

Filmmaking programme (10 hours)

The emphasis is on practical hands-on learning and fun. Workshops are designed to give a better understanding of the filmmaking process and to demonstrate how students can use their creativity in the visual form by following some basic principles. The approach will be informal and will include a team project to produce a short film at the end.

KEY THEMES OF THIS WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

- - Enhancing creativity
- - Promoting leadership
- - Practising team working
- - Enabling life enrichment
- - Creating an educational resource
- - Developing writing skills
- - Enhancing personal development
- - Providing a platform for self-expression

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Session 1 – Getting the show on the road

- An introduction and exploration of filmmaking looking back at history through to the present day.
- Students will share opinions on their favourite films / favourite sequences in feature films.
- They will discuss ideas for a theme for group film collaboration.
- They will learn how to start designing storyboards based on their ideas.
- By the end of the workshop, students will have decided on their final film concept.

Session 2 - Scriptwriting and Producing

- We will learn about the skills involved in scriptwriting and producing a film.
- Students will practise writing for the screen techniques.
- They will learn about Producing skills, styles and techniques.
- These will be explored and applied to the making of our film.

Homework: Further develop the outlined storyboards for our film to create a more formal script. Students are now asked to think about props and costumes.

Week 3 - Art Direction and production design

- We focus on the work and skills of production designers and art directors who have one of the key creative roles in the creation of films.
- Working in the role of a director or producer, students work together to select the setting, style, and costume design to visually tell the story in their finished film.

Homework: Students are asked to watch their favourite films and television programs and write down a list of the best 'production design' areas.

Week 4 - Camera techniques

- We focus on composition and photography techniques with an introduction to lighting and exploring how we can use natural light 'to get the look and mood that we want.
- We also experiment with slow shutter speeds.

Homework: Using our storyboard sketches, students are asked to start putting these into 3D form using researched references to draw (storyboard) the camera techniques that we will use in our short film.

Week 5 – Cinematography

- We will be taking an in-depth exploration into lighting the set and practicing our photography techniques for the visual look of the film.
- The cinematographer selects the film stock, lens, filters, etc, to create the scene to reflect the intentions of the director.

Homework: Students are asked to closely observe lighting around them, in school, in their homes and in indoor and outdoor public spaces. These observations are to be translated onto the storyboard for our film.

Week 6 – Directing

- We will look at the different styles of directing and what each approach means to each film genre.
- We will start rehearsing for our short film and deciding on what clothing and props to bring for the first main shoot next week.
- This will include reviewing the storyboards and finalising our camera techniques.

Homework: Involve friends and family by 'Directing' them whilst being photographed or filmed doing an everyday task at home such as preparing a meal, polishing shoes, playing a board game, dancing etc.

Week 7 - Drama

- Observing references of a range of accomplished theatre and film actors, we look at styles of acting and practise how we can think and perform as an actor.
- