**Project Concept**

**Advanced Software Engineering – COMS W4156**

**Team Name:** PurplePoster

**Team Members:** Abhas Bodas (ab3599@columbia.edu)

Jared Pochtar (jrp2181@columbia.edu)

Maria Taku (mat2185@columbia.edu)

Suhan Canaran (sc3055@columbia.edu)

**Date:** October 4, 2012

**Revised Project Concept**

As mentioned in our original project concept, our system will allow users to keep track of and be alerted to movies and shows that are being filmed in the NYC area. Like GasBuddy, our system would rely on users posting sightings of the “purple posters” announcing filming in the area (For those who aren’t familiar with purple posters, posters are generally placed around filming sites to inform passing pedestrians about the film that is being shot. Since these posters are often -- but not always -- purple, we call them “purple posters”). Our system could then use the Open Data from RottenTomatoes.com to pull ancillary information such as actors, genre, etc., related to this film specified on the poster. This data would be used to alert other users who are interested in movies matching certain criteria that a movie they might be interested in is filming near them.

Reviewing user feedback, we determined that we can work on some improvements to our initial project proposal. For example, some users implied that an in-depth search mechanism would be desirable. We will thus look into adding search functions such as looking up movies' filming locations by genre, actor/actress, address etc. Someone also suggested allowing users to search for past movie filming locations, allowing them to visit that location afterwards and see the scene were a movie had been filmed.

In our original proposal we did mention allowing users to set up alerts for movies based on certain criteria. Several people in their feedback mentioned that, for this alert criteria, they'd like to see options such as favorite actors/actresses, genres, and "geographic" alerts when the user are within a certain area. Since we likely won't have time to export this idea to a mobile app (although this is a likely "next step" if we continue with this project after the semester ends) we likely won't get to the geographic alerts, but we should be able implement a reasonable number of other alerts.

As another example, some users said they might like to see a comment section. For example, near the bottom of filming location's webpage/description, we could allow users to post comments. (e.g., comments such as, "I'm very excited to see this!" etc.).

Lastly, one user recommended we not only include movies, but also ad films, documentaries etc. However, as we mention in the controversy section, ancillary information for these types of films is not available on RottenTomatoes (or anywhere else, to our knowledge). Thus, although we could add this feature, we would not be able to pull up much (or any) background information on these films for our users.

**Requirements (User Feedback)**

**1) Do they like the idea?** Yeah, actually, I think it’s pretty awesome & unique

**Has it been done before?** To the best of my knowledge, no

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Be able to search via GPS (“closest to me”) & entering an address. Everyone hates apps that don’t have both of those b/c they’re both handy.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Nope, but I’m curious how people will report this when they see signs out there. I guess a similar model to GasBuddy, where people enter what they see? I guess you require people to login to enter data, & you give a rating score to each person’s reliability? To do that, you’ll need for people to give thumbs up or thumbs down when they see a listing & it turns out to be reliable or not. And then you will have to give a weighting to “submitters” based on their reliability.

**2) Do they like the idea?** Yes!

**Has it been done before?** http://www.onlocationvacations.com/ Although this website isn’t very good, and I think your program will be a lot better and easier for people to use.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Map view of the listings. Users also enter anything they want -- actors, comments, etc.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Nope.

**3) Do they like the idea?** Yes, only for movie buffs / strugglers though.

**Has it been done before?** No.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Allow linking of multiple social networks with application.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Nothing.

**4) Do they like the idea?** Its awesome!

**Has it been done before?** Nope (at most you can update on facebook).

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Suggest users nearby movie filmings by genre, actors etc. Also, maintain a database that maintains list of places where popular films were shot, and notify when users are near that place.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** None.

**5) Do they like the idea?** Yes.

**Has it been done before?** Not that I know of.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** App should have a good mechanism to check location without regular processing required, and options to set radius in which one is interested.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Don’t want unnecessary updates from far away places.

**6) Do they like the idea?** Yes.

**Has it been done before?** No.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Would work better for Los Angeles/California as a lot more filming happens there.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Would not want updates of movies (even genres I am interested in) if they are not close to me.

**7) Do they like the idea?** Yes.

**Has it been done before?** No.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Include ad films and documentary filmings as well.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** No.

**8) Do they like the idea?** Sounds very promising.

**Has it been done before?** No.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** For movie filmings you reported/showed interest in, you should be notified on the release date and reviews.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** None, the idea is fairly straight-forward.

**9) Do they like the idea?** They were unfamiliar with the purple poster concept but once they understood what the actual posters do and how they are laid out, they agreed that it is a n interesting idea.

**Has it been done before?** Sounds genuine, not heard of it before.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** Things like notifications calendar and area search functions (find locations near me with film shootings) would be cool to have.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** No.

**10) Do they like the idea?** It is a cool concept, very focused with a specific kind of audience.

**Has it been done before?** Not that i have heard of.

**Are there features that are missing that they would really like to see?** They asked if there is a way to verify/confirm things from multiple sources.

**Are there features that they don't really care for?** Nothing.

**Language/Framework**

For this project, we plan to use Python/Django.

**Controversies**

One user recommended we not only include movies, but also include ad films, documentaries etc in our film scene locations. However, one controversy is that ancillary information for these types of films is not available on RottenTomatoes (or anywhere else, to our knowledge). Thus, although we could add this feature, we would not be able to pull up much (or any) background information on these films for our users.