

## ***Interview with Anthony Pena***

*Interviewer: Aline Lino*

*Spring 2022*

### ***Can you tell us a little about yourself and when you first found yourself interested in media production?***

I'm Anthony Pena. I first found myself interested in media production at a really young age, when I was probably around 5 or 6 years old. I remember watching movies over and over again as a kid, and coming to the realization that it was someone's job to create the films and tv I enjoyed, and from there I always wanted to be part of that process.

### ***What first attracted you to taking Media Production classes and how did you choose to take classes at GCC and FTVM?***

Media Production has in some way always been a part of my life, when I came back to school, I wanted to improve some of my skills and fill in gaps in my knowledge so I took an audio production course and really enjoyed the work and the overall department and community around it.

### ***If Media Arts weren't your major previously, what made you change your mind?***

Initially I was going to major in Mass Communications but taking FTVM classes reignited my interest in seeking a career in media production. I enjoyed that each project was a new challenge for me.

### ***Did you know what career you wanted to have? If your ideas about your career have changed, how?***

I was thinking about seeking a career in advertising, but this changed when I took Intro to Audio production with Professor Diehl. I found that I really enjoyed working with audio and decided to seek a career with that.

### ***What is the position you have now and how did you get it?***

I am a freelance production sound mixer, I saved up some money and put a basic field recording kit together, worked a few free jobs to build a body of work and then found that through word of mouth and by having examples of my work I began to be able to land paid jobs.

### ***What are your job responsibilities?***

I am responsible for recording clean audio on set for films, TV, and commercials. I deploy wireless lavaliers and operate boom.

### ***What do you enjoy about the position?***

I enjoy collaborating with new filmmakers the most. People with new and fresh ideas on how to use the medium, I enjoy being asked to do something I have never done before to be presented with a difficult recording situation and finding ways to overcome those challenges.

***What do you wish was different?***

I wish that audio was prioritized on more projects, because audio isn't something visible on screen it is often an afterthought for many smaller productions. Having more time and input on projects, opens the doors for more creative sound decisions.

***What hard skills (applications, Technical) do you think it takes to do your job well?***

Know your gear, read the manuals, learn to navigate your menus, know the frequency responses of your microphones and know what that means when capturing audio. Understand different types of audio file formats so that you can always deliver exactly what is needed. Knowing Pro Tools, and Premiere Pro, Final Cut is a great help. It's important to try to be knowledgeable and flexible and willing to learn new systems.

***What personality traits (soft skills) do you think it takes to do your job well?***

Be personable, kind, and flexible and professional. It often doesn't matter how great you are at your job or how much gear you have, if you are rude or unprofessional people will not call you or recommend you for work. Have tact and respect when communicating with others.

***What advice would you give to students hoping to break into LA's media production community?***

I'd say learn all you can about your skill at every stage of your career, the FTVM classes at GCC will allow you to experience different aspects of production, use these opportunities to take up and learn about roles that are outside of your immediate interest. On that note, be open to trying different roles as you look for work, there are so many different aspects to media production you never know if you'll find a career doing something you never knew existed.