



four walls and a roof

Written and Directed by Kailie Stobbart

Project Pitch



“My project will be a short, artistic film about a house’s perspective, turning the inanimate qualities of a Residence Townhouse into a personified character who watches life happen before its eyes.”

- Kailie

Project Details

What is it?

The short film will be a way for me to test my creative abilities of turning the inanimate structure of a house into a character. My film will show how one building could experience the lives of so many people. Due to the busy turn around of a residence building, various individuals would have lived in the same house with different backgrounds and different experiences. I want to share the house's experience of watching different students/ families living in its walls over time.

From lower camera angles and focusing on the doors, windows, and interactions within the house, I want people to feel for the house. I want them to see the house as an extra family member, as a watcher that longs for the beauty of human relationships behind its walls.

Target Audience

Who's it for? Demographics?

It is designed for anyone who wants a rush of nostalgia of university residence life, and those who also enjoy the personification of inanimate objects (like in Pixar films). This will be a target demographic of students or alumni who experienced residence life. The target ages will vary, as I hope to make the video feel nostalgic, so it could impact those in their 20s, all the way to those in their 70s if they lived in residence over their time at university.

Why is this something someone would want to watch?

Many people enjoy the emotional qualities of films that personify inanimate objects (The house from Pixar's *Up*, the robots in *Wall-E*, the dumpling in *Bao*). These films are animated, and I want to make a live action version of it. People will be curious to see the personification of a house that was the home to many different people, as so many students move in and out of residence each year. I want people to feel a sense of nostalgia and almost a sense of empathy for the house as we step into its shoes: falling in love and losing its favourite people semester after semester, year after year.

Creative Approach



What is the creative approach?

The creative approach for this assignment will be a short 3 - 5 minute film with no dialogue. It will have heavy emphasis on the music, which will take time to choose from royalty free sources to ensure I stick to copyright rules. Filming will take place over 2 weeks, mostly on weekends as that is when my talent will be available. Once the shotlist and script are ready, I can begin filming the short film.

What style will this be?

Talk about the medium and why it fits this project. Ex- audio, video, multimedia, web

A live action short film is the perfect medium for this project as it enables me to personify the house in a creative way. Film, instead of audio, allows the audience to watch the story play out before their eyes, becoming emotionally attached to the character.

Is this a short?

My film will be a short film that runs between 3-5 minutes.

Is it a series?

The short film will not be a series. It will be a standalone film.

Is it a serial series or a compilation?

N/A

Why the chosen format?

The format is a short film, and as stated before, it enables me to personify the house in a creative way. Film, instead of audio, allows the audience to watch the story play out before their eyes, becoming emotionally attached to the character.

How does the format help tell the story?

By making my short film a live action video, the format allows the audience to become engaged with the house character, and feel emotions about the house. From sadness to excitement to anger, the audience can connect with the house based on the shots presented to them on screen.

Story Overview

Beginning – The film begins with a timelapse/ montage of various people moving in and out of the house. The camera slowly zooms in on the door as more and more people begin to move in/ out. The camera continues to zoom into the door as it slams closed after the last person leaves the house. The film cuts to black. Then, the film fades into a shot of the door with a sense of longing. There are shots of an empty house as it waits for its next student with melancholy music playing in the background. The camera cuts to a medium close up of the door. The camera is inline with the door handle, and we see it turn.

Middle – The door opens and someone with a moving box comes into the house. Different angles (never showing the face of the person) allows the audience to feel like the house is happy that someone moved in. The cuts are faster as the house follows the person move in with more and more boxes. A montage begins of the person living in the house, happily. The music changes from melancholy, to happy/ content background music. A sequence where the camera never leaves the position in the living room shows the passage of time where the house watches the student working on schoolwork in the living room, to shots in the day of them talking to their roommate, to scenes of parties, arguments, gamenights. New sequences from low angles show the residents cooking and cleaning in the kitchen, crying on the couch from stress, are all shot from angles that deliberately never show the people's faces. The film is shot close to the walls, using extreme low angles and high angles that allow the audience to physically feel like they are the “fly on the wall;” like they are the house watching these people's lives.

