

Elstree Film Festival

It was Monday the 25th of October, I woke up early in the thought of a great day ahead. I got ready as fast as I could because I knew both my best friends were coming. At 9:30, we left from our house, Elstree, here we come. As we passed the great film city, I was amazed that such a world known studio was here, just by our doorstep. I went In with Panos and Sam and we looked forward for our film-making adventure ahead.

After signing in and getting our temperature checked, we found our way to the cinema room where we sat down and waited from 10:00 to 10:45 because many others hadn't arrived. When finally the capacity of the room got fuller, Kai (a worker from Elstree) started to show us the films of others who had been here. We recognised a few from Ladbrooke. Next, he showed us the structure of a story:

The beginning

The climax

The problem

The end.

We found out who were in our groups. The groups were arranged with age. In my group there was me, obviously, Panos, Sam and 2 girls from Shenley: Isobel and Niti. There were meant to be 8 people in our group but 3 didn't show up, and this made us get a much organised plan. We had a break where we talked about our film. Building up on my idea of a boarding school, we got a very gruesome story. We decided who will play what role and how. Then we had to show the structure of our story. After that, Kai gave us a tour of the studio so we could decide where we wanted to shoot different scenes. Now us and the girls knew each other more, we interacted more at lunch. The next step was to write our script. We knew our screen names and finalised our script and prop list we had time just to chat.

I woke up in ecstasy on the 28th of October and dashed down stairs. Today we were filming! Again we left from our drive early so we had more time to film. Our group was lucky we had the director/editor, Adam Spinks to help us. He was a humorous man and made our experience even more interesting than it already was. We learned that we didn't have to film in chronological order. For example, we filmed our 2nd scene first, and 4th scene second because they were both needed to be filmed on mostly the ground floor. We were joking around whilst making the movie, it wasn't that strict a schedule. Everybody had a go at everything including: holding the boom; checking the sound with special headphones; moving the camera and of course, acting. Adam gave us many breaks where we played and had fun with each other. It felt like a long morning because we had already done 4 out of 6 scenes. At lunch we were even more open to each other but of course, I talked more to Sam and Panos. We were laughing all the time, there was never a dull moment. Many retakes were taken because in some scenes we couldn't help but laugh!

It was an unforgettable experience and now I've found out they have a summer camp we have decided that we will probably go!