

Field Notes Introduction

Cody Bennet:

I am a product of accessibility. I was exposed to the idea and the concept of making accessible media and it really changed my world. I never considered creating a description for a photo so that even if you couldn't see you could experience it. Anne Zbitnew, one of the creators of the project is the reason that I am aware of accessible media. Of course, I likely wouldn't have taken to it if it were not for my background. I've grown up around people with disabilities my whole life and because of that I want to dedicate this piece to them.

Terry, Kerry, Liz and Shandi thank you for teaching me to think openly.

The year after I met Anne, the Making Accessible Media course was released. It was one of the coolest courses I've ever taken. It taught you enough information as well as provided you with enough resources about the how and why of accessible media that it made you realize how possible it was to do it yourself. In my case I started to believe that aesthetic accessible media could be the next evolution of film similar to the jump from silent picture to sound. The thing is we need more people experimenting and taking this emerging form more seriously.

I know that Making Accessible Media can help achieve that because after taking it, my creative partner in crime Vanessa Tang and I pitched an open access documentary in our program. It was selected and we ended up making Love Beyond Accessibility which you can enjoy below.