Early Experience and How I got Started

My origin story doesn't start with me knowing I wanted to go into film, but looking back on my childhood and teen years, I realize now that my whole life has been leading up to this career!

Some of my earliest memories were putting on plays and skits with my young siblings and friends for our parents, capturing pictures and videos with my little digital camera, and creating stories, whether that was through my pictures, writing, or videos. I grew up watching movies, and my family's second language is movie quotes!

This is how I started out, and whether I knew it or not, God was setting me up with the skills and abilities and passion for this career path He's put me on.

Well, to start: I received my first point-and-shoot camera when I was 10 years old. It was an orange-bronze Canon digital camera that my grandma gave me. This would be my camera all through my teenage years! And like any kid who has a camera, I took so many pictures and silly videos with my 3 younger siblings.

When I was 13 years old, I was playing with my siblings and friends, and we got this idea to make a movie about wizards! We were basically playing make-believe in front of the camera, and we had a lot of fun. I directed, filmed, and acted in The Wizard Movies. We ended up creating a trilogy of wizard movies, when I was 13, 14, and 15, each of them between 20-30 minutes long!

Now, keep in mind, I was 13 years old, and all 7 of my actors were under the age of 10. So by no means are the short films professional, but they are so adorable!

These movies play a HUGE role in my passion for film, so I'll get back to them in a moment.

Around 2016, when I was 13, my brother and I created stopmotion videos, using mainly LEGOs. We used Sorry game pieces, beads, LEGO figures, and Littlest Pet Shop. We continued creating stopmotion videos all through my teenage years, growing in creativity with lights, camera angles, transitions, voice acting, and editing. My brother especially liked the invisible rigs we used, and editing on paint.net to make it look like LEGO figures were flying!

We used primarily Windows Movie Maker as the editing software, which also had a recording option for us. We also used Audacity, an audio program, for background music, adding sound effects, and voice recording.

My favorite LEGO stopmotion by far are the 2 videos we created as birthday presents for our grandparents. Later, we created a YouTube channel that featured our stopmotions, even adding some stopmotions our sisters made.

Starting in 2017, I edited together my pictures, adding background music and creating movement for my pictures to make them visually entertaining. I called them my "picture projects." I used a simple editing program on my computer called Windows Photos.

I created my picture projects for years, capturing family events, holidays, friends, and the many, many traveling adventures I have had!

Now, back to The Wizard Movies: early 2021, I'm 18, 6 months before I graduate high school, and I still have NO IDEA what I want to do with my life. Since I have been editing picture projects and creating stories with stopmotion beside my brother for years, I decided to finally take the footage from 2016-2018 and create it into a movie. I added background music, visual effects so it actually *looked* like we were doing magic, a few voice overs, and credits featuring small clips of each kid from the short film.

While I was editing, this spark of passion ignited inside me, and I realized, THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO! I want to direct, film, and edit movies that inspire people!

Since then, I apprenticed with Film Connection, volunteer at my church's live stream video team, and now work as a freelance videographer and editor, with a dream to one day own a production company that creates movies to inspire people!

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If you got this far, I just want to thank you for reading! I appreciate your interest in what I do as a freelance videographer and editor!

If you want to connect, reach out to me via email: rockonraye@gmail.com.

I would love to connect and chat, and maybe work on a project for you, or collaborate with you!

Thanks!

Rayelle

Romans 5:8