



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506

Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations

Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

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El Camino College Students Complete Film Production Internship with Disney Studios

Two El Camino College students recently wrapped up internships on a major Walt Disney Studios film production – an adaptation of the classic children’s novel “A Wrinkle in Time.”

Megan Pierce and Chris Lee, both film students at El Camino College, snagged spots in the production’s camera and prop departments, respectively. Lee and Pierce met with the director of the film after an initial interview process, and spent several weeks of the fall semester working on the production. ECC assistant film professor Laura Almo said more than 20 students from El Camino College applied for the internships.

The film, based on the 1962 novel by Madeleine L’Engle, is scheduled for release in 2018. The story follows a young girl named Meg who, with her brother and friend, sets out on a fantastical quest to find her missing scientist father.

Lee, a 2014 graduate of West High School in Torrance, said working on the large Disney production was an extraordinary learning opportunity. He assisted the camera department, a position he hadn’t considered before he was offered the position.

“I thought it would be pretty cool to get an inside look at the more technical aspects of a professional film production,” Lee said. “To get to participate in this project is awesome, I feel really grateful and blessed.”

Lee said he got into film “indirectly” by making videos of his friends skateboarding, editing clips together and adding music. In high school, he bonded over movies with friends and watched classic, independent, and foreign films.

“I love the process of it, just capturing life and presenting it in a cool way through editing and music,” Lee said. “It’s a great tool for empathy, using film to tell an emotionally captivating story.”

Pierce, who plans to transfer to California State University, Long Beach, worked with the props department putting props together, fixing broken props, and helping with the design and manufacture of props the film director requested. She said the experience sparked an interest in her for some of the more “nitty gritty” work that goes into a film production, she said.

Pierce, a 2014 Redondo Union High School graduate, said the Disney production was eye opening.

“It was amazing,” Pierce said. “All of the sets were gorgeous, and everyone was so nice and great to work with.”

The internships were part of the California Film Commission’s Career Readiness Program, which targets community college students.

The El Camino College Film/Video Department offers students education and training in traditional and digital filmmaking and related courses in cinema history and aesthetics. Students can earn an associate degree in film/video and will be able to write, shoot, and edit short films or videos and demonstrate basic skills necessary for operating various film, video, and digital production equipment.

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Photo available online:

Chris Lee and Megan Pierce

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2017/ChrisLeeMeganPierce.jpg>