

Will Shoot - high noon, 1/22/12

- Nadia: print directions and release and this
- Pick everyone up and leave by 10:30 (trip is approx. 1 hour) - meet at Front Gates at 10:20

Gelardin/Equipment

- rent headphones
- wireless lavs
- extra sound recorder

- charge camera
- reformat cards
- bring camera, extra headphones, digital camera, tripod, batteries

At Will's House

- time estimates: arrive at noon, film gear 12:00-12:30, interview 12:30-1:30
- MUST leave by 2:45 at the very latest to get equipment back by 4:00

- Sign release
- Explain our project so he has an idea of what we're asking about overall
- Make sure to get some info on FIG/GAP event to respond to Kelsey!

Technical Concerns

- set up - choose a location with a lot of depth, not much going on in background
- level tripod
- OIS on/off
- focus (keep an eye on it-- switch to MF if auto is being tricky)
- white balance
- iris (auto)
- NOTE: one of the memory cards is slightly broken
- use lavs (channel 2)
- use extra recorder
- for gear shots, use boom

QUESTIONS (TRY TO KEEP IT TO AN HOUR!)

- start by getting shots of his gear

Basics

- How did you get involved in reenactment?
- What impressions do you do?
- How much time do you devote to this hobby?
- What is your profession? (What do you do besides reenacting?)
- What kind of events do you go to? (Define tactical battle, how does it differ from living history event or institution)

Motivations/Relationship to Past

- Of all the hobbies you could have chosen, why reenactment?
- Discuss possible motivations for recreating the past (immersion, magic moment?)
 - o magic moments?
 - o education?
 - o escape?
 - o nostalgia?
 - o fun?
 - o better understanding of history?
 - o purely personal enjoyment or a broader responsibility to keep the past alive?

His Military Experience

- Get the basics on when and where he served
- Since you have experienced real war, has this changed your views on tactical battles?
- How does a tactical battle compare to a real battle?
- Why do you think there is such an emphasis in reenactment communities on reenacting wars? We have read many arguments saying people participate in these battles for the thrill of warfare they will never actually experience.
- Is war romanticized in reenactment communities?
- Why do you, personally reenact warfare? (It cannot be to experience something
 - o you've never experienced...You have experienced real war, and If you know war is a
 - o horrible thing, why reenact it?)
- MAYBE: Is there anything therapeutic about reenactment for you?
- Could you ever see reenacting the Iraq War?
- You enjoy reenacting wars. Could you ever see yourself enjoying work at a place like Claude Moore? (where you would be reenacting farming...so it's not reenactment in general, it's specifically war)

More Motivation Questions

- If you reenact out of a love for history, why not just read a history book? How is reenacting it different from reading about it?
 - o Have you had any revelations about the past that you could only have by reenacting?
 - o Have you realized any misconceptions about the past through reenacting?
- In general, what is the importance of the past to you?
- affinity for the past
- In your own life, do you feel there is a sharp divide between the past and the present?
 - o Are there times when the past and present merge for you?
 - o Is it difficult to transition between the past and present?
- Is the past dead?
- Do you wish you were in the past? Prefer it to the present?

- Is the past at risk of being forgotten if you don't reenact it? Are you really keeping it alive?
- What is the importance of so forcefully keeping the past in the present like this? What can it teach us?

Authenticity

- Could you define "farb" for us?
- Can you explain how you aim to achieve authenticity? And why?
 - o Magic moments?
 - o It's more than just wearing the clothes? Does something have to happen mentally?
- Limits to authenticity? Compromises you have to make (funding, practicality)
- If complete authenticity is impossible, why bother?
- Do you feel a responsibility to portray history with exact accuracy? If you make small changes, do you worry you are in some way "corrupting the past"?
 - o (Heather -- accuracy is a way of respecting the past. Inaccurate impressions disrespect? Does respect factor in?)
- Do you find yourself romanticizing the past in your reenactments? Do you focus on the things you find attractive about it? Is there misery (is it still sort of fun though?)
- History is more than war, so why only reenact war? Is the reenactment community's focus on war, in a way, inauthentic (or is it not your mission to accurately represent ALL of history)

Impressions

- Do you have a specific person in mind who you are reenacting? Composite?
- Do you see yourself in these people? What about when you aren't reenacting an American?
- How much of yourself is in your impressions? How much of yourself do you try to keep out of them?
- Underrepresented people? Common everyday people? Iconic people?
- Do you prefer a certain impression? Relate to one more than others?
- If you do a lot of impressions, is there a risk of not being able to focus enough on each one to make them accurate enough?
 - o Is it acceptable to reenact a period you don't know very much about?

Other/Random

- Explain FIG/GAP event? What is it?
- Do you think reenactment is a particularly American thing? Do motivations differ from one country to the next?
- Duration: does it devalue the experience or make it less intense (as Richard seems to suggest) that your reenactments only last a few days, sometimes only a few hours?
- the MONEY question...if it seems in any way appropriate
- a philosophical question: Do we ever stop reenacting the past?