

COMD 290

Summer Internship Report

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Introduction of the Organization:

I worked in Asi Film Production Company for 1 month. My boss Hüseyin Karabey send me to a film production Called "Zuhal". It was a drama feature film produced with İstos Film, TN Yapım, OT films, Karaçelik Film. First, they started as "İstos Yayın" in 2012. İstos means network in Romaic. It was an independent publishing house established by Rums such as Yorgo Benlisoy, Stefo Benlisoy, Foti Benlisoy. They aimed to restore the literature and the oblivious works of Romaic tradition. Then, they established the Production Company in İstanbul, Taksim. There are 10 people in this office including the Producer Anne Maria Aslanoğlu. I worked in the production set in Fenerbahçe, as a backstage photographer, videographer. They were approximately 35 employees in the set. Director was Nazlı Elif Durlu. It was her first feature movie. The Production Company released generally feature films. The Gulf directed by Emre Yeksan starred by Ulaş Tuna Astepe and Ahmet Melih Yılmaz. "Yuva" is directed by Emre Yeksan starred by Kutay Sandıkçı, VR movie "Selyatağı" directed by Deniz Tortum. "Ela ile Hilmi ve Ali" directed by Ziya Demirel starred by Serkan Keskin. The movie that I was involved "Zuhal" the actors played like Nihal Yalçın, Sadi Celil Cengiz, Şebnem Sönmez, Nur Sürer, etc. The cinematographer was Sebastian Weber. I contacted the main producer of the film Anne Maria Aslanoğlu and started to shoot backstage from the beginning of the movie till the end. My impression is that the company supports the directors who made their first and second films which is a very important support in the competitive market. People who know each other support each other, for example, "Ela ile Hilmi ve Ali"s Director Ziya Demirel took part as an actor in "Zuhal".

What I learned & My Responsibilities as an Intern:

During my internship, my main objective was shooting backstage, preparation of actors for shooting, makeup, and dressing, camera, and lighting crew during shooting and preparation and interesting moments spent in the free time. We started shooting at 7.30 in order not to miss the daylight for day shootings. After breakfast on the set in the morning, everyone started to do their own business. I was shooting the team preparing the equipment and talking to the actors in the makeup room. I had a Canon camera that I used for photographs and a Sony video camera for videos. At the end of the day, I was charging the batteries and backing up the memory card to the computer. I tried to capture the most natural moments of people on the set. I shot them joking, laughing and singing and, of course, doing their work with great seriousness. The film was shot in an apartment in Fenerbahçe in general. Interior shootings were taken in a flat that was pre-painted, furnished and ready for shooting by the art team. They used sometimes other flats for some shots and corridors. Exterior shootings were taken in front of the apartment, garden and the road near to the apartment. Normally the shooting hours were planned as 12 hours a day. However, some days there was shooting 17 hours with overtime. We had a repo 1 day a week. Normally I didn't have to be there every hour of every day. However, it was my first time on a professional set and I didn't want to miss anything. In addition to shooting backstage, I helped to camera crew by carrying stuff and writing scenes that shot. There were many guests during the shooting such as directors, producers, and actors. They just supported the movie and say good luck to them. Catering was quite good, in addition to the breakfast, lunch, and dinner, there were some refreshments such as fruit. It was my first experience, but they said it was better than other productions. I learned how important to keep actors and crew in a happy mood

because working 17 hours and 6 days a week was not easy. The starring role “Zuhal” played by Nihal Yalçın. She was very interesting person. She was one of the people I shot most. At first I was shy because I couldn't predict what and how she react to. By time, we get used to each other and it was very nice to meet her. I understood how important it is to please because, she got mad sometimes and it impacts all of the crew.

Evaluation of the Internship:

Since it was my first feature film experience, I was quite excited on my first day. I didn't know what to do, how to act. The first day I met almost everyone and most of them were friendly people. It was spent getting used to the set environment and trying not to prevent people from doing their jobs. I was afraid of how people react to me because I was shooting them without saying. Of course, they know I am responsible for that. However, not everyone likes being photographed and filmed. For instance, the director didn't want me to shoot her video. At first, I couldn't make sense of it, after all, it was her movie and she didn't want to appear in the backstage documentary. But my boss said she'd get used to it over time, so I kept shooting and then she got used to it. It was difficult for me at first because I was not a very social person. However, I think this internship improved my social skills. I had to be almost invisible in the set and shoot people without disturbing them. And they also had to be used to being natural to me with my camera. It was quite hot and sweltering because it was summer. The fact that 30 people were in the same house and we couldn't open the windows because there was noise outside made things harder for us. Although I didn't really contribute to the film, I felt like part of the team, and they treated me like that. However, the fact that people of the same age took part in the direction team made

me think. Living in Ankara and the attendance policy of our university makes it difficult for us to take part in professional productions. In addition to the directing duties I was interested in, I also learned about many other departments. Such as how the art department works, like they may have to work even during repo days. Also, the light department is in constant communication with the cinematographer. They have to start working before everyone else, and sometimes the light changes over and over again. I learned how hard it is to be an executive producer, responsible for everything on the set. I have learned that the assistant director has more responsibility for the director and should be able to control everything when necessary. All this stressful set environment and long working hours made me think that "Is this the profession I really want to choose?" Then I realized that it made me happy, no matter how hard it was, and it was worth it. I really thought about even I didn't have my contribution to the film, I realized that if I did, it was really the job I wanted. I learned how to behave on the set and I think it will be very useful for me in the future. I couldn't use any information I learned at university because our education is generally based on theory except how to pack cables thanks to Özcan Abi. Although this internship improved my ability to cope with stress, I understood that it needed to be further improved. I've learned that I can meet all kinds of people and reactions. For instance, one of the guys from the lighting department was very rude. I should be prepared for such people, not let them affect me. I've learned how stress can affect people. I should improve my stress control and make sure that I don't mistreat others If was in charge. I wasn't in any department, the producer was like my boss. She told me how to behave and my duties. She was the one who controlled me and also helped me. The second director's assistant told me how to keep records of shots. The blur-focus guy was very helpful, he told me about the process of becoming a cameraman and a

lot of information. I would recommend this production company to anyone interested. They are people who care about their employees and do their job diligently. Anyone who wants to work in this field in the future should try the do set an internship in a feature film set. And they need to know if they're ready to work under these conditions.

Appendix



04.07.2019, "Zuhal"



10.07.2019 "Zuhal"



25. 06.2019 "Zuhal"



15.06.2019 "Zuhal"



20.06.2019 "Zuhal"