
Juniata College
1700 Moore Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

INTEGRATED MEDIA ARTS PRACTICUM: **The East Broad Top Railroad**

Practicum

Spring 2021

(cont. from Fall 2020 semester)

Presented By:

Tatum Poirier

Professor:

Ryan Gibboney, MFA

Presented:

February 2nd, 2021

Completion Date:

May 11th, 2021

DEFINE

The Project:

The Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semester have provided us with the opportunity to work with the East Broad Top Railroad as a partner for our Integrated Media Arts Practicum class. During the Fall 2020 semester, a team of two other students and I were able to take three trips down to the railroad to capture footage of the railroad. The goal of this project is to create a short documentary that captured the history and impact of the East Broad Top Railroad on its local community.

Challenges:

Time/Project Management: All three team members worked on multiple major projects this past semester, therefore project management was incredibly difficult this semester.

Equipment: The Integrated Media Arts Department only has one camera for us to shoot with, therefore we had to rely on outside sources to provide us with additional cameras, lighting, etc.

Skills: All three team members have never worked on a documentary-style video of this length before, therefore we had to conduct multiple hours of research to help prepare for the final product we hope to deliver.

Pandemic: We had to take extra precautions to prepare for the health and safety of our team and our community members while filming for this project. This limited the amount of trips we were able to visit the East Broad Top.

Steps to Completion:

Phase 1: Define: To create a documentary-style video that communicates the history, impact, and sense of community that the railroad has had. By capturing interviews, b-roll, and other impactful footage, we can help tell the meaningful story of the East Broad Top Railroad.

Phase 2: Assess: Since we are continuing this project from Fall 2020, we need to make a detailed list of what footage we have and what footage we want to get. This will include re-naming our files, grouping them, and ultimately storyboarding out the film. We will need to decide if it makes more sense to make a documentary or to produce a short series of videos.

Phase 3: Research: We will need to look at multiple types of historical documentaries to see if they could add some structure to our film.

Phase 4: Design: After re-naming and organizing our files, we will proceed to storyboard the film. Then we will determine what extra footage we still need to get and make another trip down to the East Broad Top. Once we have all the footage we can begin to edit and export our film!

Phase 5: Deliver: Our final product will consist of an 15-30 minute video highlighting the history and impact of the East Broad Top Railroad.

DEADLINE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TIME FRAME	TASK
Week 1	2/8 - 2/12	Set up weekly team meetings for the semester. Determine a way to structure for saving and sharing files.
Week 2	2/15 - 2/19	Sort through footage and continuing re-naming files.
Week 3	2/22 - 2/26	Begin storyboarding film.
Week 4	3/1 - 3/5	Continue storyboarding film.
Week 5	3/8 - 3/12	Finish storyboarding. Trip to East Broad Top.
Week 6	3/15 - 3/19	Sort and name new footage. Begin editing film.
Week 7	3/22 - 3/26	Editing.
Week 8	3/29 - 4/2	Editing. One final trip for any missing footage.
Week 9	4/5 - 4/9	Editing.
Week 10	4/12 - 4/16	Editing. Release draft, make additional edits after we get feedback.
Week 11	4/19 - 4/23	Editing.
Week 12	4/26 - 4/30	Final edits.
Week 13	5/3 - 5/7	Possible movie showing night at the drive-in theatre!

RESEARCH



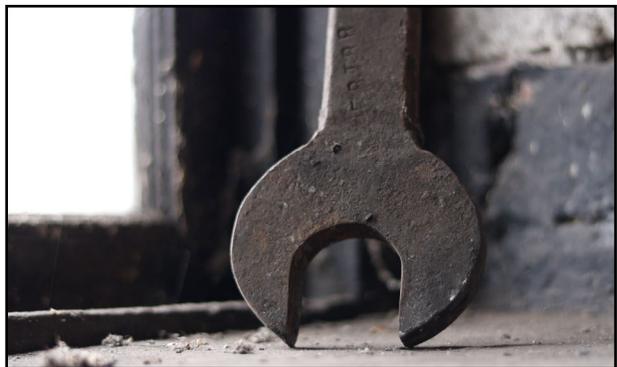
A YouTube video player interface. The video frame shows a man with a mustache, wearing a tan cowboy hat, glasses, and a blue denim shirt with a large silver concho necklace. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with wooden paneling. Below the video frame is a black control bar with a red progress line. The progress bar shows a play button, a volume icon, and the time '6:54 / 10:50'. To the right of the progress bar are icons for full screen, share, and other video controls. Below the control bar is a white text area containing the video title and metadata. The title is 'Lessons Learned From Working on a Historic American West Railroad | Short Film Showcase'. Above the title are the hashtags '#NationalGeographic #Railroads #ShortFilmShowcase'. Below the title is the view count '124,682 views' and the upload date 'Jan 27, 2019'. To the right of the text area are icons for likes (3.1K), comments (83), share, save, and a menu icon.

