Recording Class Spring Project

Recording, is an art form. It is more than just setting up a mic and pressing record. Being an audio engineer or a producer takes good ears, intuition, high technological aptitude, as well as time and patience. What better way to learn than to get knee deep in a real project! This project will account for more than half of your grade this semester, so please take care in choosing a project as you will have to see it through till it's end. This has to be centered on audio recording, although it can venture into other types of media. Projects can be an EP (short album), Live Album or Performance, Television Commercial for a local company, Music Video, just to name a few ideas. Project ideas must be approved by Mr. M before you start. Listed below are you deadlines and guidelines of your project.

Assignment 1: Conception

You will write up a proposal to a potential investor/client. 3 page minimum. Using paragraph form and bullets (pictures if you wish) describe your proposed project. Give your vision, and ultimate goal of your proposal. It would well advised to do some research on your area, check out library books/youtube/etc. You need to become an expert in your field. If you are going to record a hip hop session, you need to describe which mic techniques work best for your artist. Find out who are the best producers and engineers today, and steal from them! Also, bring in an mp3 or link of a sound alike project you are aiming to emulate. If there are multiple group members list their role clearly, at any time if any member is not pulling their weight they will be cut and left to do a project solo.

At the bottom of the document type your name(s) and leave space to sign with your signatures. Remember this is a professional proposal, you are trying to get $30K-$40K from your investor.

PROPOSAL, MP3 OR LINK due 1/31/2013

Assignment 2: Pre-Production

Create separate documents of the following:

A) Personnel List (word doc): List who will be doing what. The artist(s), actor(s), studio player, engineer, editor, producer, camera operator, or whatever job that might be required.

B) Budget (excel doc): Create a budget for your project.

C) Schedule (word/excel doc): In the real world studios can cost $500-$1000 a day, you don't have time to "wing it". A definite schedule is needed in order to ensure that everything gets done in time. Pre production takes a number of hours, tracking can take 3-5 hours per song, mixing can take up to 8 hours per song, plus mastering will also take time.

D) Chart Writing (optional): Are you a songwriter about to do a session? Writing a Chart is necessary for a studio musician to follow along with the song. With the lyrics, chords, and form of the song clearly laid out there is less chance of errors and unneeded retakes.

E) Line List (excel): Make an excel file listing the instruments to be recorded, and the mic or device that the instrument will be running through. Also list whether the line will require a mic stand or not.

PERSONNEL LIST, BUDGET, SCHEDULE, CHART, LINE LIST due 2/28/2013

Assignment 3: Recording

Here there is no finite documentation required, just the nitty gritty!

Just like in real life, you will have to schedule studio time with Mr. M (studio owner) in order to use the studio for your project.

Now you will finally record live instruments, or program your beats, lay down vocals, and other instruments. Start with scratch tracks and build to create from here. After scratches are done, lay down overdubs and re-takes. Just remember to follow the game plan from your schedule as closely as possible.

After all songs are finished, create "rough-mixes" of all songs and burn them to a CD to turn in to Mr. M.

ROUGH MIXES due 4/26/2013

Assignment 4: Editing/Final Mixes

The songs are finally done and no additional recording is necessary at this point. Here all audio editing, eq'ing, compressing, and effects will be tweaked and solidified. It is very common to make multiple copies of the proposed final mixes to listen to at home or in the car to make sure that the levels are just right. You will be asked to import the "sound alike" song into the track, to try and copy the energy and mix of the inspiration.

FINAL MIX due 5/10/2013

Assignment 4A: Mastering/Finishing Touches

Here you will create the mastered product using mastering software on ProTools or Logic. Also If you want to be really creative you can create cover art for your project and make it look as good as it sounds!

FINAL PRODUCT 5/17/2013