



The Vanguard Youth Arts Collective Presents:

SPOT ON!

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Interview with Elliott Hale

Edited by Alexei Ungurenaşu

The Vanguard Youth Arts Collective are a group of creatively driven youth who act as a voice for an emerging generation of the arts within the Windsor Essex region.

'Spot On!' is Vanguard's new artist interview series edited by members Meaghan Sweeney and Alexei Ungurenaşu. These interviews offer a spotlight for emerging and established local artists who work in various media to discuss and promote their past and current art projects.



Photo of Elliott by Jesse Hebert, 2020

Elliott Hale is a filmmaker and has been doing film and video work for the past 8 years. He has a huge interest in storytelling as well as a great passion for cinematography. Creating films has always been a dream of Elliott's. Elliott attended the University of Windsor for Communications, Media, and Film. He was able to learn from and work with many talented Windsor filmmakers and helped bring to life a variety of short and feature length films. Since then, he has pivoted towards the creation of music videos for a variety of local Windsor musicians. Music has always inspired Elliott's work, and the collaboration with other artists has always brought out Elliott's strongest work. Elliott has the continued hope of Windsor filmmaking to grow into a larger industry of working professionals and hopes that it can become a core part of Windsor's art scene.

What equipment do you primarily use to film and edit your work?

My main camera for the past 5 years has been the Panasonic GH5 with sigma art lenses. I love being able to shoot handheld and create strong sharp images. This combination has allowed me to do so with ease. It is also quite affordable and I'm able to

use it for a majority of my projects. For my larger projects, I have been fortunate to rent some great cinema cameras such as a RED or an Arri Alexa Mini, which can add so much to creating cinematic images, but being able to hone in your craft without these types of cameras can really make you spend more time on the important things such as lighting, camera movement, production design, etc. I have done all of my editing using Adobe Premiere since I started filmmaking, and I do all of my color grading using DaVinci Resolve.



(Pictured: Jill Goyeau) Shots from the music video for “Delusional” by Talking Violet, 2021, shot and directed by Elliott Hale

How did you start filming professionally in Windsor?

The University of Windsor’s Communication, Media, and Film program acted as an incredible jumpstart into a filmmaking community. The amount of opportunity that had been available starting as early as my first year to be consistently on sets with different people in so many capacities was such a great way to gain experience and become comfortable on a film set. Professors like Michael Stasko, Tony Lau, and Min Bae allowed students to work alongside them on their own real life projects outside of school to gain a

greater understanding of not only the technical skills, but how we could produce our own films here in Windsor. The program itself has so much potential to be a hidden gem film school in Ontario, allowing people to get a university degree as well as learn independent filmmaking.

What are some differences in how you approach filming a music video vs. a short film? When working with another artist, what does the collaborative process look like?

Whether I'm creating a short film or filming a music video, the process from the beginning depends on being able to be as collaborative as possible. Usually the hope is to take an idea and deliver a final product that reflects that idea as strongly as possible. When creating a film, that idea usually comes from a screenplay, but when working with a band or musician, it's creating that idea together and hoping it reflects both the musician and the filmmakers. I've been incredibly lucky to work with some amazing musicians and bands, as I feel there comes a lot of trust in creating visuals that reflect their vision. I've also been so fortunate over this past year to work with a very strong, small team of filmmakers wherein we have been able to collaborate a lot with cinematography and keep our focus on creating potent, visual storytelling.



(Photo Credit: Nikko Ocampo, Pictured: Elliott Hale & Garrett Mckelvie) On set of the upcoming music video for "Brief Ends" by The Bishop Boys, 2021, shot and directed by Elliott Hale

Have you encountered any particularly difficult obstacles in your film journey? How did you overcome them?

