

Chelsea Franklin

BAFTA Scholarship Essay

Growing up with my modern day nomadic family, I have been given the opportunity to experience life in a way that has shifted my perspective on 99% of life (the 1% being my unwavering perspective on my rather eccentric family). I've been snowshoeing in Wyoming, I've led drum circles with my at the time spiritual, father in the Hamptons, and I've surfed some of America's most awe-inspiring beaches. What I've been the most intrigued by is not the surreal adventures I've experienced, but the dynamics and ambiguities of the thousands of people I've met along the way.

I picked up a camera at about 13 years old. During this time, I learned that human emotions could be transcended and ultimately, captured at their most raw and vulnerable through a camera. From that point on, I have been making films and capturing photographs to better understand people and their subtle idiosyncrasies. My art has been a gateway for me to communicate the intangible facets of people. Through my films, I can delve into a subject's emotional layers to better understand their quintessential emotional state.

When I was 17 years old, I created, developed and pitched my first television series to the incredibly intimidating MTV *New Remote Productions*. I came across a Film/Television classifieds listing on Craigslist that was titled, "Are you the Samantha from Sex and the City of your group of friends?" My response: "No, but I have a better idea..." From that moment on, I storyboarded a show, I shot a sizzle reel, I pitched the concept, and I styled photo-shoots. Most importantly, I developed an incredibly unique

cast of characters and focused on the dynamics between each of them. I felt a responsibility to understand the emotional and psychological layers of each of the individuals in the cast. I spent hours upon hours watching BAFTA award-winning, “Skins,” to better understand how to put together a show. “Skins,” was perhaps, one of the strongest inspirations behind my project because of its incredibly complex layers of character development that I have always been so enamored by.

Not only did I learn a great deal about the characters in my television show, but I also learned a great deal about myself; it gave me the opportunity to explore organic human emotion in fictional characters that I concocted. These characters were transcendent upon my relationships with my family and friends; I was able to explore the dynamics between people by my immediate surroundings.

Prior to my naïve adventure into the world of television, I wrote and directed two films at Idyllwild Arts Academy. The first film I wrote and directed, *Holloway Park* proceeded to win the title of “Best Student Film” at the Guild Hall Film Festival, was featured in the Hamptons International Film Festival and premiered at the New York Independent International Film Festival. The film centered itself on the dynamics of a family; particularly on the brother/sister bond, which had been a curious pursuit I had focused on years prior.

What I particularly love about British film and television is the writers’ and directors’ ability to capture the raw and honest relationships and dynamics amongst people. British television strikes a chord for me because characters are opportune to develop over the course of many episodes. The writers’ and directors’ meticulous attention to detail and craft is what I can only hope to mimic in the forthcoming years.

My favorite British director, Danny Boyle has made an incredibly significant impact on myself and on the way that I write and direct my own films and television series'. He has the most incredible eye for detail in his films; one that I can only hope to imitate. Most notably, he builds upon the central characters' past and emphasizes how their past has so clearly affected their present. In one of my favorite films, Trainspotting (1996), he so eloquently strings a group of men together by heightening their differing personalities, by emphasizing their past together, and allowing the audience to reconcile with their present mindsets. Boyles' understanding and development of each of the characters has been a reckoning force for me in the industry.

My curiosity about people and my instilled thirst for life serve as the solitary purposes for my passion for the arts. My films and photography exist solely as a way for me to communicate a human's quintessence in the world. I am interested in people and relationships. That's all.