

“How I plan to integrate my love of music into my professional career.”

By: Jordan Brown

At the of age of twenty-three, I have worked numerous jobs, from being the assistant of a California legislator, to making deli sandwiches, being an after school counselor, painting curbs, helping maintain a community garden, loading trucks for FedEx, building fences, cooking pizzas, working at a farmer’s markets, and being a lifeguard. During my employment at each these jobs, music has always found its way into the workplace. When working for the California legislator, I got in trouble for utilizing their high-speed T1 Internet by downloading rare jazz and funk albums. At some restaurants, I convinced my managers to change the boring Top 40 they played and let me select the music played during dinner and lunch. Being heavily involved in all types of music during this time by performing, collecting, or debating, I figured why don’t I make music a career rather than just integrating it within a job?

I had been attending Sacramento State University since 2004 and had been going through the motions as far as classes went. I knew I wanted to do something involving music, but I didn’t know of the many routes that the music industry had to offer. Sac State only had introduction to audio recording class, which was simple and not geared towards audio engineering, but rather video production. The only reason that I looked forward to school was my weekly radio show on KSSU 1580 AM Sac State’s Student Ran Radio Station-where I played anything from Cameo and MF DOOM to Bobby Hutcherson and Parliament. This radio station was my only way of keeping my love for music alive. But being a DJ for Sac State for the next three years wasn’t helping me graduate or become what I truly wanted to be. During the last

year of attending Sac State I discovered how to integrate my passion for music within my career. Through an ex-girlfriend, I was introduced to a guy that was a live sound engineer for major musicians like A Tribe Called Quest and Primus. Once he told me he recorded and mixed live music, traveled to different places around the world and got paid for it I immediately knew what career I wanted to pursue.

Ever since that moment my primary goal was to be involved with anything and everything pertaining to my love for music and the audio-recording field. The first step was to become educated in the subject. I thought I knew all about music and the general principles, but I had no idea I would be learning once I started attending SFSU's BECA program in Spring 08. Knowing that this career field is competitive, I immediately landed an internship with Energy 92.7 FM during my first semester in order to keep myself constantly involved in the field and around music. Through this internship I have gained knowledge that couldn't be taught in BECA 505. When learning about in-depth audio recording techniques, I feel I have chosen the right school. So far, I have studied what type of expertise is needed for a well-recorded album. Understanding this process has made my love for music even stronger by incorporating what I have learned and applying it to my daily musical events. In addition to the learning aspect, my love for music has attracted others who share the same enthusiasm I have and made it much more possible for my career goals to come to fruition.

Being a transfer student from Sacramento, I had no friends in San Francisco, which forced me to join groups like the College Student Broadcasting(CSB) and the Audio Engineering Society(AES). Within CSB and AES, I found peers who had

similar interests, tastes, and goals as myself. At SFSU I learned where I wanted to be through classes like Audio Production II and Sound for Video, but now I found those who I also wanted to be surrounded by. Having simple conversations about music with peers from class sometimes ended up in us making music together. Once being interactive with DJs, audio and video producers, promoters, and musicians from school, I knew I would be able to succeed when surrounded by those who also incorporate their love for music with their desired career path.

When walking through the Creative Arts building at SFSU I feel as if I'm in a miniature media world that produces and promotes plays, music, and films similar to New York City or Hollywood, but all in one place. Like everyone else in the Creative Arts building, I feel I have a place in this media world other than an observer. Now that I'm a participant and applying my love for music, I will become successful in the audio recording field.

