Laura Lujan and Annmarie Mullen

Documentary Film Treatment

Title: Susquehanna Stories: Legacies of the Utopias

Format: 20 minute Documentary Film

Audience:

Format:

Lighting:

Text:

Objective of Film: To show the rich historical heritage and the natural beauty of the Susquehanna Valley landscape by introducing a particular point in history that led Priestley and French aristocrats to envision and attempt to create utopian societies in this region.Ultimately,the film should not only provide a historical portrait of this region, but also draw connections to the legacies left by this period in history. Perhaps this film could have some sort of environmentalism tone by contrasting (or comparing) these visions with current fracking endeavors,  or a meditation on the importance of conserving our natural spaces.

\*We really liked Michelle’s, so this is stolen :)

Style: Artsy feel, evoking the sense of natural beauty that pervades the area and the time. Video would have to involve a lot of natural landscapes of the area, calm and slow movements while filming B-roll.

Interviews with experts on Priestley and Azilum, as well as locals. All generations? Kids, adults, elderly?

Synopsis:

Main Characters:

Story Structure:

Priestley or Coleridge poem opening?Local kid’s poems? See if any kids in the area have or would be willing to write any poetry on the river and have them read it over the landscape B-roll.

Introduce Topic! Talk about how in the late 18th century and early 19th century famous writers composed poetry and writing in attempt to draw people in. Then two utopian societies were set up along the susquehanna.

How these societies were set up? Talk about Indiana Removal. ( Would love a scene of indian culture here though, some sort of dance around a fire or indian style music) [We need to determine how much of this information we want in the documentary. if we want a substantial amount we will need to interview an expert.] Then  talk about How Priestly came to the americas and about the  French Revolution Refugees.

The different utopian philosophies that set up those communities.

Priestley (Interview with Tom) We can talk about Priestley’s background a little.

What was the philosophy behind his idea of a utopian society

Interview someone from French Azilum and french nobility.