Thomas McCarthy

Ms. Charla Hughes

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The Power of Movies to Shape Life

For the past one hundred years movies have shaped our way of life. Whether it’s taking someone to the movies on a first date or meeting with other friends, the movie theater serves as a wonderful place of enjoyment that would not be possible without one thing, movies. It immerses us, the viewers, into a world that is imaginary or real where anything is possible. All throughout my life I’ve grown up with movies and I’ve had a strong attraction to them ever since I can remember. Some of my earliest memories as a small kid are watching the *Star Wars* series. Movies has completely changed my life in a sense that it has opened my eyes to what this world has to offer me, and what I can give back to the world that I live in. My passion for movies can be traced through three critical movies that came out in a very serious time that affected who I am today*??* Movies have changed my life beginning with the movie *Spirit*,which was the very first movie that brought me into the magical world of movies, followed by *Transformers* which opened my eyes to the vast possibilities of a career in filmmaking and ultimately leading up to the moment after I saw *Avatar* where I completely positive that I wanted to enter the Hollywood business and make movies for the rest of my life.

One of my earliest memories of attending the movie theater is going as a family to watch *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*. After I walked out of the theater I was completely mesmerized by the movie and all I wanted to do was watch it again and again. All I could think of for the next couple days was *Spirit* and how much fun I had. After watching the movie my imagination began to soar into new heights that I never thought were possible. As a small kid my social circle wasn’t what is now and so I used my free time to day dream about farfetched fantasy lands filled with fire-breathing dragons and magical elves. My rapid expansion of imagination would not have had been possible had I not watched *Spirit*. However, one aspect of the movie that inspired my imagination to reach new heights was the beautiful score that was that was written by Bryan Adams and Hans Zimmer.

From the very beginning to the entirety of the film, the score brings you into the beautiful landscape of the Wild West. Part of the reason why I fell in love with *Spirit* was based on the fact that the music was so on point throughout the entire movie. The music helped catapult the movie into new unfound heights by adding emotional depth, whether it was sorrow or happiness, that could not have had been reached if the music wasn’t in place. After watching the movie I realized something that would forever change the way I watched movies; a movie cannot capture the heart of the audience without music. Music adds an aspect to the movie that cannot be replaced. To this day if I’m ever in the imaginative mood I plug in my headphones, listen to *Spirit’s* score, and enter a whole new world.

*Spirit* was the very first movie in my lifetime that I was deeply attached too. As soon as I got the movie on DVD I watched it every day for the next three days and would continue to watch it regularly for the next couple weeks. This marked a pivotal moment in my life because it was the first time that without knowing it I began to start a passion for movies that would last a lifetime. Soon after *Spirit* came into my life I was very fortunate that my family ordered Netflix. Netflix gave me an abundance of opportunity and gave me the ability to have any movie I wanted in my fingertips. I quickly began to watch at least one movie a week and sometimes if time allowed I would watch up to three movies in one weekend. *Spirit* introduced me into a universe that I never knew existed. Although, it wasn’t the first movie that I ever watched, it was the first movie to introduce me to the endless possibilities that can be achieved within one single movie. After my list of movies that I’ve watched piled up very fast I realized that not only did I enter the world of *Spirit* but also I began to enter an unknown territory that was the movie world, and the catalyst to this can be traced all the way back to the first time I watched the movie *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*.

*Spirit* introduced me to vast world of movies and I quickly began to watch a ton of movies, but it was as if I was watching senseless movies. I just watched movies because I enjoyed watching movies but there wasn’t an emotional tie to a movie that was even close to what I felt when I watched *Spirit*. There just wasn’t a connection or a strong bond between me and movies. It’s as if movies was my friend, but nothing more, they weren’t my best friend whom I know everything about or share secrets with, movies were just like a friend that I enjoyed talking to but nothing more. In 2007 when the movie *Transformers* was released everything changed. Something as simple as an action movie, yet *Transformers* carried so much power and influence in it that would forever change who I am and now a new found love grew in my heart.

Although most people’s memories fade I still remember the exact moment I first saw the trailer for the new up and coming movie, *Transformers*. I was with my father in the movie theater and we were going to see Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. Unfortunately, a year later when *Transformers* came out for various reasons I never had the opportunity to watch it in theaters. It took me a long time to finally be able to watch it since I had to wait for it to be released to DVD. My memory is still clear in my mind when I first put in the movie and saw the title *Transformers* appear on screen. Halfway through the movie I knew that this wasn’t the typical movie that I just watch, enjoy it, and then leave it; no this movie heightened my passion for movies in a way I never thought was possible. Once again the music was orchestrated so beautifully to tie in with the movie that I clearly remember adrenaline rushing through my veins while I was watching and listening to everything that was unfolding right in front of me. I honestly couldn’t believe what I was watching; I was at the edge of my seat completely engulfed in this imaginative universe where transforming robots are fighting to save the human population. As soon as the credits rolled by I was completely amazed by the movie and I continued to watch it every day for the next three days. A love for my first movie franchise was born.

*Transformers* was the very first movie that really introduced me to the business of making movies. I became a fan of the franchise and my whole world started to become *Transformers*. I talked about it endlessly with friends, my backgrounds turned to *Transformers*, even my screen saver, my whole world was *Transformers*. I quickly began doing research about cinema and I read reports that kept me up to date on news or rumors regarding the sequel to *Transformers*. Additionally, I began to do research on the director who was Michael Bay because I was interested in what he had to say about his plans on the sequel. This all occurred close to the end of 8th Grade and at the time many people began to ask me what I wanted to be when I grow up. In all honesty, no school subject interested me; I was terrible at math, science was not for me, I hated the books I read in English class (although I do enjoy reading books just not the ones assigned from school), and I just felt that there was no profession out there for me. For some reason, filmmaking completely escaped my mind until one day when I was watching *Transformers*, for about the fifteenth time, I began to think of different methods/action sequences/shots that I would’ve done if I was the director and then it instantly hit me; I knew what I wanted to be, a film director.