

Thiago's Self-Analysis

This project began for me with the idea to interview my good friend J.M. Quigley who is a musician about the *the Grain of the Voice*. The grain of the voice deals with Barthe's belief that certain musicians have an indescribable quality in their voices (nod to the third meaning) that make them stand out and are who Barthe's consider them to be good. The grain of the voice is a very abstract concept and so I thought that who better than to ask about it than an actual musician, even better a vocalist. I shared this idea with my new teammates and they jumped on the idea also once they realized that they all also knew other musicians and that they were also going to interview them about the grain of the voice. With our goal established, we then began to work on the other aspects of the project.

The first thing we worked on was the proposal, in which we outlined the goals for our program. This was approved by Kate and from there we delegated the different roles we would each have in promoting the project. I was in charge of creating the facebook event group for the program. Using Facebook Event was very useful in my opinion because it allowed us to invite everyone on our friend list and not only that but the musicians we interviewed were able to do the same. By using Facebook, we were able to reach the maximum number of people who most likely would be interested in listening in to the show, since it involved someone they knew directly. Facebook was also useful promotional tool because it allowed us to post pictures of the artists, and other relevant links, for people to know more about our project and the people involved. Finally, most students check their facebook's daily and so there is a great chance that they are aware of the show even if they decide not to listen to it.

Another supplemental promotional idea I personally came up with was to include a listing of our event in the UF student newspaper The Alligator, under the "What's Happening" section of the newspaper. I emailed the appropriate person regarding this, but unfortunately, I do not believe that the event got mentioned before the last day of school. Therefore, this promotional idea was not carried out.

The actual interview was pretty basic. It was a one-on-one interview between me and Quigley. I did not have Quigley read the grain of the voice before our interview but I did create a short summary as well as letting him read the interview questions in advanced. This definitely helped him get an idea of what Barthes' is talking about but even before reading about Barthes' theory, Quigley confirmed that he believed in such a concept. My focus for my interview with Quigley was to obtain confirmation from him as a musician that this concept of the grain is not just something Barthes' made up, and it was also for me and him to have an informal conversation about bands/musicians we each believed encompassed the grain of the voice and others that lacked it .

Another function of the radio program was to get some insight into the local music industry and also inadvertently to promote the musicians we interviewed. Since the musicians were helping us by lending their insight and time to do the interviews, the least we could do was to provide them the opportunity to get their songs played over the air. I also believe that this is good for the listener since it

allows them to get to know the musicians we interviewed and their music better, which adds credibility to their thoughts and opinions on music.

The most fun I had doing this project was creating the video commercial for our group presentation. It was great because we came up with it on the spot, improvised all of it, we were all cracking up, and having a good time. I was a new member in the group but I fit right in and everyone worked very well together. The most tedious and challenging part of the project was using audacity to edit the raw interview clips we had and then combining them all together in a “seamless” way. Editing the radio program was a lot more time consuming than I imagined, and If given the opportunity to start over, I definitely would have made a push to do a video project instead, especially after our success and efficiency in creating the video commercial.