

Wheeling with Pride Senior project documentation

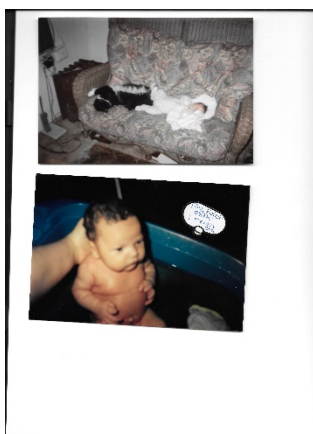
By Mikaela Arnold



My name is Mikaela Arnold. I am a senior at the University of Tampa studying Digital Art. I am expecting to graduate on May 11th 2019. This paper is a documentation of how I developed, edited, and made the film you are about to see. The idea for my senior project started forming when I was in my creative writing class at Middleton High School. I had started writing a seven-chapter biography of me which would have talked about the challenges I faced growing up. The biography idea dropped as I became more busy with school and I honestly forgot about it until this year.

When I started attending the University of Tampa, my professors started to tell me that I should do something to tell my story. They saw me strive to do the best on my assignments and the struggle I must have been facing. One professor put the push to tell my story, Douglas Sutherland, who taught me 3d animation and 3d printing. He was amazed at the quality and my work ethic

when doing my work. He along with Santiago Echeverry stressed the importance of the telling of my story as it may help others. It was a no brainer what my topic for my senior project was going to be.



I first started to gather up pictures from my childhood from many photobooks. I spend a whole weekend gathering pictures. I scanned at least two pictures at a time with my printer and Microsoft Paint. I have used a computer since I was five but I was still new to Windows 10. I didn't realize I could crop photos with the Microsoft Photos editing feature until much later. I used my experience in Adobe Photoshop to crop and straighten the pictures. I had so many that I had to divide them into different age groups from pre-born to present.

For the videos I got out my very old camcorder. The videos were on old VHS tapes. I unfortunately did not have the software or knowhow to convert them into a digital format. Professor Echeverry helped me with this part. I brought all of the tapes to him in a bag and one by one he worked to digitalized the videos. He was a great help and I appreciate him so much. He placed the videos on the CASS student server. From there I sent the videos to the school's cloud service so I could grab them at home. My hard drive for some reason had to have a password to transfer files from the school computer so I couldn't use it.



In the early part of the semester, Greig Perkins allowed me to be a visitor to his class to gather help for interviews. He has a documentary class, so they had experience with doing a documentary. It also helped them to gather experience when working with a stranger like how to make them comfortable and the ethics of it all. It was a great experience for both parties involved. Over the next few weeks we scheduled interviews with me in the Blackbox.

They were amazing people and I appreciated Professor Perkins support of my documentary.

Originally, the documentary was going to be a hour and a half but that idea was scrapped by Professor Echeverry. I had about 15 minutes to work with which meant I had to edit some more to cut down. It was okay and I made it work at the end. A few months ago, I reached out to my doctor Alicia Marion to help with the medical part. She spent a few days gathering my old chart notes and specify dates on my diagnoses. She was extremely helpful, and this documentary wouldn't be possible without her.



In March I met with my old nurse, Sister Josephine Slabinski. This year she is celebrating her 97th birthday on March 11th. I asked her if she would do a

interview with me about how it was taking care of me when I was little. She said yes so we did that during Spring Break I am going to visit her at her home to do the interview. I also wanted to interview my other nurse, John Kennedy, but I haven't been able to contact him.

