

USC PERSONAL STATEMENT

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According to Robert Mckee, a good script must include a selection of events from the characters' life stories that is composed to express a specific view of life. A good personal statement is like a good script: I will focus on my character and demonstrate through just a few scenes why I would thrive in USC's film production graduate study.

The first scene opens on Mainland China, where I was born. As I spent my early life in China and Hong Kong, I well understand the culture. I moved to Toronto, Canada at the age of 15, so I have also developed a deep understanding of North American culture. China has overtaken Japan to become the world's second-largest box office territory. Chinese audiences have a voracious appetite for both domestic and foreign movies. These are favorable conditions for filmmakers who have an international background, like me. I have knowledge that will help me succeed in the future motion picture industry, which is globally connected. China's rigorous political system has deliberately kept many stories untold, stories that would resonate around the world among diverse audiences. Now that I have the proper resources and abilities, I will fight hard to tell these stories through my own personal lens. My diverse cultural background and living experience has given me a unique voice necessary to tell a career's worth of amazing stories. Most of the films I have produced show cultural diversity in cast and theme, much like the script of my own life. I put theories learned in class to use by directing, producing, filming, and editing five short films that were accepted into various festivals around the world. My experimental short, *The Gaze*, got accepted into Cannes Film Festival, Main Competition Category of DC Chinese Film Festival, Kingston Canadian Film Festival, and Beijing Independent Film Festival. The most satisfying moment of the festivals was seeing the audience focus on each frame of my film. The incredible feeling of answering their questions afterward is an addiction. I can only work more diligently on my future films to feed this.

My internship at JiangSu Broadcasting Corporation (JSBC) in China further demonstrates my dedication to diversity and a wide range of cultural knowledge. I worked as an assistant director at the number two nationally ranked television show "Fei Chang Liao De." I participated in the show's whole creation from brainstorming concepts to helping with rehearsals and actual shoots to writing show analysis. I've gained in-depth knowledge how Asian television operates and have interacted with well-known television industry figures and established great network.

Media studies courses have inspired me to get involved in new media innovation. I have teamed up with fellow students to create the startup Opprox, which received the Ontario Centres of Excellence Smart Start Fund. Opprox is a mobile platform that provides businesses ways to gain instant access to customers in their proximity. As creative director, my responsibilities have included designing the look of the app,

our business cards, and our social media presence. I have created campaign and demo videos for Opprox, utilizing my film production skills from a business angle. We will launch the app in November. Opprox has helped me become more versatile and collaborative as well as a better designer. I have a new understanding about pitching ideas and getting funding, essential skills for a filmmaker. I've gotten used to pitching my ideas to different people and getting turned down. This will only serve the passionate fire for film in my heart, training me for a tenacity of spirit needed to survive the film industry.

Like any good dramatic character, I have faced many challenges in my life besides failed pitches. Moving to Canada at the age of 15, I had to learn English and adapt to a new culture and lifestyle quickly. I am now a permanent resident in Canada and have maintained a place on the Dean's Honour list with a high GPA standing. I consider this a particularly high achievement as the Film and Media program at Queen's University is a highly respected program with a forty year history. As a foreign filmmaker, my ideas will be able to reach diverse audiences, but as a female producer in a male dominated field, I will have to fight to get my ideas heard. In addition to producing films with a diverse cast, I also try to write female protagonists and deliver a strong female voice. In America, only one woman has ever received an Oscar for Best Director, which some might see as disheartening or intimidating. I see it as a challenge to apply my passions.

The schooling I have already completed has given me a strong foundation which I hope to build upon with direction and support from USC. I've read many USC alumni blogs, and discovered that USC is the perfect platform for aspiring filmmakers to grow and mature. I have learned a lot about film theory in my undergraduate career. Now, I'm looking forward to gaining more hands-on experience. USC's program truly inspires me because students get their hands wet in everything from pitching scripts and greenlighting them to sound mixing and dubbing. This experience is exactly what I'm looking for in a MFA program. I'd also love to learn how filmmaking works in the actual industry with rules and standards. I believe that USC can help me gain a better understanding of permits, release forms, budgets, and union rules as a microcosm of a big studio.

I could spend my time loafing around, afraid to face new challenges and obstacles. I could avoid a new fast-paced and quickly changing environment like USC. But I have already faced and overcome so much, I see no point in sitting back and letting life happen to me. What will the next act of my script look like? Hopefully, a spot at USC, working hard to fulfill the character description I have already set up for myself—filmmaker.