Beautiful Idea:

Conversations from the Green Room

Co-Developers:

Professors Rees Shad & Catherine Lewis

Project Description:

Conversations from the Green Room is a project to develop a multimedia hybrid course examining film production and cinema history in order to introduce these subjects to students at Hostos Community College. The course will examine how films are made, and the various professional roles performed in the making of films, as well as explore how those jobs have developed over the last century. We will focus on eight roles in particular: screenwriter, cinematographer, director, actor, costume designer, sound designer, special effects designer, and producer. Eight corresponding films will be shown to illustrate the importance of these roles, and two additional films will be shown to give an overview of film history.

The films will either be viewed in class or assigned as homework, and corresponding lectures will be given. These film viewings and lectures will be enhanced by an additional online element of topic specific videos created for the class. They will involve the development, implementation and documentation of a series of round-table discussions considering the various roles and the part that they each have played in film making over the last century. We will orchestrate these discussions with faculty members and Industry professionals, film them with the help of students from the Digital Design Program, and edit the material together with film clips and other media for online integration into the course.

Students will engage in discussion of the materials in class as well as online by means of a class blog. In addition they will respond more formally in more traditional written assignments and a research paper.

Goals:

1. Introducing Hostos students to the history and production process of one of the most important elements of media in the 20th Century.

2. Exposing Hostos students to professionals in the field and their diverse approaches and viewpoints

3. Giving Hostos students in the Digital programs important professional experience developing online media for educational purposes.

4. Introducing Hostos students to a variety of professions in the field of media production that they might be interested in pursuing.

Outcomes:

The creation of a state-of-the art hybrid educational experience involving a variety of media seen from the viewpoints of academics as well as professionals in the field and allowing students the opportunity to look on as these professionals discuss and debate aspects of their craft.

Time Line:
Spring 2010 Develop syllabi, select films, organize the round table participants, and outline potential assignments

Summer 2010 implement round-table discussions, document them on video

Fall 2011 Edit documentation footage of round-table, design and implement the web interface and elements

Spring 2011 Introduce course