This Must Be the Place: A Short Film

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An Honors Project and Short Film by
Reagan Shull

Advised by Professors Lucas Ostrowski and Gordon Ricketts
This Must Be the Place: a story about identity, women-led relationships, and finding your dreams when you’re not really sure how to find yourself!
To expand, *This Must Be The Place* is a Coming of Age Mystery with strong narrative ties to Magical Realism set in the heart of small town America. The key thematic ideas are identity, female relationships, isolation, friendship, and loss. This story emphasizes each person’s struggle for identity, and the isolation that can be brought upon themselves when they do not know who they are. Further, the difficulties regarding the search for one’s dreams without a strong sense of identity are also discussed in this narrative. Ultimately, this story is about dealing with isolation as we grow older, and how that struggle can affect our worldview when analyzing the direction of our own futures and our relationships, both old and new.
This Must Be the Place: A Synopsis

“In a small town, a 19 year old with big dreams goes on a quest to find a missing acquaintance, becoming consumed in the disappearance to find the girl and herself along the way.”
I am a graduating senior pursuing my BA in Film Production and minors in Studio Art and Marketing. I served as the Vice President of BGReel during the 2019-2020 school year. I have been a part of the Alumni Laureate Scholars and the Honors College since my freshman year.
How did this all happen? Let’s talk about Pre-Production!

- Where I collaborate with main team members and settle on the working concept for the film!
  - Solidify the story you are attempting to tell. Why is it important? This process began all the way back in October of 2019.

- Write, re-write, and write some more!
  - Words of Wisdom: A draft will never be final until the day you start shooting. I worked on 26 drafts of This Must Be the Place.

- Gain community and University support to fund the project.
  - Reach out to people you know and your supporters, you’d be surprised where you can find help! This project was almost completely grant-funded due to my work presenting for different University-sanctioned grants.

- Figuring out the who, the what, the why, and the where.
  - Where will you be shooting? When will you be shooting? Who’s on your crew? Who will you cast? All these questions and more had to be answered before I could even step foot onto set! This entire process took over a year to completely plan.
Pre-Prod. II: Conceptualizing!

I created and designed the work used to conceptualize this film, such as character designs and storyboards.
After months of planning, it’s our time to shine: **shooting!**

- This Must Be the Place was shot over two weekends, totaling in four production days with 19 student crew members.

Be prepared for things to **not** go as you originally planned.

- Our production was originally delayed due to COVID-19 from an October 2020 shoot to a March 2021 shoot, but we were able to overcome our challenges and keep our cast and crew safe!

Most importantly, remember **why** you are telling this story.

- What do you want your impact to be on your community and those outside of it who watch your movie? I always kept that at the forefront of my shoot!
This project was not a one-person operation, and it took the talent and support of so many students and community members to make this project a success.

The Incredible Cast and Crew of This Must Be the Place!
Now that the film has been shot, it’s time to edit!

- People needed for Post-Production: the Colorist, Sound Mixer, Composer, and, of course, the Editor(s)!

Stay active on social media and build hype for the premiere!

- We have been sharing Behind the Scenes on our accounts to spread the word!

Submit the finished film to Film Festivals!

- We will be submitting the final film to film festivals to make sure people outside of BG see our hard work!

This Must Be the Place will premiere at the Ohio Theatre of Toledo, OH in the fall of 2021 for cast, crew, and family.
Follow Us on Social Media to Check Out Our Updates on the Film!

this must be the place

directed by reagan shull
Coming Fall 2021...
“Home, is where I want to be but I guess I’m already there.”

- The Great David Byrne

Thank you for your support!