

# Syd Mead

## Contact-

### Personal statement-

I would primarily describe myself as adaptable, self-motivated and focused, these traits along with a great passion for film allows me to work well in different environments and perform under pressure. Although taking part in a STEM degree at university I have a great passion for film making and have engrossed myself in a variety of film projects throughout my time in Manchester. This has given me experience in not only organising film projects but also getting behind the creative process such as cinematography and script writing. This means I can simultaneously work very effectively as part of a team or perform large tasks individually. I am currently the deputy head of drama for the university TV station, I've written and directed two short films as well acting as assistant director and cinematographer for numerous other shorts and I even had my own radio show called 'Fuse does Film' where I talked about a criticized film.



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## Education-

### Higher education-

University of Manchester  
BSc (Hons) Biotechnology (2020-2023)  
Average grade- 63%

### A Levels-

Marling sixth form (2018-2020)  
Biology- A  
Chemistry- B  
Geography- B  
EPQ- B

### GCSE's-

Marling grammar school (2013-2018)  
10 GCSE's including:  
Biology- 7      English Lit- 7  
Chemistry- 7      History- 7  
Physics- 7      Geography- 6  
Maths- 6      Food and nutrition- 7

**Work experience-** I worked as a waiter from August- November 2021 at a Turkish grill bar called Etcı Mehmet. The restaurant was usually extremely busy and understaffed so I learnt how to adapt and work well in an intense, high- pressure environment. This job required me to be observant, make quick decisions and perform multiple tasks at once, I resigned from the job due to the need to prioritise my university work.

## Film experience-

Although I'm taking part in a STEM course, film has been a great interest of mine which I have been pursuing throughout the years I've been at university. I started with joining the university TV station-FuseTV where one of my first jobs was recording a band at a live lounge. From there I took part in various other projects including shooting street interviews and working on cinematography for short films, I also helped to set up an interview with a band called 'THE HARA' which gained over ten thousand watchers during its first broadcast on the 'Scruff of the Neck' Twitch channel.

I was later given the position as deputy of drama for the station which involved helping to organise a short film called 'the florist' which is currently in post- production. As well as the working with the university TV station I also became extremely involved with the film making society which gave me the opportunity to get more involved with the creative process of creating films. I helped to make two short films through this society, the first one being 'Deus Ex Machina' where I was an assistant director and later in the year I directed a short comedy film I wrote called 'The Inspection'. Another short film I made got short listed for a BFI short horror competition. Furthermore, throughout the first term I also had a radio show with the university radio station called 'Fuse Does Film' where I talked about and reviewed films which gave me good experience in critically breaking down and understanding films.

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## Skills-

My experience working on films at the university has given me many useful skills, my role in creating 'The florist' as well as AD and director for two other films all helped develop my management and organisational skills when it comes to creating a set. This involved scouting for locations, sorting out props, organising auditions, selecting the cast, putting together the set and creating schedules for filming. These roles made me familiar with the practical aspects of setting up a scene however the film I directed allowed me to fully experience the creative process of creating film from creating the story, developing characters and increasing tension in the script to story boarding and deciding which shots and camera movements to use while shooting.

Creating these films and a lot of my own research has given me a decent understanding in how to operate cameras, this includes managing the basic setting such as aperture, white balance and ISO. I'm also familiar with the function and compatibility of various accessories that are often needed for cameras such as cages, mounts, monitors and external storage and power. Furthermore, I have a good knowledge on the different kinds of lenses and how focal length and aperture can determine the look of a shot and how they can be utilised to elicit a certain look or emotion within a scene. I am additionally in the process of teaching myself how to use premier pro which I used to edit my film and can use it to a competent degree although I am still in the process of learning to use it at a professional level.

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Although I've worked on low budget short films with students I have yet to work on a professional film set and would love nothing more than to gain experience working on one to get a feel for how they work. I believe my passion and experience in film would be a great help and would love the opportunity to take the next step within the film industry. If you would like to watch my short films please let me know and I will send it over.

