

## The Spartan screenwriter

Lights... camera... hold it, that's a cliché. Olivia York is a movie trailer writer for MOCEAN, and she would not stand for a cliché in one of her movie trailers. It's got to be unique. Something catchy. Something no one has seen before. Something creative. Let's try this again.

Nerves. Slight sweating. A minor caffeine headache at 7:30 a.m. I didn't know anyone my first day at WKAR-TV. I stood awkwardly staring at the "Off the Record" set.

And then she bounded over.

"Hi, I'm Olivia. Are you one of the new interns?" I nodded, relief filling my brain and slowing my heart beat.

Immediately, we started talking about everything. We had so much in common. Her positivity and openness was inviting, and by the end of our shift together, we were scheduling a coffee date.

There are few people as fascinating as Olivia York. And even less that are as kind and humble.

This 22-year-old Spartan is a screenwriter for movie and TV trailers. She graduates in May 2020 with a film studies major and a documentary production minor.

Olivia's eye-opening experience began through a study away program to Los Angeles offered by the College of Arts and Letters.

"We went to MOCEAN later in the week because the founder and CEO was a Spartan. He's so sweet. He bleeds green," she said with a laugh. "I was enamored with the company."

She spent that night rapidly applying to every internship MOCEAN offered.

And Olivia got the screenwriting internship.

"I was treated as an employee. I definitely wasn't afraid to ask questions," she remarked.

Her opinions mattered to her colleagues. She was a part of the writers' team.

"There were definitely projects where I was like 'I have no idea how I'm going to write that,'" she said.

One project Olivia remembered thoughtfully was creating a trailer for "Dora and the Lost City of Gold," which was ironic because I had the poster hanging on my wall not 10 feet away while we were chatting.

With a reflective sigh, she said she wasn't inspired. "I have to accept the fact that you can't win them all," Olivia stated. "This is just going to be something that you have to try your best on, and then we can critique it later."

Among her screenwriting experiences, Olivia was also crammed into a sound booth with a few other interns and recorded excited "woo hoos" and "yays" for "American Horror Story."

She also got to witness a 12 hour "Holiday Baking Championship" film shoot. They observed the team build the entire set, make all the baked goods and prep the actors for a 30-second trailer. That's it. Thirty seconds.

"I think that's why there's a lot of money in commercials, because advertisers want it to be perfect. You only have 30 seconds. Everything has to be perfect," said Olivia.

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Now this woman, this hardworking, brilliant woman left L.A. after the summer of 2019 with an offer to be a freelance writer for MOCEAN.

Most students don't graduate with this on their resume.

"I'm very appreciative that they keep hiring me on projects, and I'm honored to be a freelancer for them," beamed Olivia.

She gets to continue working for the company she admires, and they made a wise decision to keep this Spartan on their team.

And scene. Cameras off. Mics off. Lights off. That's a wrap.