#NationalGeographic #Railroads #ShortFilmShowcase
Lessons Learned From Working on a Historic American West Railroad | Short Film Showcase
124,682 views · Jan 27, 2019

3.1K 83 SHARE SAVE ...

DESIGN

Below are screenshots of footage that I captured while at the railroad. Captured on a Canon T6i and Canon 90D.



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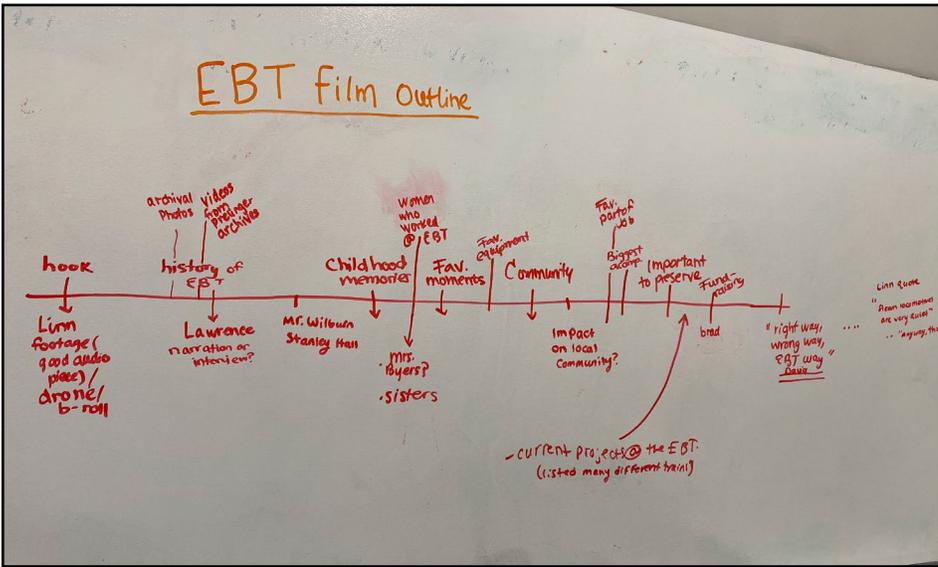
DESIGN

Below are some screenshots of drone footage that I captured while at the railroad. Captured on a DJI Mavic Air.



DESIGN

I worked to develop a storyline for the railroad and determined what extra footage we needed to best communicate the story of the East Broad Top Railroad.



- Additional to help tell the story:**
- Women that worked @ the EBT: How important is the EBT to families? What makes the EBT thrive? Is there any way to give a shout out to the rail fans? Is there anyone to thank?
 - Mr. Wilburn: Local community being a major employer (Footage & train?)
 - Stanley Hall: Lee Rainey
 - What is the EBT? Ms. Byers
 - What affect will the EBT have on the locals? Long-term local revitalization
 - What did it take to get the railroad to re-open?
 - Why is there no other place like this?

- Enter w/ drone footage. Beginning transition into title
- "Strong quote from Linn over drone footage" more talk/context from Linn continues
- Flips back to drone footage.
- Then back to Linn getting emotional/saying something w/a strong tone. B-roll footage continues as he keeps talking
- Then Linn goes into elevator pit about the EBT. finishes statement with importance of the railroad surviving.
- Flips back to drone/ready pretty footage with a long pause (only music and sound effects)
- Flips to black super quick, title "the East Broad Top way" flashes on screen. sound fades out.
- * Go into history of the railroad.
- * childhood memories?

Main points:

- Childhood mem.
- Fav. Moments
- Community
- preserve & fund-raising
- Effect on local
- Fav. Equipment
- Stanley & Mr. Wilburn
- Women's roles
- Shout out to rail fans

East Broad Top Storyline

John Camp

Steven Kistner and Jana Westler

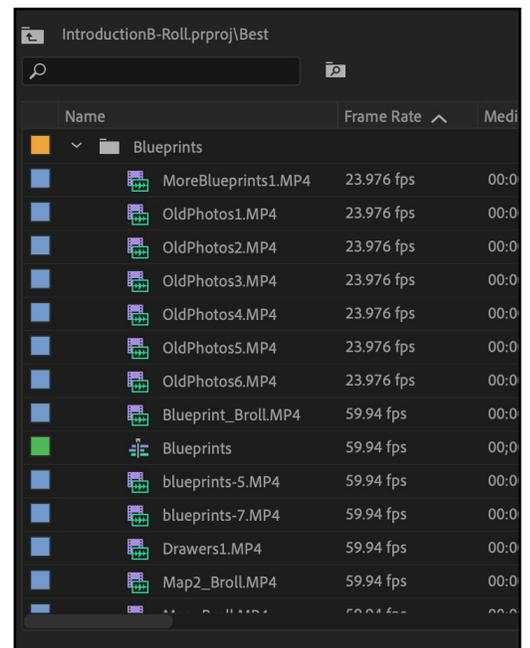
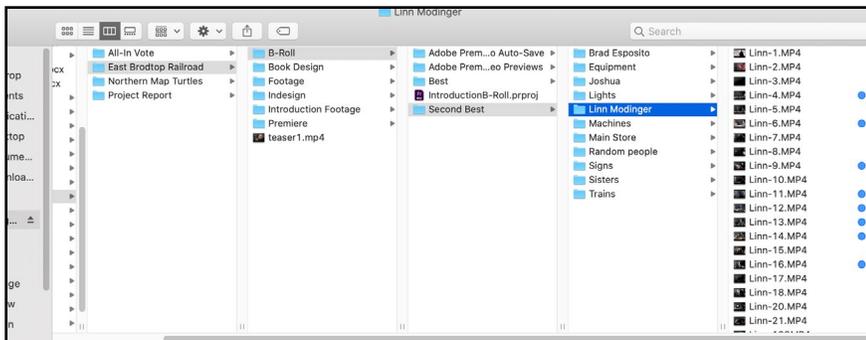
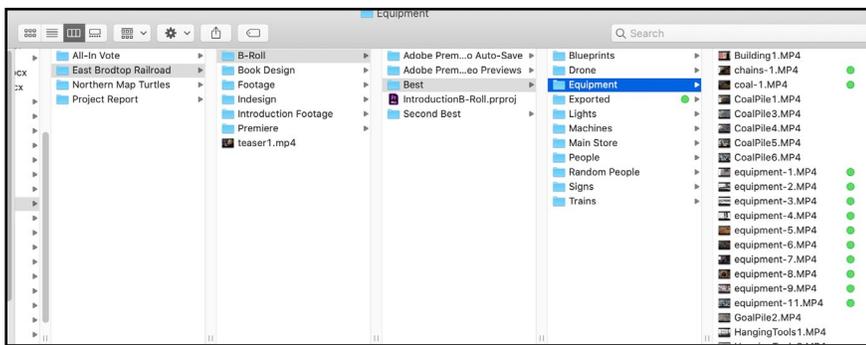
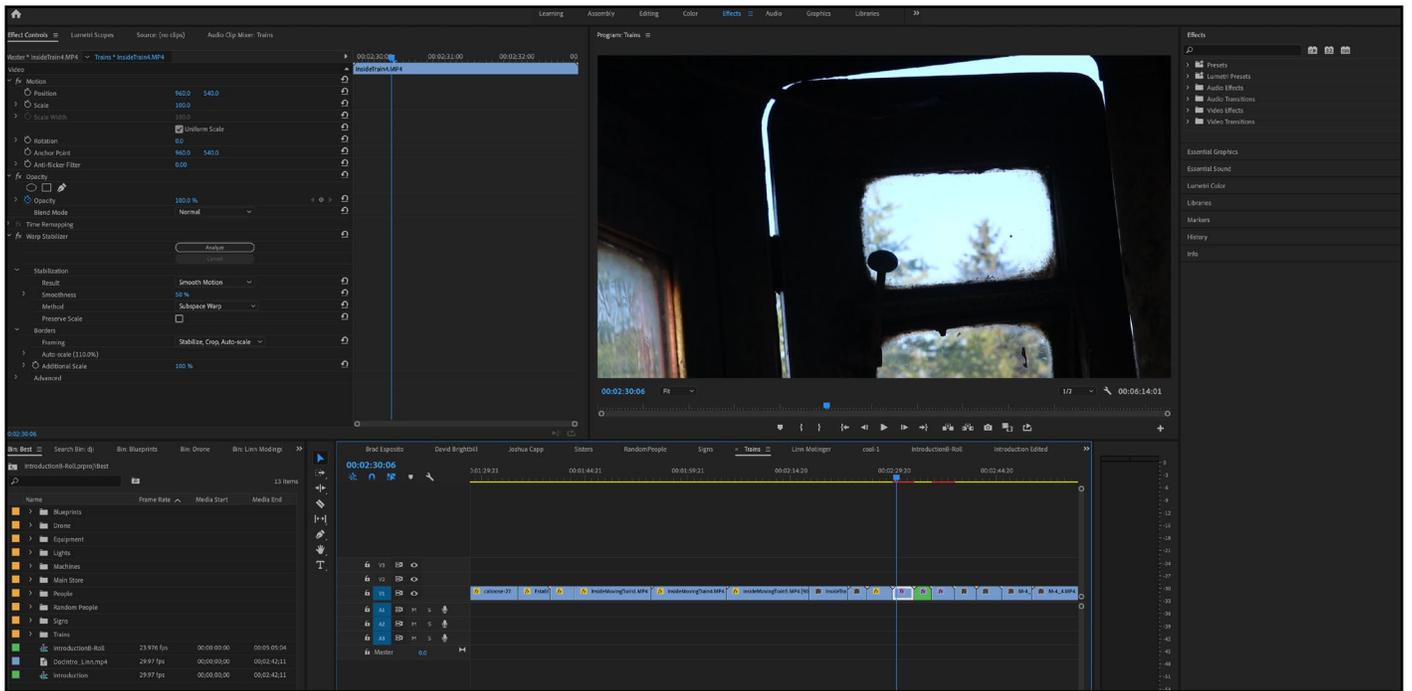
Linn Motinger

