Software Development Plan – v1.0 –

**Purpose of my website**

Designing my very own website which will be based on film reviews. I will expect this website to run both on desktop as well as smartphones & tablet browsers. Also if possible within the time period to develop this into a mobile application.

The purpose of my website is to allow people to read my reviews on the movies that I’ve watched, my reviews will include a trailer of the movie that I have reviewed for those who are interested therefore giving them an insight of the story. People will also have the ability to add their own reviews of the movies they have watched. My website will also include news from the film industry.

**First Steps**

I started out laying out the foundations of my homepage. This was written in HTML5 & CSS, I included a header which had a background image; the image was relevant for the purpose of my website, the header also included the title of my website ‘Movie Reviews’ as well as three navigation buttons. I knew from the get go what my header would look like. After using CSS and finding the colour scheme I would be happy with. I moved on from the header.

The next step was to fill my homepage with more information regarding film content such as reviews, film trailers etc. Initially, at the start of this I had a section that would include a promotion for e.g. win free tickets to a movie of their choice. Then to complete my homepage it’d have a final section which would include reviews to recent films. However, I found this to be quite static having everything crammed into my homepage. So from here I thought about other content I could include that I haven’t already got that would be relevant, after doing some research I decided to change the promotion as well as the review section. The changes that were made were; I replaced the promotion section to a ‘Submit Your Review’ section, this section included a form for people who would visit my site to have the opportunity to interact and give their opinion on a movie. The form obviously included the person’s name, the movie title and their review of the movie they chose. In addition, the ‘Reviews’ section was replaced by a ‘News’ section, this would always be updated with the latest news in the film industry.

Now after making these changes I was happier, as now my website wasn’t as static as before also having people interact with my website will give my website more traffic.

Now moving onto the navigation buttons in my header of my homepage, I have 3 in total. The 3 navigation buttons are ‘Home’ – to navigate back to home. ‘Reviews’ – this will be the page where my reviews of movies will be. Lastly, a ‘Contact Us’ navigation button which will take you to a page that has a form for people to contact us regarding anything on my website as well as any improvements they’d like to see on my website.

When clicking the ‘Reviews’ navigation button you will be directed another page. It will have a header identical to my homepage however there are slight differences in header, the same image remains however there are now only 2 navigation buttons; ‘Home’ & ‘User Reviews’. The header of the ‘Reviews’ was changed slightly from the first time I produced it.

**Things I improved now & things I will look to improve over time:**

After playing around on my website, I was more or less happy with what I have achieved. However, there is room for improvement. The things that I improved, that were only minor changes; I changed the layout of my navigation buttons, the changes made were reducing the amount of navigation buttons displayed by adding a hover function. Now instead of 3 buttons on my homepage, I have just the one however, when you hover over the button the 2 that I removed will be displayed. I believe this gives my website a cleaner look, also the hover function was implemented across the other pages of my website where necessary.

Another change I made was adding a white shadow to my text, this was only done to the subheadings the reason I did this was so the text stood out more against the background image. As the header background image is different there was no need to add a white shadow text.

An additional improvement I made was adding a placeholder in my text area, informing the person how much characters are allowed in their review this is particular useful to the reviewer as they will know they don’t have unlimited characters.

Another way I improved my website was by adding a sticky footer, a sticky footer is a footer that sticks to the bottom of the webpage whether you’re scrolling up and down a webpage, additionally the footer includes 2 navigation buttons, one will take you back to the home page and one will take you to the contact page. I also added for the link to change colour if you’re are hovering over them to show the 2 buttons are links.

Additional changes made; seeing as my website would have the ability to interact with people visiting my site to add their reviews I thought it’d be a good idea to be able to have members registered to my website. Therefore, I added the options of being able to login to my site as well as being able to sign up to my website, in regards to these two new additional features they were added via clickable buttons in the header. Once clicked a small pop-up window will appear which then will ask for

I also added a table, this is where the data/reviews will be kept. The table consists of 3 columns; User, Title and Review. Additionally, the data will also be added to the local storage of the browser.