Film Planning

SYNOPSIS: A student imagines being invited to a concert with friends after overhearing a conversation.

STORY OUTLINE:

The film starts with a lonely student named Mark walking up the stairs on his way to sit down. While he's walking, Mark replays an overheard conversation in his mind. The conversation is from an earlier class, where 2 girls talk about going to a concert as well as who else is coming. As the conversation ends, Mark sits down and flips through a magazine to distract himself, but ultimately fails. His hand moves to his phone and he stares at it willing it to ring. We then switch to an imaginary phone call, where Mark hears the phone ring and picks it up. One of the girls from the class invites him to the concert and they figure out the details of going. The girl sounds excited that Mark’s coming and really wants him to be there. We then switch back to reality, where Mark is still staring at his silent phone. He then goes back to his magazine by himself.

STORY TREATMENT:

Visually, the reality will have a colder look than the imaginary shots. Warmer tones for the imaginary will add to the more positive space. The film will start and end with fade in and outs, but the end will have a longer fade. When Mark is by himself flipping through the magazine it will be a wider shot, making him smaller in frame and showing he feels isolated and alone. During the phone call it will be a closer shot, making him bigger in frame and also making the phone more important too.

In terms of sound, the reality and imaginary spaces will have different tones to help distinguish the two. Reality will have minimal ambience and simple foley for his footsteps, the bag, and the magazine. Reverb will match the room, but will also make him feel smaller in the space as well, which adds to the isolation feeling. The overheard conversation will sound like it's in a classroom because that's where it was overheard, so it will have less reverb. This will also help the audience know the conversation is in his head, rather than in the building. The two girls will be panned away from each other and I might even make the pan change when the girls exit in the other direction of the hallway.

In the imaginary space, there will be "enter" and "exit" sounds to help show when we are leaving one space and entering another. It will be a vacuum sucking in and out type sound, but with some reverb to give it a little softer feeling. The "enter" will have some of the phone ring in it too, which will create a good audio transition. The "exit" will have more reverb, showing the longing for him to want the phone call but it slipping away from him. The phone ring itself will be a sweet, happy tone, probably with a vibraphone. It will have a little less reverb overall, but subtle enough to not be super noticeable. The girl on the phone will be very dry, but treated to sound through a phone. The girl will also be panned a little to the right.

After the imaginary phone call, some solemn music will play in the background to add to his loneliness. This same music might introduce the film as he is walking, but won't be as sad or present as the ending music.

SCRIPT:

While Mark is walking, he replays the conversation he overheard.

GIRL 1

Hey did you get the tickets yet?

GIRL 2

Yeah, I got them yesterday.

GIRL 1

Sweet! I’m so excited!

GIRL 2

Me too! Oh, except Alex told me he can’t go anymore, so now we have an extra ticket.

GIRL 1

Oh, that sucks, we'll have to find someone to give it to.

GIRL 2

Yeah, it’ll be fun though. Everyone else can still make it and I found this really nice restaurant, which has the *best* tacos…

GIRL 2’s voice trails off as Mark stops replaying the conversation in his head.

Later, during the imaginary phone call.

MARK

Hello?

GIRL 1

(over phone)

Hey Mark! Are you still in the building?

MARK

Yeah.

Girl 1

A bunch of us were going downtown to see a concert tonight. Do you want to come?

MARK

What time is that happening at?

GIRL 1

mmmm 8 o'clock? But we were going to grab dinner before.

MARK

Ok, when do you need me to be there?

GIRL 1

Why don’t you meet us at the library at 6, we can all drive down together.

MARK

Ok, I’ll see you then.