Brad Esposito

David Drighliff

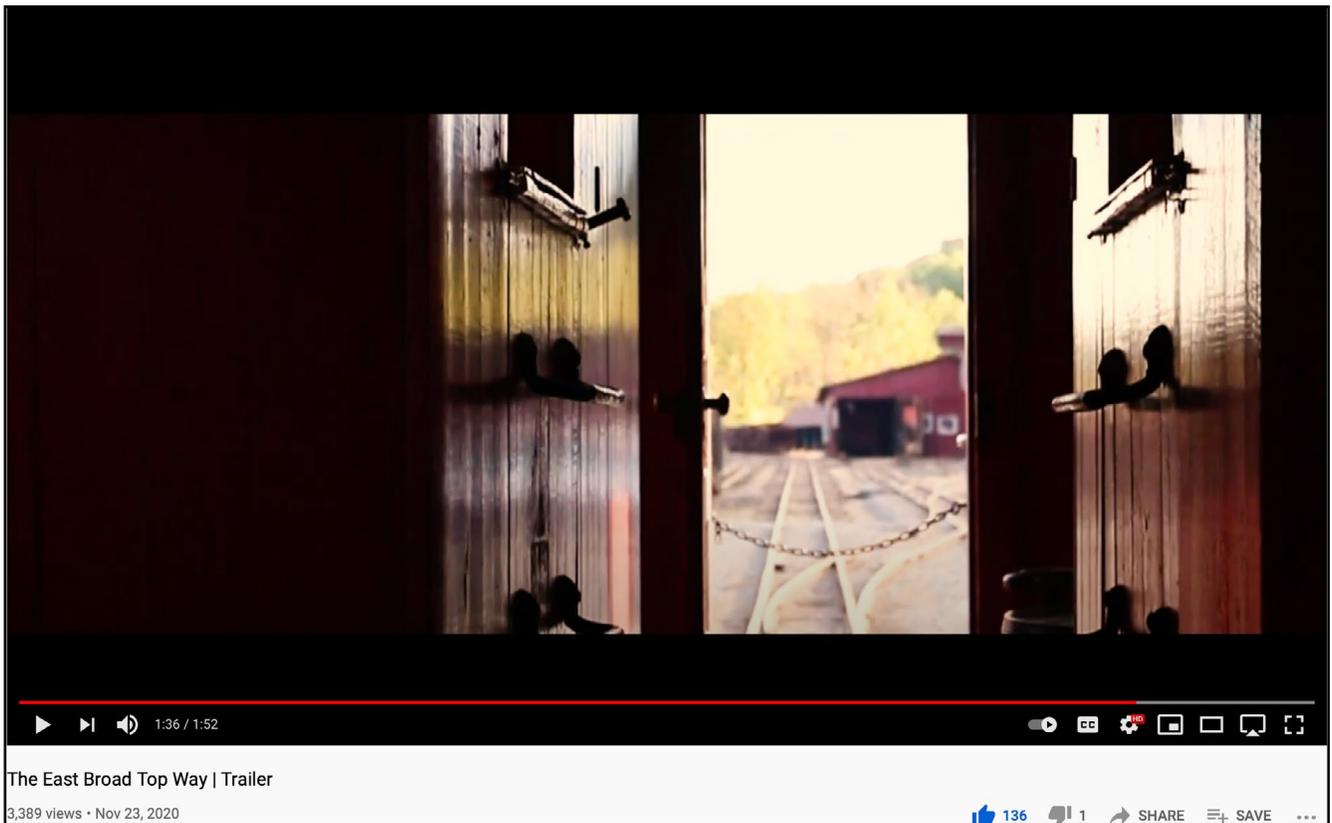
DESIGN

I worked to sort and re-label our footage so that we had an effective system to work from. This included sorting our b-roll footage from categories "Best" and "Second Best", then I put the rest of our footage into separate categories based off of which part of the railroad they were taken in. I edited all of our b-roll footage in separate sequences so that we could easily locate our best footage when we needed it.



DELIVER

This project is expected to be completed by the beginning of September. Below is the trailer we released to keep the excitement high.



HOURS

DATE	TIME	TASK
2/8 - 2/12	1 hour	First team meeting. Determined we were going to work on sorting through footage, naming files, and documenting what we have.
2/15 - 2/19	1 hour	Met with team, determined next steps for the film.
2/22 - 2/26	2 hours	Met with team. Drafted and sent email to Jim and Lawrence.
3/1 - 3/5	4 hours	Looked for inspiration footage for the documentary on YouTube.
3/8 - 3/12	5 hours	Met with team and talked about what inspiration footage we found. Drafted and sent email to Jim and Lawrence. Met with Jim and Lawrence and had a separate meeting afterwards with the team.
3/15 - 3/19	1 hour	Met with Jim and Lawrence. Planned a trip to the railroad for next week.
3/22 - 3/26	20 hours	Met with team to plan a trip up to the railroad. Traveled to the railroad to capture drone footage and additional interviews. Established a timeline and storyline.
3/29 - 4/2	11 hours	Established a file system and organized/edited all of our best and second best b-roll footage in premiere.
4/5 - 4/9	6 hours	Troubleshooting work in Premiere and re-exporting b-roll footage. Met with Lawrence at Standing Stone.
4/12 - 4/16	3 hours	Meeting with Ashley and Hayley at Standing Stone.
4/19 - 4/23	0 hours	
4/26 - 4/30	2 hours	Meeting with Ashley and Hayley to determine what our plans are to continue this project throughout the summer.
5/3 - 5/7	5 hours	Wrapping up project report and case studies. We are expected to have a meeting with railroad executives on Tuesday to determine summer plans.

TOTAL
Out of Class - 61 Hours
In Class - 56 Hours
Total - 117 Hours

REFLECT

Would I do it all over again? Absolutely.