End - The short film ends as the house watches the student begin to pack their things. The music transitions to the melancholy music we heard at the beginning. The shots become longer, to convey the emotion of sadness. The house watches as yet another student it became close to begins to leave, not promising a return. It feels like a painful goodbye. The final shot will be inline with the main door. The student we've been watching opens the door with a final moving box. They leave the house, closing the door behind them, and as they do, the shot expands and reveals more of the door. The door closes, locks, and the house is empty once more. Cut to black, title card, roll credits.

History of the Idea

Why did I want to make the project?

I love Pixar animation due to their ability to personify inanimate objects. From making the robots in WALL-E become robust characters with little facial emotion, to the lamppost at the beginning of most of their films, I love their ability to personify objects.

One night I was sitting at my friend's home and I realized just how different our houses were decorated and used even though the layout is the very same (we live in residence). This thought sparked the idea of "what if I could personify the house to show this difference?" The residence townhouses would have seen so many different students over a long period of time. What if I took this idea and showed the house being used and how it falls in love while it watches all of the people who lived within its walls?

I am very excited to bring this short film to life. I can visualize the story, the shots, and the angles in my mind and I cannot wait to make the house seem alive. I always wanted to make a short film, and the fact that I now possess the tools, and the skill (hopefully 😊) to pull this short film off, I am very excited to film this project.

Crew and Roles

Role	Name	Notes
Director, Writer, Producer, Videographer, Editor, Mixer, Lighting, Sound	Kailie Stobbart	Due to the small set and limited amount of dialogue needed, it will be realistic for me to be the sole producer/ crew for the project.
Main student	Willa Marshall	Acting talent
Student	Joni Stewart	Acting talent
Student	Tin Toone	Acting Talent
Extra	Yasmin Lee	Acting talent
Extra	Emma Payne	Acting talent

Pre Production Schedule:

Date	Shot	Task	Crew/ Role	Equipment/ Location	
February 9, 2024 1pm - 4pm	N/A	Write Script, find crew, location hunting	Kailie - Producer, Writer	Computer	N/A
February 11, 2024 1pm - 4pm	N/A	Complete writing script	Kailie - Producer, Writer	Computer	N/A
February 13, 2024 7pm-8pm	N/A	Crew & talent meeting	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Writer, Director Willie Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student"	Computer	On Campus, residence building

Production Schedule

Date	Shot	Task	Crew/ Role	Equipment/ Location	
March 1, 2024 10am - 4pm	Packing shot/ Montage #1 (empty house)/Timelapse moving in/ Montage #2 (Moving in)	Shoot	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Director, Videographer, Audio, Lighting, social media Willa Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student"	1 x C100 Camera 1 x wide lens 1 x C100 tripod 2 x Aperture LS 60 lights 2 x Beauty Dish 2 x B-Light stands 1 x Monitor * *Monitor subject to availability	Interior, Residence Building 63B
March 2, 2024 10am - 4pm	Montage #3 (Life in the living room/ Montage #4 (fly on the wall))	Shoot	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Director, Videographer, Audio, Lighting Willa Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student"	1 x C100 Camera 1 x wide lens 1 x C100 tripod 2 x Aperture LS 60 lights 2 x Beauty Dish 2 x B-Light stands 1 x Monitor * *Monitor subject to availability	Interior, Residence Building 63B
March 3, 2024 10am - 4pm	Montage #3 (Life in the living room/ Montage #4 (fly on the wall))	Shoot	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Director, Videographer, Audio, Lighting Willa Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student"	1 x C100 Camera 1 x wide lens 1 x C100 tripod 2 x Aperture LS 60 lights 2 x Beauty Dish 2 x B-Light stands 1 x Monitor * *Monitor subject to availability	Interior, Residence Buildings 63B, 11C, 51B

Production Schedule

Date	Shot	Task	Crew/ Role	Equipment/ Location	
March 8, 2024 10am - 2pm	Final door shots/ focus shots on door	Shoot	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Director, Videographer, Audio, Lighting Willa Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student"	1 x C100 Camera 1 x wide lens 1 x C100 tripod 2 x Aperture LS 60 lights 2 x Beauty Dish 2 x B-Light stands 1 x Monitor * *Monitor subject to availability	Interior, Residence Building 63B
March 9, 2024 10am - 4pm	Montage #3 (Life in the living room/ Montage #4 (fly on the wall)/ Reshoots	Shoot	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Director, Videographer, Audio, Lighting Willa Marshall - Talent "Main Student" Joni Stewart - Talent "Student" Tin Toone - Talent "Student" Yasmin Lee - Extra Emma Payne - Extra	1 x C100 Camera 1 x wide lens 1 x C100 tripod 2 x Aperture LS 60 lights 2 x Beauty Dish 2 x B-Light stands 1 x Monitor * *Monitor subject to availability	Interior, Residence Building 63B

