

I am very impressed by Alex's level of skill in the job he is performing. Film production is intensive and detailed work, to say the least, and those who succeed in such a field are characterized by focus to and care of minutia, as well as the ability to find amusement in repetition. More than anything, I am impressed that Alex is as successful as he is while having been almost entirely self-taught. Any artist must be self-motivated and driven, especially visual artists who do most of their work by themselves, and Alex's self-motivation to pursue the craft he is passionate about is inspiring to say the least. He's absolutely right to tell us that we have no excuse not to succeed; instructions are more than available for any art style thanks to the modern internet. Alex must have many skills to perform his work, particularly an ability to continually and instantaneously revise an artistic vision due to ever changing environments. He also needs to be able to hold a camera still. I think it's also something to note about film medium in particular that it's important to be an avid researcher, to be knowledgeable about the new technology being rapidly produced. Arts by their very nature require a wide range of skills (the Greek term for art, "techne," literally means skill), and so many of the skills required for cinematography are just as necessary for most other forms of art, just with a heavier emphasis on technological aptitude.

One theoretical idea addressed in this line of work is the concept of meaningful versus pragmatic art. As Alex continually said, he had to do a fair amount of hustling in order to pay the bills. Alex seemed to be doing an admirable job of balancing art he finds pleasure in and art which pays him well, even going so far as to resign from a high-paying, dependable job because he felt it was killing his passion. Not all artists are so lucky, however, and it's hard to resist the allure of a secure salary in order to pursue one's desires. So it's an artist's continual dilemma to understand when he must do work he considers meaningless for the sake of pragmatism and when he may trust that his passion will return his efforts with revenue.

I can see many of my interests and gifts aligning with this vocation. My passion is theatre, and film clearly aligns closely with my chosen vocation. I have also dabbled in cinematograph and film editing in the past as well, and I know that it's something I enjoy. I think I have a talent for acting, which, while not Alex's profession, is not absent from film. I have also grown up in a family that has watched movies avidly and thus I have been exposed to a wide variety of this art form. I am passionate about storytelling, and while I understand that all art has some aspect of storytelling (or perhaps that you can tell a story with any medium), I find film and theatre's relationship with every sense to be particularly riveting. I love seeing movies, I love creating movies, and I could find myself very well aligned with a career like this one day.

I don't necessarily hope to be successful in this particular field, but I think there are a few relatable things between cinematography and my chosen profession that I can work on before I graduate. As with art of any kind, having a base of networking connections is the most useful thing for someone on this career path. It's not what you know, it's who you know, and Alex was able to do the movie he's so proud of because he essentially helped out some college buddies. So I think I need to learn how to continually connect with people, how to ask favors, and how to put myself out there. Alex also talked a lot about having to hustle in his life, and I expect that's something I'm going to have to learn to do as well: how to live without assurance of a pay check and how to work multiple jobs and still be creating. I am also personally not very design-minded; I don't see the world in way an excellent artist/designer does. But I think that with

practice and training I could get to that point. I think the biggest tool to help me with that is practice. I need to do art every day and keep my artist's mind well-oiled.