

Britnee Blake

Personal Statement

I find it very easy to explain my emotions and what I am thinking through visuals, but when it comes to words, it is a bit difficult. Though I struggle with this, music helps me put things into perspective— especially when it comes to translating songs into a visual representation. For instance, ‘Needy Bees’ by Nick Hakim paints the picture of green neon lights and an eerie aura and ‘Don’t Wanna Lose You’ by Black Violin is a warm beach day. Based on the different viewpoints for each song, the visuals they are paired with would include elements specific to its own personal narrative and feel. I believe each film or music video is its own little world— where utilizing unique lighting, camera movement, or colors can clearly define the creation. My desire to be a filmmaker is fueled through wanting to create the little worlds I see in my head and storytell from the inspiration I get from music.

One of my main goals is to be a filmmaker that focuses on storytelling through music and creating album visuals/music videos. I aspire to grow in this direction because in high school I started appreciating music videos by the band Brockhampton. Their video creation style was very chaotic and fitting for their music. From wearing all blue body paint, to hanging out of the sun roof of their car, to spitting bars from a couch they placed in their front yard... they created an aesthetic and style for their album and connected it to how they visually represented their songs. These creations inspire me to make my own versions!

Besides projects that revolve around music, shows like *Atlanta*, *Euphoria* and *Ratched* inspire me to learn about screenwriting. These shows subtly build up their plots with specific motifs and details that reflect the style of the world they’ve created. For example, *Euphoria*’s

motif of the song “All For Us” by Labrinth creeps up in scenes where the characters make difficult decisions that will eventually worsen their future. I would love to learn more about how writers strategically include small, yet impactful, pieces of subtext into their creations, to help me develop my own style.

In addition, my goal as a filmmaker is to bring light to the untold stories of misrepresented people. As a child, the media did not reflect my community accurately on camera. For example, black households typically had deadbeat fathers, drug use, abuse and so much worse. This representation was one sided and did not show the positive side of the black community. It was rare to see two parent households, black parents with good relationships with their children or healthy depictions of mental health– things I saw everyday in my own home. In essence, I was not able to see *myself* on screen. As I pursue filmmaking, showing characters with accurate representation of the black community is a goal of mine. Conquering this would give my younger self, and any young black girls, a role model to look up to in the media.

Studying within the College of Motion Picture Arts (Production) would provide me the opportunity to make these dreams become a reality. CMPA is unique in its wealth of facilities and, most importantly, dedicated peers that can help me to accomplish these goals. In addition, it would be great to bring my music orientated creativity and unique eye for diversity on camera to the table! Unfortunately, as I’ve created projects in the past, funding them was always a bit tricky. I would have to borrow a lot of equipment from previous film teachers and donors in my area. I’m very thankful for the connections I’ve made and the network I’ve built in Tampa, but it would be amazing to have the opportunity to have access to equipment and facilities here in Tallahassee. Being enrolled in this major would alleviate worries of funding and finding equipment– allowing me to focus on the most important part of filmmaking, *storytelling*.

As a freshman at FSU, I've had the amazing opportunity to be a PA and get hands-on experience with some of the CMPA students on their film sets. From working on '*Chiaroscuro*' (Dir. Luis Aleman), I learned set etiquette and it was my first experience of seeing a producer's role in action! Another amazing experience was seeing the beautiful set dress of '*ShitShow*' (Dir. Ryan Lilienfield). I remember helping strike the set and being shocked at how much of the set was designed and built solely by the production designer. He was able to take a plain house and make it a comforting and welcoming home. This reminds me of TV shows I admire that go the extra mile to create an authentic atmosphere. For example, the production designer of *Euphoria* (created by Sam Levinson) pays attention to detail within the main character's room. From posters of LGBTQ+ musicians to represent the character's sexuality to the floors being messy to reflect the character's mental state— it's all purposeful. In essence, being a student in the CMPA would give me the hands-on experience and training these talented filmmakers were exposed to in order to make their projects very successful.

My ambition is to take classes focusing on directing, producing and music supervision. While creating my own short films and music videos, I loved the planning and producing stages of filmmaking. I've learned the low-budget, indie way of maneuvering the film world but I know there's much more to the process that can help me grow and evolve as a creator. It'd be an amazing experience learning how the film industry tackles the different stages of production.

Music has fueled the fire in me to storytell. As I accomplish this, I strive to depict my community on screen in a new, beautiful way. I'd love to learn how to push these passions into action as a student within the College of Motion Picture Arts Production because I've seen first hand how CMPA's teachings have birthed amazing creators and films.