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Senior Project

Fest Possessed

Many are approached with the idea of growing older, and older, and older. What do we do in the meantime? How do we handle the ideas of life, age, and time? Someone dear to me asked me what I wanted to accomplish with my youth. Many things came to mind: education, a good job, a foot in the door of the grown up world. But when I actually thought about it, I found that I really didn’t know what my own desires were. So what now? I hated myself for not having a plan; I had always had a plan. Or maybe, until this second, my life has been planned for me.

Obviously, education is a wonderful thing and I would not be complete without my college experience. I feel like it’s a piece to my personal puzzle. But something else was missing too. My journey, FestPossessed 2012, was my attempt to find my missing piece. What I found is exactly what I want to do with my youth; I need to know and experience as much of the world as I can. Last year was just the beginning.

Timeline: 2012

June 4th: Tampa to Atlanta

June 5th: Atlanta to Manchester, Tennessee (Bonnaroo Music Festival)

June 13th: 2013: Manchester to Smokey Mountains

June 14th: Cherokee NC

June 15th: Cherokee to Washington DC

June 19th: Washington DC to Fredrick, Maryland

June 20th: Maryland to NYC

June 24th: NYC to Woodstock to Niagara Falls

June 25th: Niagara Falls to Rothbury, MI (Electric Forest Music Festival)

June 30th/31st: Electric Forest to Milwaukee WI (Summerfest Music Festival)

July 9th: Milwaukee to Minnesota

July 10th: Minnesota to Chicago (Taste of Chicago)

July 14th, Chicago to Louisville, KY (Forecastle Festival)

July 15th, Forecastle to Mammoth Cave, KY

July 16th, Mammoth cave to Smokey Mountains

July 17th, Smokey Mountains to Home

The trip was incredible; I jumped off bridges, slept in my car, saw the Lincoln memorial and the Statue of Liberty. I also learned (with my wallet) about driving too fast in Wisconsin and parking correctly in New York City. The festivals were my initial motivation. However, after living in my car for two months, I found that life experience is worth more than a fancy job making money that I can never spend. A job is out there for me somewhere. I just hope it has something to do with travel and music.

With my acquired digital media experience, it was natural for me to document and promote my experiences. My live blog feed has been fused with an entire website promoting another trip and offering help to those who want to do the same. I created social media pages like Facebook and Google Plus to promote FestPossessed.com. I have also gone through the footage and edited videos outlining the trip in its entirety. For these videos I teamed up with local artist, John Gold, who provided the music. He promised to promote FestPossessed on his website if I promote his music on my website.

I also used advanced jquery and CSS for the website. The interactive photomap has exact locations for each photograph taken using Google API Latitude and Longitude. For this page I had to organize photos into folders and thumb folders that associated with their location. The Map index page is actually contained in the regular map.html page.

For the videos I made an agreement with John Gold (FL) to use his music in the background. He is willing to promote my website as long as I use and credit his music in my videos. Multiple smaller videos are also uploaded on the YouTube site which is linked to on every page on my website. The Tumblr live feed is also rooted directly to my website.

My social media efforts have already begun to pay off. The main Bonnaroo Community page has reposted one of my videos. This attention should bring awareness to the rest of the page.

Overall, the creation of this site has made me realize how in depth a company or a website can be. I have pretty basic coding on my website and it took me months to complete. The effort, however, was worth it. The excitement of finding new places and being able to effectively share it with online communities is addicting. When I see someone new “like” my FestPossessed Facebook page, I appreciate that they took the time to look at the project. I cannot wait to expand this project into a second year and a second successful trip. This time we will go all the way to the West coast.

Thank you for reading and listening. It has been an honor and a privilege to be educated at The University of Tampa.

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