

Mazmu Islam

Mr. Speice

Independent Study & Mentorship

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Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: Bradley Prakope

Profession/Title: Mixing Engineer / Producer

Business/Company name: Universal Audio, Promixengineer.com, B Side Audio

Date of Interview: November 14, 2017

Throughout the interview process, I strived to interview professionals from different aspects of the music process. The topic of Music Composition and Production has a duality that allows me to explore the writing of the music as well as creating what is written into something tangible. My first interview was with someone who could provide insight into music theory and the compositional side to music, while my second interview gave me a new point of view of music production from the standpoint of a music producer who helps an artist develop their sound through their song. My interview with Bradley Prakope gave me a perspective still leaning more on music production, but rather the end product of the music production in which one finetunes what has been recorded. As a mixing engineer, Bradley Prakope takes all the layers that have been recorded and lays them down to one file, making sure there is a perfect balance with all the sounds. Being able to provide me with a more technical side of the music production process, I was eager to learn more about him and his passions for music.

Bradley Prakope said how he really developed his interest to music through the skateboarding culture and the music that went along with it. As a young teen, he put his interest to practice through creating electronic dance music of his own. What I found really interesting was how he had a mentor growing from which he was able to learn a lot about mixing from. You could say he was almost in the same position as me when he was at my age. A point of advice he had given was that you only get better when learning from someone who is better than you at it. I can see this theory come in fruition especially at school and back to the time I first began playing an instrument. By shadowing an expert in the given field you are interested in, you are able to get much more of a deeper understanding, especially in a complex topic of music production.

To be successful in creating music, you must be very humble and open to criticism. As a rookie, you must set your ego aside and be open to learn how to improve your sounds. This was a piece of information that Bradley Prakope told me, and it made me do a self-reflection on myself and the parts of me that may be egotistical. Truthfully, I always inwardly have felt somewhat superior when it comes to singing and comparing myself to my peers. However, this mindset hinders you from growing and keeps you from exploring your true potential. Also, sometimes, a knack for music can be something that is innate. As an example, Bradley Prakope told me about a time he worked with a talent named Scott Hoying. What was truly surprising that it is the same Scott Hoying from Pentatonix! Bradley Prakope showed me how although Scott Hoying's knack with harmonic patterns and composing were better than the average, he was humble and open to criticism. Seeing the success of Pentatonix, it truly demonstrates the achievement one reaches coming from humble beginnings.

Speaking about my own fears pursuing music with Bradley Prakope allowed me to feel a little bit more comfortable with the whole idea of perhaps not being the star of my own musical journey, but still being able to be a part of the process even when my career is completely different. I was able to see again the true dedication that goes into creating this craft, and I hope to soon be able to imbue emotions from my audience through my own music by creating a perfect balance with the layers of the song.