

**INTERVIEW WITH JAMES TRALIE '19, WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF "VIRTUAL",
CO-WINNER OF THE UCHV SHORT MOVIE PRIZE 2017**



UCHV: Where are you from, and what is your major?

JT: I am from Fort Washington, Pennsylvania and am majoring in Geosciences with certificates in Environmental Studies, Planets & Life, French, and Film Production.

UCHV: When did you start making movies and how did you come to make "Virtual"?

JT: I started making movies with a cheap "Flip" video camera back in 4th grade. It was not until the end of middle school that I began submitting some of my short films to film festivals. My first official selection was for the Pennsylvania State Computer Fair. Since then, my films have gone on to screen and receive awards at festivals such as the Los Angeles Film Festival, Santa Monica International Teen Film Festival, San Francisco Green Film Festival, White House Student Film Festival, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, Canberra Short Film Festival, Sanford International Film Festival, Green Film Festival in Seoul, the Tassie Eco Film Festival, among others. With my films, I seek to combine science with the arts to educate and inspire creative thought and discussion. The film "Virtual" was made as part of my French course (FRE 393: New Media 1400-1900). The idea for the film came about through research I did for my final paper on the medium of computer programming as a means of language and as an art form. I sought to show what it would be like to have a "human" essence trapped within a purely digital world (something our society is heading more and more towards).

UCHV: What was your budget?

JT: I have been using the same DSLR camera since my freshman year of high school. In addition, I was lucky enough to borrow some audio equipment to use for the movie.

UCHV: Could you briefly describe the process you went through/difficulties you had in making "Virtual"?

JT: This film was due as an assignment for Dean's Date; however, I really wanted to put my best work into it and make it a piece that could potentially be submitted to festivals and for the UCHV Short Movie Prize. It was difficult to work through the schedules of my actors/actress during the very busy week of reading period. I only had one day to film the movie and two days to edit. For a solid three days, I worked through pre-production (finalizing the script and filming locations), filming, color-correction, editing, and post-production. I want to thank my actors, Benjamin Jacobson, Mark Tamakloe, and Ryan Gizzie, and my actress, Susanna Belt for their incredible assistance during the tight shooting schedule for "Virtual".

UCHV: Any final thoughts?

JT: I want to thank the UCHV Short Movie Prize committee for selecting this film as a co-winner. I also want to once again thank my crew for assisting me on production for this film. Lastly, I want to thank Professor Katie Chenoweth, who taught FRE 393 this past semester. Thank you for viewing my film! If you want to see more of my work, please visit my online portfolio at www.jamestralie.com.