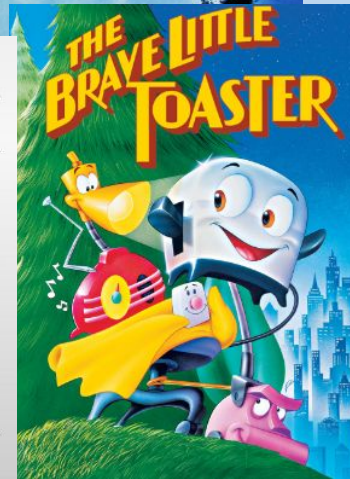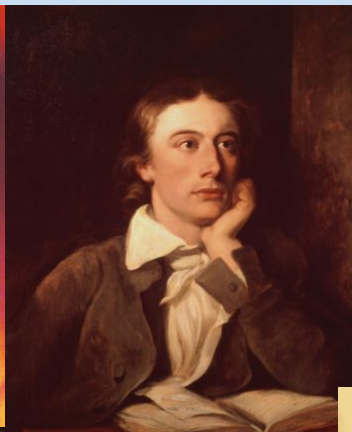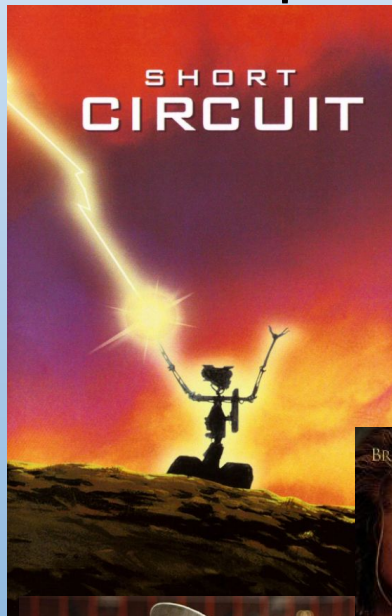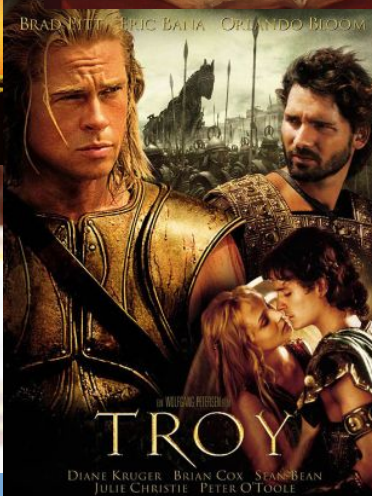short changed

Narrative Summary

- *Short Changed* is a story about two star-crossed vending machines (like Romeo & Juliet), one of whom was kidnapped by a local luddite militia <u>or</u> by Floridaman (like Helen of Troy), stealing a higher technology for an unknown mix of reasons. This is an epic love story, told from the POV of a kid who wanted a bag of chips but is now helping Crane (vending machine) reunite with his beloved Percy (ATM). This will be told as a serialized podcast with many cliffhangers, and (**gasp**) potentially flashbacks.

Tonal/Inspiration Mood Board

Deliverables and Rationale

- Primary media: episodic audio podcast. pilot teaser, 3-6 minutes long
  - Audio lends itself to the suspension of disbelief inherent in this story and also will encourage the audience's focus to be the love between the characters without distraction
- Secondary media: collected ephemera/highly-lyrical (Romantic) letters from Percy to Crane. Sonnets delivered via email like a digital receipt.
  - Enriches the overall story and the characterization of the machines as an intimate way in for the reader while being an effective aside from the main narrative and providing more backstory about their history and details about the captor
  - Allows an opportunity to play with genre and doesn't have to occur between podcast episodes or stick to their timeline
- Tonal references & inspiration
  - Persephone (kidnapped, vending-machine/harvest season)
  - Helen (kidnapped, starts an adventure)
  - Romeo & Juliet (star-crossed lovers, forbidden romance of technology)
  - Prometheus (stealing technology)
  - Astoria as a modern-week Greece?
  - Philip Seymour Hoffman-type villain
    - will be revealed through the lyrical excerpts
  - Romantic Poets and/or Shakespeare — public domain poetry

