfaction, I Ott will fold approximately 108 pa-....

Ott stops to see a living bird crawl from the metal tube. It bounces on the table a couple times before looking curiously at Ott and once again disappearing into the tube.

What is this? An animal not made of paper?

Perhaps a glitch in my program ...

Ott cleans his work area and goes back to recharge and update his program. But this time, in his "sleep" he has a dream.

Oddly enough, last night I had a dream. I dreamt that I saw the bird again and crawled up the metal delivery tube to follow it. But in the blink of an eye I realized I was the bird and I was flying in the air...in unknown space.

But alas to wake up from my strange sleep in Pod 1164

Ott goes to his work area to see all his paper is ripped up

What happened to the paper..? How am I to sleep without having made 108 paper animals? A piece that was not coded into my program...

Ott shuffles through the shreds of paper confused

Could it have been the bird that came and shredded the paper? But where did the bird go?

Step one: grab
Step two: fold
Step three:deliver...but where?

What will happen to me if I do not fold 108 paper animals? There must be more than paper for me, or is that the point of my existence...? I am perhaps too big to crawl up the eerie metal tube...but how long has that door been there? If my purpose in this room has gone, perhaps it is time to venture... He finally gains courage to open the door and exit the room only to find a room of the same kind with another robot sitting in its work station (the room is red) The robot looks at Ott and hands him a paper animal

"A crane standing amidst a flock of chickens."

He wonders if perhaps he is the crane amidst the flock of chickens and he finally wanders into the next door to see what is beyond.

The End

Costume/Props:

- White Male Coverall: <u>https://www.amazon.com/dp/B007EYZNTI/ref=twister B000971DVA</u>
- Fake Bird
- Stack of square papers
- Metal tube
- Table and a chair





Schedule:

May 1st- Order costume and begin writing script (*ordered another roll of film*) May 2nd- Finish script and come up with a complete list of props→ send to Lili for feedback May 3rd- Complete a shot list → figure out which gels to use and locations May 4th-7th- Buy/create props (Ott costume has arrived, bird prop has arrived, 2nd roll has arrived and "metal tube" has been made) May 7th- Secure all of your props and check out a bolex, black studio reserved from 6-9pm begin filming May 8th- Begin filming May 9th- finish filming if you need more time May 10th- Send film in to be developed

Shot List

- Medium close up shot of back of robot's head (dark with blue streaks on body)
- 2. Medium close up of robot's silhouette with a blue streak halo of light *lights turn on*
- 3. Close up of eyes
- 4. Wide shot of robot sitting in the room
- 5.Bird's eye, pan of table and things on the table
- 6. Level shot of robot starting to make his first origami bird
- 7. Over the shoulder pov shot of robot still making origami
- 8. Medium wide shot of robot finishing origami
- 9. Shot from tube, looking up at robot as it places the origami down the tube
- 10. Close up of hand grabbing page by page
- 11. Close up hands folding paper
- 12. Object pov, camera will be at the bottom of tube looking up at robot throwing in the origami crane
- 13. Wide shot of robot sitting at the table, robot gets up and walks into closet to sleep
- 14. Medium close up shot of robot "sleeping" (blue halo around robot

15. Wide shot of robot beginning to fold origami bird

- 16. Wide shot of robot making final origami and moving towards tube
- 17. Camera is at tube and before the robot can put the last origami in tube, a bird comes--> out bird goes back in tube
- 18. Camera looks down at bird from above
- 19. Robot is in sleeping pod with blue halo but instead of peacefully sleeping robot shakes head as he dreams
- 20. Medium shot of silhouette but when lights come on room is red
- 21. Close up pan of robot looking down to see shredded paper and then up again to see a look of confusion on the robots face
- 22. Over the shoulder shot of shredded paper on the table, robot grabs some pieces of paper and looks at at
- 23. Camera looks up at robot looking at the pieces he is holding \rightarrow robot stands up and confused and dazed
- 24. Wide shot of robot standing up and walking backwards confused on what he is supposed to do

25. Medium shot of robot walking towards tube to look in

- 26. Object POV of him looking curiously inside
- 27. Medium shot of robot looking from the tube to the desk again and finally up at the door and swinging around the table to go toward the door
- 28. Medium shot from the back of the robot, looking up to see the door
- 29. Back of robot at the door standing straight
- 30. Closeup of hand grasping the door knob, pan up to the face of robot, he hesitates before opening the door and walking through
- 31. Back of robot as he enters room, camera moves slightly to reveal another female robot sitting in chair (does not move)
- 32. Wide shot of robot walking around the table to see the robot more (she too has a stack of paper and a tube) hands together) until he moves in front of her
- 33. Close up shot of her looking up and opening her hands to reveal a paper crane, she offers to him
- 34. Shot of robot grabbing it, stunned, he turns around and opens door to the next room
- 35. The End

Synopsis:

This film is about a robot android that is programmed to, Step One: Grab, Step Two: Fold and Step Three: Deliver, and essentially make a certain number of paper animals before initializing his sleep sequence. He is driven by a sentence written in his program to commence his work, "a crane amidst a flock of chickens". However one day as Ott folds, he sees a real bird, not made of paper, perched on the tube. When it disappears, Ott shakes it off as a glitch in his system. As he sleeps Ott experiences his first dream. He dreams that he sees the bird and soon realizes that he has become the bird. When he wakes up things are different, his paper is shredded which prompts Ott to question his existence and subsequently to leave his designated room. By the end he opens the door and finds a room just like his with another robot just like him, holding out a paper animal for Ott to grab. As he grabs the paper animal and continues to the next door, he utters a final sentence, "a crane

amidst a flock of chickens" perhaps he is the crane amidst the flock of the flock of chickens.

Description:

In this film I really wanted to work with different color lights, in this case I used mainly cool blues and rich reds to help tell the different chapters of the story. Additionally, I was very interested in portraying symmetry within my shots to really enhance the robotic and SciFi feel of the film. This was achieved mainly through set design and the coordination of the actors and camera. I also wanted to work with this ironic contrast that uses film as a medium for a concept that uses advanced technology. Additionally, I was inspired by films such as 2001: A Space Odyssey and Blade Runner which were films from the 20th century that had an interesting creativity about SciFi that I also wanted to capture, especially with the awesome grain the film has to it! Lastly this film is essentially about a robot gaining self awareness, but it also has deeper meanings about identity and individuality and essentially breaking out of what one is told to be doing.