Creative influences

In any field of work there is always something or someone who inspires you to choose that path. My path is the media industry and I can't say it was only one thing that inspired me. A number of great films and directors created my appreciation for the film and television industry, which eventually led me to my interest and involvement towards media. I always had an interest in film but Ridley Scott's gladiator stands out in my mind more than anything else. It immediately grabbed my attention. There are many films I could list that are great but this film was the first I watched that had such a captivating intensity. Many other things participated in the film to create the outcome but the things that stood out to me were the performance by Russell Crowe along with the score and direction, which created an incredible film. These three things inspired each other, fitting together perfectly.

Hans Zimmer, who has created scores for films such as The Thin Red Line, Pearl Harbour and The Last Days, Along with his involvement with Christopher Nolan's recent films. He has been composing since 1977, which gives him a lot of experience. The score he composed for Gladiator gives the film individuality. Even though scores do sometimes represent each other this one is

so bold and fitting. To create the score Hans Zimmer watched the film in silent and imagined what it would sound like if he were in the cinema, which is a technique rumoured to be used by a lot of composers. After his dedicated work with co composer Lisa Gerrard they both received the award for best original music score at the Golden globes, although there was some controversy at the awards ceremony beforehand.

Russell Crowe plays Maximus Decimus Meridius, destroyed by power he becomes a slave and fights his way back to authority to revenge his family. On its own it is a great story but with the intense performance by Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix amongst others, it became an incredible film. When I saw this film for the first time I was about ten years old and I hadn’t seen much outside of the cartoon world. Gladiator was the first film that gained my full concentration. This meant I appreciated the performance in a movie for the first time, and it set a marker for great films. Russell Crowe has also given great performances in L.a confidential and Ron Howard’s A beautiful mind, two of my favourite films. It’s clear to me that this actor was one of the main reasons I have such a passion for films and the media industry today.



Ridley Scott, The director of Gladiator who over the years has created masterpieces of cinema. These are films such as Blade Runner, Thelma & Louise and Black hawk down. I think he has become one of the biggest directors in the world through creating such films. He is my favourite film director, not because of his Hollywood blockbusters that everyone sees him for but for the performances that he retrieves out of his actors. He creates consistently convincing characters. This is personally what I think creates a great film, not explosions and stunts but a great, soulful performance. Ridley Scott is able to get this greatness out of his actors and his movies are always casted perfectly. Gladiator is a film similar to other Roman epics or battle films but it is different for this one reason. Ridley Scott's other films have been a great influence for many people including myself. Another great film he directed which was released a year after Gladiator was Black Hawk Down. With an all-star cast this film

also blew me away. It had the intensity, as did Gladiator. The acting performances were brilliant, it was a film that created a viewers passion for the characters. This is because of the moral that each soldier stood by. “Leave no man behind”. They showed a love for there fellow men and this was portrayed on screen, causing admiration by the viewer. Ridley Scott is one of the reasons I love film so much, and I’ll always respect him for his creativeness and dedication.

L.a Confidential was a work of art. It is the definition of masterpiece. They’re aren’t many film noir movies that have such a strong audience, but this film with its all star cast including Kevin Spacey, Guy Pearce and Kim Basinger was a success. This was one of the other reasons I got into the media industry. The quality of this film still shines today. The films that are highly rated at the box office today are usually big Hollywood movies. L.a Confidential was made with such quality and attention. The amount of research and dedication must have been astonishing. The researching into the period created the films atmosphere and was crucial. There are many films that have inspired me and made me want to be involved in the media industry but L.a confidential and Gladiator were the first of many. These two created the marker for great films and showed me what attention to detail and quality filmmaking is all about.