
TROJAN VISION NEWSLETTER! (05/10)

Mon, May 10, 2021 at 12:31 PM



Hey Visionaries!

Good luck as we enter finals week! Here at Trojan Vision we are wrapping up as we recently premiered our Virtual Vision episodes that were produced by our CTPR 409 students. Check them out on Facebook [here!](#) We also have exciting new plans for Fall 2021, including the launch of **CTPR 404: Practicum in Podcast Production**. Read the rest of this newsletter to learn more!



Take a study break and tune into Campus Vision!
This week, host Olivia Troast chats with Ryan

This Wednesday on our last episode of Campus

Lee, the founder and president of USC's Family Business Society. Lee talks about the community's different events as well as their networking opportunities. Keep up with their social media to see what kind of plans they have for next semester!

[Watch Now!](#)

Vision for the semester, host Maddi Moran talks with Trojan Vision! We hear from three Trojan Vision managers on what they've been up to this semester and what's in store for the future. Be sure to tune in and see how you can join Trojan Vision, either as a volunteer or by taking one of our classes!

[Campus Vision](#)

[Register for CTPR 409 and CTPR 404!](#)



Be part of the Trojan Vision Family! Register now for our new course [CTPR 404: Practicum in Podcast Production](#) where students will produce video podcasts in the Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts! Another great class to take is [CTPR 409: Practicum in Television Production](#). We have some of our classic Trojan Vision shows coming back this fall and would love for more USC students to join us in the studio. Register right now on WebReg! If you'd like to volunteer at Trojan Vision, fill out the volunteer form found at the bottom of this email, to get involved.

[Notable Alumni of the Week: Benedict Chiu](#)



Graduation Year: 2017

Major: Business Administration / Cinematic Arts (BCA)

Hometown: Saratoga, CA

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/benedictc/>

Website: <https://www.benedictfilm.com/>

What were your favorite positions/memories at TVTV?

I wanted to try something new every semester, so did pretty much everything available - even hosting one semester! I was probably most known for directing a number of the morning shows (Scoop, Delish, Morning Brew, etc.) and special segments (SCA Commencement, Ryan Coogler interview). I was also the Assistant General Manager and helped train a lot of the incoming directors and producers.

How was your transition out of USC into the workplace?

I did an internship at NBCUniversal in the fall of my senior year and kept in touch with the team and internship recruiter. They recommended me for the NBC Page Program, and though it was the only job in NY I applied and interviewed for, it was the first to give me an offer. At the time, it was a difficult decision because I was a lifelong CA person and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. The challenges were more logistical in moving less than a month after graduation, but once I was in 30 Rock meeting people who lived and breathed TV, the familiarity of this language made starting a new life much easier.

What has your journey and experience been like?

Strangely enough, my journey has been figuring out what I don't want to do. I grew up in the Silicon Valley area and didn't want to pursue something in STEM, which led me to study business at USC. I quickly figured out I didn't want to be just a business major, so I did the BCA joint program instead. My early internships were all in film/TV marketing, but I ultimately wanted to be on the production

side. The NBC Page Program showed me that I didn't want to be in live TV, and working at APA Agency was a way for me to get into scripted. Now I'm at another crossroad where everything points in me going down the development executive path, but I've decided I'm more fulfilled directing my own short films and writing features and pilots. So I'm currently seeing where that takes me.

What are you up to now?

I left my agency job just as the pandemic hit, so I've been taking the time to finish my writing samples and interview for writers' assistant/showrunners' assistant jobs. It's been helpful to have this time to pivot, even if it's not all super exciting. The one cool project I worked on recently was a narrative podcast called ADMIT IT, which I actually co-created with Grant Singer (who I met through Trojan Vision years back). We wrote an audio dramedy series, cast actors we knew from USC and recorded everything virtually. It was a fun way to hone our directing and editing skills, and also an excuse to see some familiar faces!

How has TVTV helped shape your career?

I think it gave me pretty critical hands-on experience before I even knew that I wanted to pursue a career in entertainment. There was freedom in creating without much pressure, and I made a lot of friends who I continued working with after college. It's also a very unique shared experience, so whenever I connect with a USC alum who also did Trojan Vision, it's an instant ice breaker.

Where would you like to be in 5-10 years?

Ideally, I'd like to be making a feature film or working on a TV series sometime in the next 5-10 years. I'm leaving this intentionally vague so I don't get crushed by my own expectations. Mostly, I hope to continue meeting new people that inspire me and have the opportunity to work with friends.

Any words of advice for students?

While you're still in college, try everything available to you so that you can fail with fewer consequences. Constantly question if you are fulfilled in the process of creating, not just by the conditional success of your results. Make friends, collaborate with them, and challenge your perspectives. Seek out advice often. It might not be what you need to hear at that moment, but it may be the exact thing you need in the future.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I'm obligated to say that the podcast I mentioned earlier is now streaming, so feel free to check it out. There are some Trojan Vision alums in the cast too, so there's the connective tissue!

Check out Benedict's podcast here: <https://admitpodcast.carrd.co/>

If you are an alumni who would like to be featured in upcoming newsletters, please email michelta@usc.edu



Look out for our next newsletter on May 24, 2021!

We're growing! Please help us share our [newsletter](#) with Trojan Vision friends, tell us your ideas in our [survey](#), and join our [Facebook](#) community, open to all alumni and students.

Volunteer with Trojan Vision! Our volunteers work in areas of management, production, outreach, marketing, and alumni relations. For more information view our [Volunteer Form](#).

Connect with us on social media or our [website](#) to stay up to date.



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