ACDA Elective Film Critiques



Kiera's Reunion - Yarra Valley

- A fun mockumentary concept that parodies vlogging/internet culture
- There are lots of fun comedy ideas at play here things such as Kiera bossing the cameraman around and the random sports drink commercial create a fun, heightened comedic tone
- Good use of the interview format in the first half to overcome the limitations of filming during the pandemic
- The opening titles are quite fun with the use of real school photos, but seemed lower resolution than the rest of the film. This could be some sort of rendering issue.
- Some fun dialogue delivered with good comic timing "I'd be really fun to meet up with everyone again.... and monetise it" was a highlight
- The editing captures the vlogging style really well. I do have a couple of minor editing notes...
- There is the occasional flash of black in between cuts, which can be distracting for the audience. This usually means you have a small gap between your clips. When you finish editing, it's always good to watch through your film, make note of any unintentional flashes of black and fix these issues before doing your final export.
- There are a couple of moments where the audio levels fluctuate significantly. Keira's lines at 2:35 are significantly louder than the other lines. You have to be very careful with audio levels as sudden unexpected increases in volume be harmful to people's ears if they are listening with headphones.
- Quite a few shots in the big meetup scene at the park are out of focus, particularly the interviews with each character. It can be difficult to get the focus right on DSLR cameras. Here are some tips to help hone focusing skills:

- Set markers down to make sure your actors don't move too far away once you've set the focus.

- Have a second person check the viewfinder and give you a second opinion.

- Don't always rely on the camera's in-built autofocus. Many leading camera brand such as Lumix and Sony make great cameras with bad autofocusing abilities. Canon's autofocus tends to be the best, but once you've focused up your shot, you should switch to manual focus so that the camera doesn't start changing your settings in the middle of the shot.

- Some cameras also have a setting called 'focus peaking', where the camera will highlight the area of the frame that is in focus.

- There are no end credits or ACDA logo. You kind of get away without the credits themselves, as everyone is credited appropriately in the opening titles. The ACDA logo should feature somewhere though.