One of my favourite features of Marvel films is the post-credit scenes at the end of the films. These little snippets are not only a sneak peek into what’s next to come, but also allow everyone involved in the film to be recognised. Film end credits are often overlooked and for a good reason too. Who wants to see a list of names that don’t matter for most people? For me, these credits give an insight into the complexity and the number of people it takes to create such a thing.

I developed a fascination with the production process of different forms of media from an early age. It started with music and researching different producers, understanding the concept of song samples and learning about the different layers of a song. From there my interests spiralled to theatre, fashion, film, and television. I opened an archive account of Twitter for fun, dedicated to the different concepts of photoshoots whether in magazines, digital archives or runway shows. Through this, I was able to gain creative insight through research and learned the importance of a theme, concept design, and how makeup and fashion can tie it all together.

I continued to develop these interests through theatre, another passion of mine and something that I could pursue in my school. Before I was even allowed to audition for productions, I convinced my principal to let me join the makeup team for The Little Mermaid musical, where I helped design makeup l for both the main cast and ensemble members, a total of 55 people. In my first year of high school, I was finally allowed to audition for a role on stage but found myself missing being involved with the production of the play and being able to help with the creative design. This led me to join the design teams for future productions, eventually leading me to be chosen as the assistant director for more than one, by my drama teacher. I have helped lead and design 5 plays as of now, with one, unfortunately, not being able to be performed due to the pandemic. I led up to 50 students for productions such as Peter Pan, The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe, Annie the Musical and two school written plays with more than 500 people total in attendance for each one.

The pandemic pushed my interest in pursuing a career in the film industry instead of theatre due to the theatre industry being shut down. This landed me an internship at the Stonhaus Film Studio in Jakarta. This internship was not as fulfilling as I wish it would have been, due to the pandemic and having to work online from home. Regardless, I was able to see how short films were produced and using my language skills, created translated captions from Indonesian to English. This missed opportunity only made me crave being involved with the creative side of something and dream of being a creative director.

I’ve always enjoyed being a leader and pursued this outside of the theatre and film. I was voted as a class representative three times in my high school career and was elected as the student council secretary, which put me as the official line of communication from the student body to the school administration. Being in the student council gave me the opportunity to learn how to organise and manage events, such as bake sales, charity events and fundraisers and how to do so in a way that would attract people. Joining my school’s service trips to Lombok, to aid in earthquake relief, pushed me and my interests into learning more about non-profits and organisations that focus on helping people. Over the pandemic, I co-founded an online page called the “Comfort Space” aimed at promoting and raising awareness for mental health in my country where it is seen as a taboo topic.

Combining my interests in both the art world and my skills in leadership, I found that the program of Art Management would be the perfect fit for me in achieving my career goals. One day I hope that my name will be featured in an end credits reel that will be seen by millions.

Hi Amelie,

Your essay is a great starter to a UCAS essay. Though not quite there yet, you can work with the majority of the content to rework it to fit what a UCAS essay is normally like. The first comment that I’d address is your opening. A UCAS essay is so much more different than a Common App essay for one main reason: UCAS essays look for technicality and academic passion. That’s why anecdotes and short stories are often discouraged when you’re writing a UCAS essay because the admission tutors want to see how passionate you are in the field you intend to study. This ties into my next comment on writing about your accomplishments and activities. It is so much more effective to include technical terms that are related to your course in a UCAS essay because it shows that you really are interested in this subject. A random person can write a story about how much they like a subject but a truly passionate person is able to demonstrate a strong sense of interest in the subject through using specific vocabulary to show intellectual curiosity and expertise. Lastly, one big thing about UCAS essays is the extrapolation of your skills or in other words, transferable skills. Through reading about your experiences, you must have learned so many skills. Now the only thing that is missing from your essay is HOW you would apply those skills in university or a professional setting. Instead of just saying what skills you gained from a particular experience, think about how you can extrapolate these skills to a new setting.

This sums up the comments I have on your Personal statement. I look forward to the development of your essay.

* Calysta Tesiman, ALL-In Eduspace essay editor