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KOMABA *times*

Image by Mudi Wang.

UNIVERSITY LIFE

The Good, the Bad, and PEAK: How I Discovered the Secret to University Life Through Movie Magic

By: Paul Namkoong

There wasn't a single moment when I didn't think about it.

Everything in my life had led up to this opportunity. I followed what I saw on TV and the news. I picked out the targets, staked them out, and planned out all of the enthralling details. It didn't come easy, to play god over whom I took and whom I spared. But I fell in love with the power it gifted me. I closed my eyes and envisioned what would slip out of their lips, the unnatural movements they would make under my gaze. Many will see, and many will learn.

Then I did it. It was even better than I expected. But the time I spent after, cutting and dicing so

that the originals became unrecognizable, was all the more appealing:

Spending 50 hours on creating a tiny, 3-minute advertisement for our fledgling PEAK program turned out to be one of the most life-changing experiences I've ever had.

Film is murder, and I am its (terrible) executioner.

I like shooting movies. I like watching them. I'll occasionally film pigeons in an empty parking lot and label it art. The moment that made me fall in love with creating movies, however, was very different from the experience I had shooting the PEAK promotion. That's not saying that I didn't

like filming it — in fact, I became even more attracted to movies because of how different the method of production was.

From the short experience I've had working on set, I remember getting hypnotized by the teamwork and organization of each individual contributor. I once saw them as nobodies, mere scrolling words upon scrolling words in an endless stream of movie credits. But when I saw the key grip coordinate with the cinematographer, who waved him off while stealing yogurt from the lactose-intolerant director's chair, who had to rush to the bathroom after an intern gave her yogurt (out of all the foods to give to a lactose-intolerant person), I couldn't help but fall in love.

The "magic of cinema", or any other term you want to assign it, came to me not on the screen, but from what lay just behind it. You never for a second consider or appreciate the hundreds of people who collaborate in unison to make the moving art that you consume; it's almost as beautiful as the finished product.

So when I was asked to make this promotion, I panicked. How could someone who likes movies for their invisible teamwork possibly make a likable movie with an invisible team? I had doubts about both the PEAK ad and PEAK itself. However, this process of drafting, interviewing, filming, and editing, as I'd learn, flipped my entire outlook on school and how to seize opportunities.

When I first started mapping out whom to shoot for the production, I thought I would lack content.

I planned to feature two students in our class and showcase their hobbies and dreams. The usual university promotion. I only kept the main club activities in mind when I looked over my list of friends to choose from. *Oh, she does tea ceremonies? Super traditional and flashy. He plays Amer-*

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Image by author.

