

Gasoline Films / **Paste Magazine Internship**  
Atlanta, GA

This summer I interned for Sewanee alum (C '91) Michael Dunaway at Gasoline Films and Paste Magazine. Both located in Atlanta, GA, the former is Michael's production company and the latter is the online entertainment magazine for which he is the editor of the film section. Gasoline Films has produced a number of documentaries, including the New York Times Critics Pick *21 Years: Richard Linklater*. Started as a print publication in 2002, Paste Magazine covers music and entertainment, including movie reviews and celebrity interviews. Michael is also the Director of Programming for the Sarasota Film Festival.

Since Michael is part of a number of different projects related to the entertainment industry, I was given a wide array of assignments. For Paste Magazine, I helped transcribe audio for interviews with artists like Oscar-nominated writer Lucy Alibar. Michael is also in the process of producing his first scripted feature, *Six Love Stories*, which just wrapped filming in Los Angeles in mid-August. Before principal production, I created introduction videos for the actors attached to the project to help with fundraising and financials for the film. Furthermore, I learned how to properly attain film rights for various intellectual properties and how to construct well-written script coverage.

Since many of the projects were done on my own, I learned much about the process of independent filmmaking. This type of filmmaking follows the filmmaker's own timeline of development and production since the film is not dependent on a larger,

corporate production company or financial contributor. This means that the filmmaker is really his or her own boss and must take on more roles than just the creative ones to produce films. An independent filmmaker must also be familiar with and handle the business and technical side of the process. Subsequently, I learned about the difference between editing videos for funding and editing with a creative mindset. I'm more accustomed to editing my own short films and quickly realized that although the introduction videos still need to be engaging, they also serve a clear production purpose. The videos must properly showcase the talent involved and highlight their strengths as performers. I was happy to be able to accomplish this and help out with the film's funding. Moreover, it was great to learn about script coverage, because I had never written one prior to this internship, nor did I really know what it entailed. In the entertainment world, script coverage is an important part of development. Most if not all TV and film production companies use script coverage as a way to assess submitted screenplays in a productive and timely manner. It is crucial to have this skill because many entry-level jobs in the industry require this responsibility.

Although I enjoyed my internship greatly, there were difficult moments that challenged me personally and professionally. Post-production is such a tedious process, and I often grew frustrated editing and transcribing audio for hours on end. These projects also require the heavy use of technology, so it was also hard to rely on my computer and the Internet for all my projects. Also, I was a little disappointed I was not able to be on set during the shooting of *Six Love Stories* due to scheduling. I would have loved to gain a more hands-on experience with production since that is the side of

filmmaking I hope to pursue. Although editing and transcribing were difficult processes, it was still great to be able to work on my post-production skills. The post-production market in the entertainment industry is a competitive and selective group, and so it is beneficial for me to build my strengths in this department.

Since Sewanee does not offer a strong film program, I always try to gain experience outside of academics to work on my craft, such as participating in internships like this. The Gasoline Films / Paste Magazine internship was a perfect fit for my interests, and it will be incredibly useful to have this connection in the future when I enter the workforce. Michael has been such a great mentor and resource for me, and I loved taking part in practical projects that fit within a bigger working production of his. This internship has taught me patience for tedious editorial work and the importance of self-motivation. I definitely want to continue to pursue a career in the entertainment industry as a writer/director, and I am certain now that the best way for me to start out is through independent filmmaking. I thank Michael for providing me with this opportunity, and I would encourage any student at Sewanee who is interested in working for entertainment to apply for this internship!