Post Production Schedule

Date	Shot	Task	Crew/ Role	Equipment
March 10, 2024 1pm-6pm	N/A	Edit	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Editor, Audio	Computer, Adobe Premiere Pro, hard drive
March 15 , 2024 1pm - 6pm	N/A	Edit/ Socials	Kailie Stobbart - Producer, Editor, Audio, Social Media	Computer
March 15 - April 8, 2024	N/A	Upload/ Socials	Kailie Stobbart - Social Media	Computer

	Pre prod hrs	Prod hrs	Post prod hrs	Cost / hr	Total Costs
Producer	1 hour	28	10	\$50	\$1,950
Director	1 hour	28	N/A	\$50	\$1,450
Writer	6 hours	N/A	N/A	\$50	\$300
Shooter	N/A	28	N/A	\$150	\$1400
Editor	N/A	N/A	10	\$150 (500 per half Day)	\$1000
Lighting	N/A	28	N/A	\$50	\$1400
Sound	N/A	N/A	10	\$150	\$1500
Social Media	N/A	N/A	13	\$50	\$650
Talent (Main Student)	1 hour	28	N/A	\$30	\$840
Talent	1 hour	28	N/A	\$30	\$840
Talent	1 hour	28	N/A	\$30	\$840

Production Costs

*Based on the CMRU.ca rate card

Total Costs	\$12, 170
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Marketing Schedule

Date & Time	Instagram	Twitter	Facebook
March 1 @ 1:30 pm	"I'm making it my personal mission to challenge myself with producing my first short film. Coming soon to cmru.ca - Kailie"	"As a love letter to Pixar, I'm making it my personal mission to personify my dorm. My short film, 'four walls and a roof' will be coming soon on cmru.ca - Kailie"	
March 8 @ 1:30	Residence life is just getting more exciting. Fall in love with a college dormitory this April. Coming soon to cmru.ca - Kailie	Remind me to check if the camera batteries are fully charged before filming...	
March 15 @ 1:30	Your face when you get to call 'that's a wrap' on your first ever short film. I'm so excited to bring 'four walls and a roof' to you this April. ❤️ - Kailie	Imagine a Pixar short but live action. Now imagine it taking place in a college dormitory. Now imagine the house being the protagonist. Four walls and a roof is coming soon this April. -Kailie	
March 31 @ 1:30	Who knew editing a short film would be harder than filming it. The perfectionist in me wants this to be PERFECT. Check it out in April! - Kailie	The edit suits are becoming my second home. Powering through to bring you 'four walls and a roof' this April! -Kailie	
April 7 @ 1:30	Only one more day to go! I cannot be more proud for this amazing project. Check out 'four walls and a roof' tomorrow on youtube and cmru.ca. Get your tissues ready! - Kailie	The journey is coming to its end. 'Four walls and a roof' premieres tomorrow on cmru.ca and Youtube! I can't wait to share this project with all of you - Kailie	
April 8 @ 1:30	Step into the perspective of a college dormitory. 'Four walls and a roof' is out and I cannot wait to share it with all of you. It's available now on cmru.ca and youtube. Thank you everyone for your support and making this filmmaking journey possible Lots of love, Kailie 🥰	Take a look at life in residence like never before. Kailie Stobbart's 'four walls and a roof' is now available on cmru.ca.	It's time! After months of hard work and help from some amazing friends, I bring you 'four walls and a roof.' Jump into the life of a college dormitory as it falls in love with all of its students. Step inside residence life and experience friendships like never before. Thank you everyone for supporting me on this journey and making this project possible ❤️ Lots of love, Kailie

Dissemination

Dissemination

How will you release the finished project? I will release the final project on cmru.ca, on my personal youtube channel, on my personal instagram account, and on my website.

Do you have any plans to continue this project in the future or is this the complete project? This short film is a stand alone project, and it is the complete project. Depending on how proud I am of the project, I plan on submitting it to short film festivals. 😊

Script

Here is the [link](#) to the script.

Thank you!