



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT. . .

Lights, camera, action! Luce, camera, azione! Luces, cámara, acción!

The Spanish and Italian final exams will be in early June, but the grand finales for these Anacapa classes this year are the movies that the students are currently filming! The work that has been going on all year long in their regular classes building vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar competency is showing excellent results as each Anacapa language class makes an original movie in their target language. Extensive skills are needed to be successful in this endeavor, which makes it a wonderful, engaging, and very fun culminating activity.

Many target language skills are required in creating the films. As the students write their scripts, they are encouraged to use words that they are familiar and comfortable with from their class work this year, but any time they need to look up a word, they increase their vocabulary. Of course, the dialog needs to make sense so they have to use good language rules and sentence structure; then when they learn their lines, they practice that solid grammar so that it becomes natural—it starts to really sound right instead of just being a rule they learned and have to think about. In addition, the students improve their pronunciation skills a lot as they practice and recite their lines accurately.

Many other very important skills are involved besides working proficiently in the target language. First of all, there is the creative aspect of writing a script with a good plot, and Anacapa students are often very creative, so these plots are great! The props and costumes needed are another opportunity for originality and inventiveness. Students get to practice their acting talents in the comfortable setting of their class, which increases confidence. The technical aspects of filming and editing require knowledge, skill, and perseverance. In addition, the important personal-social skills of collaboration and cooperation are put into practice, and students can literally see the positive results.

Here is a quick synopsis of each film currently in production.

- Italian 1 and 2 are working on “Affita-un-recinto” (Rent-A-Fence), which shows how useful an instant fence can be in many situations. This is a comedy with cameo appearances by some very famous actors!
- Italian 3 and 4 are producing a biography of the recently deceased Michele Ferrero, the famous (and rich) inventor of Nutella and many other well-known confections. Michele has become Michelle in the film, and there is a very surprising twist at the end.
- Spanish 1 is filming “Noticias Canal 6,” a comedy about broadcasting news, with two main anchors, a weatherman, and two field reporters, reporting stories happening in their local community.
- Spanish 2’s film is called “El Burrito Loco,” a story of three friends who go to get food at a restaurant and find out that the person who runs the place is also a radio DJ.
- Spanish 3 and 4 are filming “Gladiator,” a comedy based on the movie “Gladiator,” adding their own humor and making it fun to watch.

We as teachers are impressed with how much the students learn from this part of our program, both in the target language and in so many other areas. It is great that Anacapa affords us the possibility to teach so creatively! We will be sure to let you know when the films will be shown in Breakfast Club so that you can come enjoy them. Next stop, Cannes!

~ ~ Hugo Macario, Spanish Teacher
Suzie Sichi, Italian Teacher