Jason Short

Godfather Scene Reflection

Compared to my other friends´ scene recreations, mine seemed incredibly easy. The other scenes took weeks to film and needed constant light adjustment along with other technicalities and a ridiculous amount of really difficult shots. I was originally going to film a fairly simple scene (Cameron freaking out in his car in Ferris Bueller´s Day Off) which fit the one minute format we needed for the recreation, however having to help film and having to be an actor in everyone else´s recreations as well caused my scene to be filmed last. Due to time concerns, Mr. Smith gave me a new scene to do from The Godfather that was very simple, fun, and perfect for the zero budget, no studio circumstances that our class is filming in. Two people (Vito and Michael) just sitting down talking with a minimal amount of shots and no difficult things to recreate. This scene took two days to completely finish (1 and a half days for filming, half a day for editing). I can´t deny that my classmates´ scenes were much “cooler” scenes than mine, but that is what made them takes weeks to film the scene, they chose scenes from movies that they personally liked instead of a scene that would be easy to recreate and fit the project format. I feel like that is why my scene seemed so easy to do after filming the others´ projects first. Not having a studio created a big problem for everyone´s scenes, however. I had the most trouble with getting the right sound on the set; filming at the school caused problems because other people are around everywhere making noise that can ruin the scene, but there isn’t much I can do about it because we didn’t have any other choice but to film there and the school has other priorities over being quiet on the borrowed set for a film class. Once we finally did find some peace and quiet on the set, filming went fairly smooth; my actors were two very funny guys and there are quite a few outtakes of moments when they made each other laugh. A classic re-occurring event in everything our class has filmed is someone we like to call the sweeper man. There are several workers at the school that keep things clean and what not, but one specific guy always seems to be around, sweeping the ground whenever we need to shoot something, and every time we review the shots after we film them, the exact same scraping noise of the sweeper man´s broom can be heard in the background of the shots. This happened several times while I was trying to film my Godfather scene, and even though it was hindering and annoying, it became pretty comical that every time we were half way through filming a shot, the guy would start sweeping again and ruin the sound and the shot AGAIN. There were also people other than the sweeper man making the filming of my scene difficult, two teachers ran into each other in the hallway right next to the set, and just started chatting loudly for about ten minutes, halting filming our scene completely until they were done. With finding a quiet set being the biggest problem when it came to my filming, I am confident in saying it went much better than I thought it would, and that it was great fun.