***Radio Documentary Proposal***

***Overview***

The proposal is to make a 12-15 minute Radio Documentary based on the Bugle Instrument and the importance of the instrument throughout history. The Documentary will act as a “behind the scenes” version of Amie Slavins sound piece entitled Call up the Men. I contacted Amie through my tutor Zara Healey at University who was looking for students to work alongside her own project.

Amie Slavin is a sound installation artist who has created various sound projects over the years. I am working with her as the client; she requires an extra piece of work to sit alongside her existing sound work. This piece of work is based on the Bugle and re-living the use of the Bugle within the military and infantry. I would like to obtain interviews with Amie herself to find out more about the project and what she hopes to achieve from Call up the Men and where she developed her interest in creating this unique piece. I would also like to gather interviews with two individuals who play a large part within the creation of Call up the Men. They are Alan Talbyn who is part of the National Buglers Association and Chris Lawton who is from the Durham Light Infantry. The interviews with both Chris and Alan will be to discover more about the use of the Bugle within the Armed Forces and to gather two different opinions from a Bugler who used to sound out the calls to the soldiers in battle and a Solider with experience reacting to these calls.

During the recording process, a large amount of interesting and relevant content was produced therefore the final feature was 19 minutes instead of the predicted 15 minutes.

***Audience***

The audience will be the same audience who will be listening to Call up the Men, and who have an interest in 20th Century war methods and instruments. The piece will also be targeted to individuals who used to be part of the military when Bugles where used or who played them themselves. Additionally people who have a strong interest in Bugles will be part of the audience, as will their family members or friends. This may be a problem whilst creating the documentary as I may struggle to target the piece to a young age group, as it has been difficult for me to relate to an instrument that was used long before my generation was born. However as I know very little about Bugles and what they were used for, the piece will be used as a “blank canvas” to explain to others who equally may not know much about the instrument and its heritage. Therefore gaining more knowledge about the Bugle throughout the recording and interviewing process.

It has been decided to play the documentary on radio stations for example Lincoln City Radio, which targets people of all ages including an older age group who may have experience or know of the Bugle instrument. It is intending for the piece to bring back fond memories to those who have knowledge of the instrument but also be an informative as well as entertaining piece of reporting. It is hoped to achieve the same effect to students and young adults (who will also listen to the station) who alternatively may not know about the instrument. They will learn more about the Bugle by listening to the documentary and hopefully find the piece entertaining. An alternative reason for selecting Lincs FM to showcase the documentary is for it to be listened by a wider audience across Lincolnshire and Newark/Nottinghamshire therefore it is likely that more people will listen to the sound piece.

After consideration, it was decided that the documentary was be targeted to an older age group who have a greater knowledge or experience with the Bugle instrument. It may be possible to continue to target a younger age group however the likelihood of this audience being able to relate to the piece is slim. The content can reach an audience in the same geographical area by being played on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. This station has a large amount of war themed dramas and documentary therefore I think “The Background of the Bugle” will fit in perfectly among this. It is also at a convenient time for this documentary in produced as it will be complete around the same time as the VE day celebrations and as the piece is focused on how solders reacted to Bugle calls in battle I think this ties in effectively with this.

***Content***

Similar to previous sounds projects I have been creating, it is intended to arrange the documentary in narrative style format. This will begin with introducing the documentary and its contents, what will be happening in the next 12-15 minutes of the documentary and explaining more about the Bugle to people who may not be familiar with it. The intention was to use my own-recorded music in the piece by recording Buglers playing the instrument. I will include this alongside the introduction as well as background music for the interviews to break up longer sections. The piece will then flow into several interviews rotating between three main interviewees (Amie, Chris and Alan) discussing the importance of the Bugle. Additionally for listeners to feel they have gained a “behind the scenes” access to Call up the Men, other snippets of the making of the Sound Instillation will be played. This will ensure the listeners feel they have gained exclusive access that they may not have received in any other Bugle broadcast. The intention is to contact Amie to gather the other interviewees contact details and to follow the crew when they are recording the piece. It is intended to include a section of an individual who is new to the Bugle, explaining the appearance of the instrument to the audience so people gain an insight into how it looks. In contrast to this I would like to gather an interview with a Bugler who knows the instrument well and can play the instrument and explain more about it on a professional level.

***Contacts***

As previously mentioned, I will gather my contacts from the individuals Amie is working with to create Call up the Men. This is a fortunate situation, as I do not need to actively look for people to be involved in the documentary, as Amie will pass on their details to me. As they have already assisted Amie with her own piece, they will be more than likely be available to feature in my own documentary.

***Research***

As I have very little knowledge about the Bugle, it is important to gather a significant amount of research to be able to give an informative style to the piece. I plan to research the history of the Bugle and learn more about the instrument specifically and the people who play it. At the present time, I have researched several websites discussing the instrument and its importance; I will look further into these sites to gain more of an insight into the topic. There is significant knowledge of the Bugle yet admittedly the sources are quite limited therefore a lot of the learning/researching will be discovered throughout the recording and interviewing process. There is also no or little sound documentary’s on Bugles so I have little inspiration as to how to format and style the documentary, however as I have the help of Amie she is available to offer guidance if required.

***Timing***

Although I am working alone on this project, I plan to stick to a strict time schedule to keep the project on track. Deciding on a topic for the documentary, getting to know the client and deciding a format for the piece has taken 4 weeks. Therefore I plan to contact my interviewees and record all the audio over the space of 3 weeks, allowing 5 weeks of editing, making final adjustments to the paperwork ensuring that the project is not rushed. An advantage to working alone on this project is that I do not have to rely on another person to help complete the work, therefore I can work at my own pace to complete tasks quicker and more effectively.

***Costs***

Many contacts that have been mentioned live several hours a way from Lincoln, which may have significant cost to the project. However I am given to understand that travel expensenses will be met. Several parts of the documentary will be recorded in Lincoln City Centre and as it is a small city to negotiate therefore travel cost will be negligible. Audio Equipment will have to be sourced, which is fortunately available to borrow from Media Student Loans.

It was soon established after a short amount of time that it would be easier to set up phone interviews with interviewees who live far away. This would be beneficial to not only myself but also the interviewees involved and it would save money and valuable recording time.

This will include:

* A Zoom Microphone (including sound proof covers for outside/inside use)
* A SD Card  In the editing stages of the access to editing software will be required. I plan to use Adobe Audition, which is available to use in the Library and in the  Audio Edit rooms in the MHT building (however they need to be booked beforehand). I also have access to this software on my own personal laptop.
* Use of Audio Edit Suite 1 in the Media Building to record the phone interviews

***References:***

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