This school year has proved to me that I am working in the perfect field for me. This semester has provided me with opportunities to work on projects that I am incredibly passionate about. Trying to juggle a senior thesis, two large-scale projects, a passion project, working two jobs, as well as applying to jobs for post-graduation has definitely kept me on my feet. This spring consisted of many sleepless nights, a lot of comfort food, and a handful of friends who missed seeing me around. If I could do this semester all over again, would I change anything? Absolutely not.

Not only have I built amazing friendships with my classmates, but I was able to be a role-model as well. Out of all of my busy semesters at Juniata, this one definitely takes the cake. But every piece of art that I created this semester I put my blood sweat and tears into... Literally.

The East Broad Top project has been my favorite team project during my career at Juniata. Ashley, Hayley, and I work seamlessly together. We all understand what types of shots and b-roll we needed to capture without ever talking about it, as well as never working together before. We were all very excited about this project because we had been wanting to work together for years and it FINALLY happened. The only problem... we all overbooked ourselves. I actually turned down multiple projects this semester and STILL

managed to overbook myself. HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE? After talking with Hayley and Ashley, they unfortunately did the same. Therefore, we tried to keep East Broad Top at the top of our lists, but it quickly fell back.

After we re-visited the railroad and reignited our passions for the project, we got back to work. I spent hour storyboarding and organizing our b-roll footage. When I went to render certain sequences in the Premiere file, my render was showing me an error. Therefore, this took days to resolve and I was back to letting this project be on the back burner. Unfortunately, Hayley and Ashley did not have a chance to work much more on the project either. Therefore, we met with Lawrence at Standing Stone Coffee Company and he informed us that it would not need to be completed until early September. We were ecstatic because we did not want to rush to complete the project. We wanted to make sure we were giving them our best product possible.

We are hoping to continue working with the East Broad Top this summer so that we can finish the film and the book. Stay tuned because this film is going to be the BEST student produced train film in the universe.