

Director / Producer:

NAME

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Street

City, State ZIP

email

** The submission of this application is for a single project.*

Title: **Mr. President & the Boys**

Running time: **Approximately 15 minutes**

Medium: **MiniDV, Canon XL, 16:9 Anamorphic**

Mode: **Short Documentary: Analytical, Biographical, Historical, & Reflective.**

Concept / Theme: **By exploring the life of former President Gerald R. Ford and his longtime friendships with 30-30 club members, the piece is an intimate look at the passing of what is heralded as the “Greatest generation.”**

Timetable: **The following is complete as of April 6:**

- **All pre-production.**
- **All formal and informal interviews**
- **Nearly all cutaway footage is shot.**
- **Footage logs.**
- **Transcripts.**
- **Archive search / capturing**

Things to be completed in the following weeks:

- **April 8, complete paper edit.**
- **April 8 – 11, finish shooting cutaways.**
- **April 9 – 10, assemble 1st rough draft edit.**
- **April 11, 1st rough draft, (critique with classmates).**
- **April 12, recording music.**
- **April 13, Transfer of 16mm archive film to digital media (Film Craft Lab).**
- **April 14, shoot a short re-enactment scene.**
- **April 15 – 16, digitally edit and import archive stills.**
- **April 18, 2nd rough draft (critique with classmates).**
- **April 24, assemble a fine cut (critique outside of class).**
- **April 25, project premiere at Documentary I showcase.**

Past Work: **Submitted with this application is a short documentary produced last semester in Media II, which I was at the helm of. It exemplifies the ability of conveying story and message through mere imagery and interviews on a given subject.**

Rationale

This short documentary is well deserving of a production grant. By far the most ambitious and in depth non-fiction piece I have worked on at GVSU, this short documentary is an intimate exploration of our thirty-eighth president, the late Gerald R. Ford. The character and virtue of the former president, as well as the man, is uncovered through Presidential Library archives and interviews with Ford's professional colleagues and close friends. The natives of Grand Rapids voice their knowledge, cherished memories, and personal grieving of Gerald R. Ford and his recent passing.

Also, the piece heavily features the 30-30 club that Ford participated in for so long. Since the winning of his 1930 high school State Football Championship, the thirty teammates reunited annually on Thanksgiving morning for seventy-five years thereafter. Ford belonged to a loyal group of friends that he treasured so dearly till the very end. At a funeral overpopulated with politicians, corporate leaders, and other distinguished guests there, too, were his remaining friends from the old 30-30 club, by his personal request. By looking into Ford's life and the extraordinary comradery of the 30-30 club, the piece is a unique glimpse at a generation that is fading rapidly.

Great strides in pre-production had to take place in order to get this project off the ground and where it is now. My partner and I formed relations with the Gerald R. Ford Museum, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, as well as the Ford Foundation. After many phone calls and investigation we were able to locate and interview 93 year old Harold Bosscher, former president of the 30-30 club and one of three remaining members. A series of interviews lead us to Terry Wilsner, second generation of a 30-30 member and current secretary of the club, who we also interviewed. And after two trips to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, and many hours of archive footage and manuscript, we now have the means to assemble a non-fiction piece that is as insightful as it is emotional.

Feasibility

The bulk of the project is completed at this point. With pre-production out of the way and production currently wrapping up, my partner and I will be able to devote ourselves entirely to post work in the remaining two weeks. We have made arrangements with Film Craft Lab in

Detroit to do a film to digital transfer on the 13th of April. Furthermore, we have post-production assistance from classmates, our professor, and other fellow film/video students.

Treatment

The documentary opens with archive footage of Gerald R. Ford's funeral procession, provided by C-Span. Thousands of people line the streets of Grand Rapids to pay their respects. Voice clips from selected interviews insightfully recall the event, as we see more imagery of procession and funeral. "The funeral is difficult to describe. It almost defies description!" the voice of Marty Allen, head chairman of the Ford Foundation and longtime friend of Ford, chimes in over the images. Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director of Ford Museum, and Elaine Dedier, Director of Ford Museum and Presidential Library, are also introduced at this point. They all comment on the funeral and the great loss endured by Grand Rapids and the country. They dearly miss their colleague and friend. Recollections of his wonderful life are voiced.

