

WILKES RADIO, PUBLISHING FIRM TEAM UP TO RECORD AUDIOBOOK

BY MICHAEL P. BUFFER / PUBLISHED: MARCH 31, 2018
CITIZENS' VOICE

When Wilkes University juniors Nicholas Filipek and Luke Modrovsky signed up for a project to record an audiobook, they envisioned some challenges.

But it turned out to be easier than they expected because of Aaron Poochigian, who is narrating his own book, "Mr. Either/Or."

"I thought coming into this we're going to have to retake this, visualizing what parts of the book are going to be difficult, and he's nailed it," Modrovsky said. "Quite honestly, we've had more things on our end than on his end. So all the credit for him for doing a fantastic job on the early portions here."

Modrovsky is from Mountain Top and is studying sports management and communication studies. Filipek is from West Wyoming, and he wants a career in media production.

"Our reader/author has done such an amazing job, coming in and acting it out," Filipek said. "You feel like you are there. You lose yourself listening to him go through his book, and it's wonderful. Some of the chapters we went through in one take."

Poochigian is a Fresno State professor and left California to record the audiobook narration this past week at a Wilkes campus radio station facility inside the Karambelas Media and Communication Center.

"We spent the past two days laying down tracks for the entire book," Poochigian said. "I'm the vocal talent. I assume character voices. There are a number of female voices I have assumed, also a variety of male voices, southern accents, alien voices."

Etruscan Press is housed at Wilkes University and published “Mr. Either/Or,” Poochigian’s 200-page book. The audiobook project is the first collaboration between Etruscan Press and the campus station, 90.7 WCLH. “We’ve never done an audiobook,” radio station manager Kristen Rock said. “So when we presented with the opportunity, we said, ‘Oh my gosh! What a great idea!’ So I’m hoping this is one of many in the future that we can work on.”

It took 9 to 10 hours for Poochigian to record the narration. Filipek and Modrovsky are now tasked with the post production work.

“These two gentlemen will be adding ambient sounds, so when a scene is set for Manhattan, there will be all kind of urban city sounds. There’s a scene on the subway,” Poochigian said. “When one adds music to a book that’s in verse, like Shakespeare for example, or to this, you add ambient music. It doesn’t have a strong rhythm because the rhythm of the music fights with the rhythm of the words. So you add mood music, gentle music.”

Poochigian started writing the book in 2008 and finished in 2016.

“It took me a long time,” he said. “I had to figure a whole new way of presenting poetry as an action novel, as a thriller, and so there were lots of experiments and failures before I finally got it figured out.”

Filipek jumped at the chance to work on the project and hopes it leaves a legacy that leads to more audiobook recordings on campus.

“Listening to audiobooks is one of my things,” he said. “It’s what I enjoy a lot.”

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Wilkes University juniors Nicholas Filipek of West Wyoming (left) and Luke Modrovsky, Mountaintop, (center) with author Aaron Poochigian (right) discuss translating their classroom experience into a production credit with audio book giant Audible at Wilkes University Wednesday afternoon. (Photo credit: Mark Moran)



MARK MORAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER From left, Wilkes University juniors Nicholas Filipek of West Wyoming, Luke Modrovsky of Mountain Top and author

Aaron Poochigian work on production of an audiobook at Wilkes University. (Photo credit: Mark Moran)