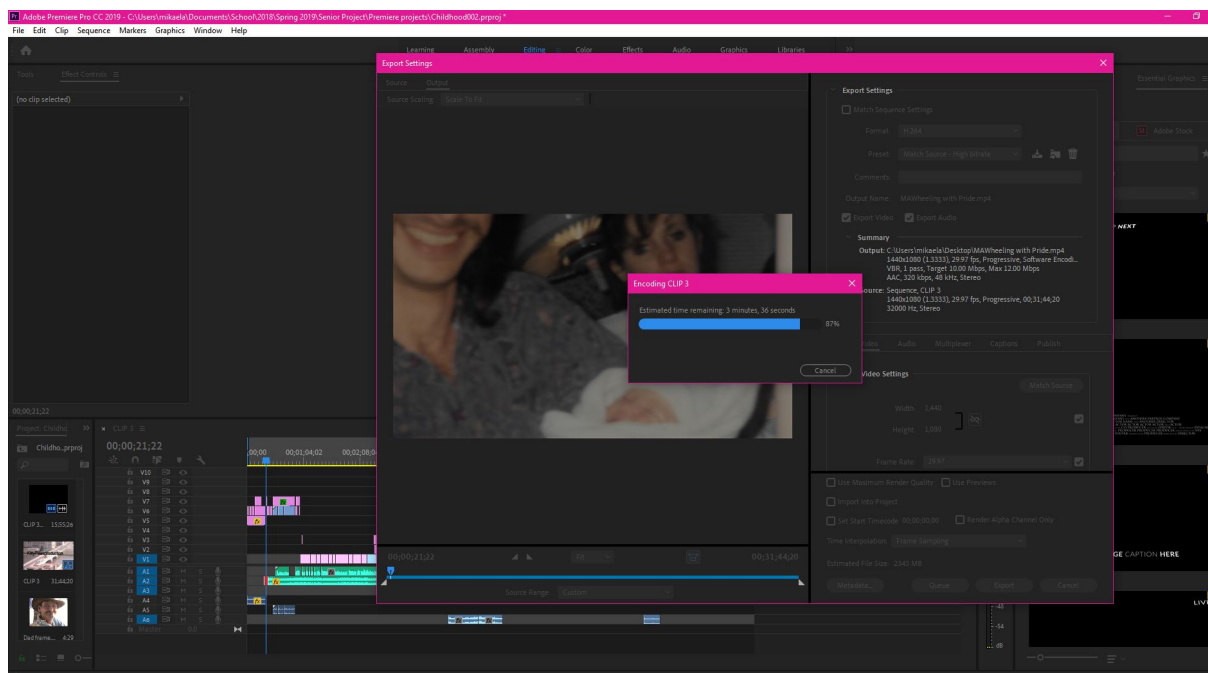


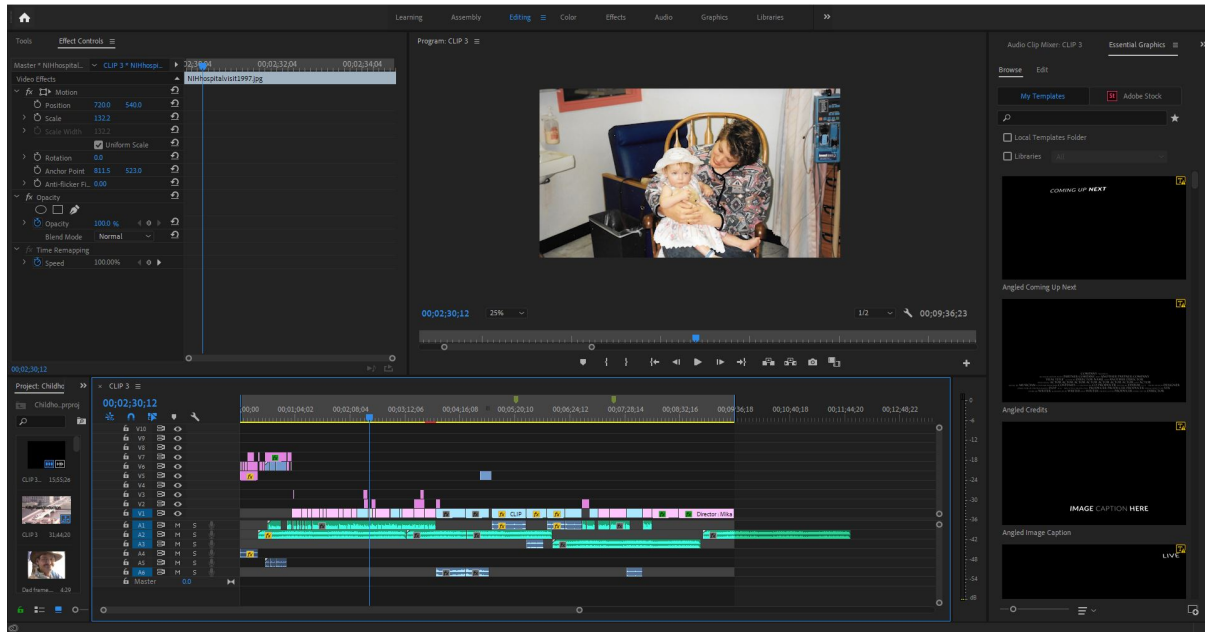
At the very start, one of the main people that I wanted to help with this project was Joey Elis who goes by Joey Jams. He did the music you hear in the documentary. He is a amazing DJ and music artist. We became fast friends of the year. In my behind the scenes video he talked about his inspiration for the song called, “Real Life”, which is the theme song for the documentary. My professor suggested that I have a voice artist to narrate for me. This was done with Alexa Shephard who is majoring in theatre,

I met her via my classmate, Ivette, when I was finding a voice artist for my animation, The Last Redwood. Ever since she became my best friend. She didn't hesitate to help me even though she was sick at the time. She was amazing! She was able to capture my feelings even though I admitted didn't give her much direction this go-around.



For the editing I used Adobe Primavera which was a pain in the neck. It kept crashing and sometimes would even freeze. I think its because I was recording the screen while editing and the computer got overwhelm. Just like me! The screen recording was done with OBS. It took a bit to get used to but it was helpful in the documenting process.





This documentary is part one of a ten part documentary that will be on my Youtube channel, Kittypawsproduction. I hope you enjoy it!!