Ford's childhood is explored by archives and interviews with Jim Kratsas and Marty Allen. Ford's high school career at South High is discussed, and his longtime friendships that started then are revealed. Harold Bosscher, 93 year old resident of Grand Rapids, shares his memories of Ford in high school and his involvement with the football team. Terry Wilsner, second generation and current secretary of 30-30 club, shares his father's stories about the team. Marty and Terry both describe the comradery between these then young men. It all started at conditioning camps, and their bond will continue to grow over many years. Old footage of football games is displayed as Harold and Terry describe the 1930 State Championship game that sparked a 75 year relationship and tradition amongst the players.

Jim, Harold, and Terry describe the progression of 30-30 reunion. Clips of a re-enactment depict the fun and lighthearted manner of their reunions. Terry recalls attending the 5 year reunions when the 30-30 members invite their families. The members used to rib and spar with Ford about politics, because of his involvement in Congress at the time. The humorous disputes illustrate Ford's casualness and comfort with "the guys". Harold and Terry explain that Ford would always call if he could not attend a 30-30 reunion. They describe his genuineness as a kind and thoughtful individual.

The interview subjects all comment on Ford's succession into the White House. The excitement of Grand Rapids was very evident from archive stills. Footage of the Ford's swearing into office is screened as interviewees voice their reasons and theories of how and why Ford became President of the United States. A sequence of significant events of that time, politically and culturally, is represented with more archive imagery as Elaine and Jim describe them. Ford as a Commander and Chief of this country is examined and admired by those interviewed.

The piece continues with the 30-30 club again, with Harold and Terry describing the invitations for the 1974 reunion at the White House. A montage of archive stills is shown as Harold and Terry recall the magnificent event. Most of the 30-30 members were Mid-American stock, and not used to such glamour and elegance. But Ford took care of them. Although he was the most powerful man in the world at the time, with history-making decisions and a daily agenda one can not imagine, he still hosted a 30-30 reunion at the White House.

The piece fades and pauses a moment before coming back to the present. Funeral images are once again shown and the crowds along the streets. C-Span coverage of the funeral presents Jimmy Carter's remarks at the head of the church. "I want to thank my predecessor for he has done to heal our land." The burial site and final resting place of Gerald R. Ford is visited by Grand Rapids natives daily. Marty, Jim, Terry, and Elaine all comment on the generation which Ford was from. The trials and tribulations faced by one lifetime, and how extraordinary these people were, is discovered through their values and principles that no longer exist today.

Finally, the piece closes with the only existing footage of the 30-30 club together. Aging and scratchy 16mm film captures the 1974 reunion at the White House. As the film reel displays the members gathering in the courtyards, an audio clip of Gerald R. Ford from 1975 is dubbed over. The audio clip is that of Ford calling the members at the 1975 reunion he could not attend. Still, he always called. Ford reminisces back to the days of football, to the previous year at the White House reunion, and looks forward to future reunions. As the audio clip comes to an end and Ford says his goodbye, the 16mm reel fades to black. The credits begin.

Budget & Finances

Equipment Cost:

	Number of:	Price per:	Total:
Camera -	1		\$0.00
Camera Accessories -	1		\$0.00
Audio kits -	2		\$0.00
Lighting kits -	3		\$0.00
Diffusion kits -	2		\$0.00

Media Cost:

MiniDV tapes -	8	\$11 / two tapes	\$44.00
Batteries -	2	\$5 / pack	\$10.00
16mm Film transfer -	1	\$0.06 / ft of film (processing) \$250.00 / hour (transfer) 10% student discount (approximately)	\$145.00

Travel Expenses (round trips):

GR to Ann Arbor (gas) -	2	\$40.00 / round trip	\$80.00
Allendale to East GR (gas) -	4	\$10.00 / round trip	\$40.00

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$319.00