One particularly tough part of wanting to do filmmaking is deciding where to work. Toronto is so close to Windsor and has an established film industry, while Windsor has a much smaller community of filmmakers. This has been a particularly tough decision

whether to stay in Windsor or have the potential of growing within an established industry. Currently I see so much potential in Windsor's film industry, as it can offer so much as a film community with so many students coming out of the University of Windsor as well as passionate video creators in this area. For now, I've been extremely lucky to work with a ton of passionate filmmakers and consistently create my own work, which I would have had much more competition with in a place like Toronto.



(Pictured: Jacob Mclean) Shots from the music video for "Hope you Realize" by Mellodraw, 2021, directed by Elliott Hale

How would you describe the general atmosphere on your film sets?

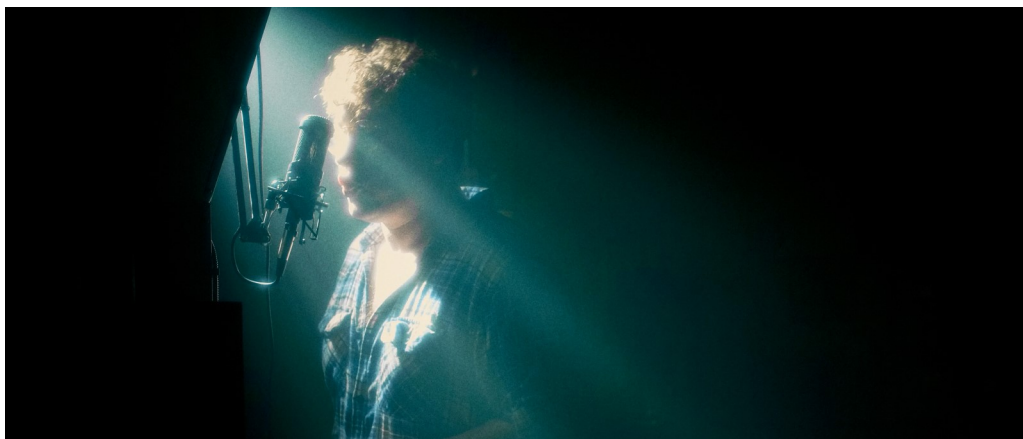
Collaboration is extremely important to me on a film set. The hope is to bring on the best possible person for each position and to create the best possible work. There is a ton of trust that goes along with that, but I've been very lucky to have found some extremely talented and trustworthy people that I would bring onto every project going forward. Filmmaking and video creation is extremely fun, and morale is generally high. Between the artists we are working with and our crew, things are very fast-paced, but we also try to remember to enjoy what we are doing.



(Photo Credit: Vy Nguyen, Pictured from left to right: Calum Hotchkiss, Elliott Hale, Angelo Lucier)
On set of the short film "Snow," 2018, directed by Elliott Hale

Are there any dream projects or specific goals that you would like to accomplish in the next 5 years?

Within the next 5 years, my hope is to create more narrative works — short films and hopefully feature films down the line. I would love to see Windsor's film community cultivated and fostered into something where every year there would 10-20 short films, 5-7 feature films, and everything else coming out and being created here in Windsor,



(Pictured: Nick Hildenbrand) From the short film "Dream, Dance, Dub," 2021,
shot and directed by Elliott Hale

allowing Windsor to consistently have technicians working and having filmmaking be an art form within the community. There's some amazing work being done all around Windsor in order to make this happen, and I very much hope to be a part of it.



(Photo Credit: Nikko Ocampo, Pictured from left to right, top to bottom: Drew Hyttenrauch, Elliott Hale, Garrett Mckelvie, Andrew Adoranti, Austin Di Pietro) On set of the upcoming music video for "Brief Ends" by The Bishop Boys, 2021, shot and directed by Elliott Hale

We thank Elliott for being our guest in the Spot On! interview series, and we are excited to continue seeing his contributions to Windsor's filmmaking community.

If you would like to keep up with Elliott's film and video work, you can find him on Instagram @ehfilmandvideo.

We hope you enjoyed this interview! If you did, follow the Vanguard Youth Arts Collective on Facebook and Instagram @vanguard.collective and stay tuned for our November interview!