Characters

- **Merchant Ambient MEDIA2 Crane (aka Crane) –** a snack machine in the parking garage of a recreation center in Astoria, Queens. The hero.
- **Larsen Menelaus –** a child who was playing hockey at the rec center and wanted a snack, now is roped into helping Crane rescue Percy.
- **Diebold "Percy" Nixdorf –** The ATM and Crane's wife. Some disapprove of their inter-machine union. Writes poetry. It's a DN Series 400.
- **Unnamed villain** – Philip Seymour Hoffman-like idiot thug. Has henchmen.
- **Security Cameras** – Borg-like hive minded internet of things that help Crane and Larsen. Hesitant to help the characters due to a distrust of humans.
- **Sopranos pinball machine** – foul-mouthed pinball machine

Masthead

NJ – co-writer/creative director: responsible for creative arc, main story and scripting, voice acting

Andrew – co-writer/audio producer: responsible for oversight of operations and audio editing, research, scripting

Hatsune Miku – vocal talent

Equipment and Budget Estimates

- This project will be free/low-cost for us using EQC ing equipment and audio ing booths & voice-over booths in Arnhold Hall
- AKG 414 microphone, audio suites, Pro Tools
- We're seeking a stipend of $40,000 for the entire project
  - $83.33/hr each, an estimated 40 hours of work per episode based on the time it took to complete the audio assignment
  - Mock up will require $7,000 for labor at the same rate
    - More detail in the following slides

Proposed Timeline: From Airtable

Task	Subtasks	Ownership	Status	Kick off	Due date	labor hours (per owner)	Costs including labor
Story Guide	[ ] Narrative outline [ ] Character index [ ] Genre touchpoints and how they'll be executed/where they'll fit [ ] rhetorical/emotive "moments"	NJ Smith	In progress	3/20/2023	4/3/2023	10	$800.00
Script/storyboard of Teaser	[ ] Finalize the narrative of the 3 minute teaser [ ] figure out what sounds will accompany vocals [ ] Brainstorm ambient/background tracks [ ] Deliver release date and frequency	NJ Smith	Planning	3/24/2023	4/3/2023	10	$800.00
Samples of Email Poems	[ ] Source public domain poetry [ ] establish shared drive [ ] Set up constant contact/mailchimp/etc automation [ ] test it [ ] Create email template [ ] schedule emails for once/week during podcast's run	Andrew Scott	Planning	3/24/2023	4/7/2023	10	$800.00
Begin Teaser	[ ] test text-to-speech software(s) [ ] reserve equipment for next 2-3 weeks [ ] AKG 414 [ ] Zoom H6 [ ] voiceover suite [ ] recording booth	Andrew Scott	Planning	4/3/2023	4/10/2023	5	$400.00

Proposed Timeline

Task	Subtasks	Ownership	Status	Kick off	Due date	labor hours (per owner)	Costs including labor
Begin Teaser	[ ] test text-to-speech software(s) [ ] reserve equipment for next 2-3 weeks [ ] AKG 414 [ ] Zoom H6 [ ] voiceover suite [ ] recording booth	Andrew Scott	Planning	4/3/2023	4/10/2023	5	$400.00
Teaser vocal recordings	[ ] vocal recordings [ ] Use AKG for indoor/dialogue-heavy scenes [ ] Zoom H6 for outdoor/action scenes	NJ Smith	Planning	4/3/2023	4/10/2023	8	$640.00
Teaser Edits	[ ] Create Pro Tools project [ ] Source background noise/music [ ] "punch out" problem recordings [ ] normalize levels, employ filters, EQ, etc	Andrew Scott	Planning	4/10/2023	4/17/2023	12	$960.00
Teaser finalizing	[ ] touch-up teaser edits [ ] Create backups [ ] "test-listen" in different audio environments	Andrew Scott,NJ Smith	Planning	4/15/2023	4/21/2023	6	$960.00
Finalize all deliverables	[ ] Story Guide [ ] Teaser [ ] Sample Email receipts	NJ Smith,Andrew Scott	Planning	4/17/2023	4/24/2023	4	$640.00
Revised pitch	[x] discuss peer feedback [x] bounce ideas off Cass [x] create this friggin Airtable [x] redistribute roles and create calendar	NJ Smith,Andrew Scott	Complete	3/16/2023	3/20/2023	6	$960.00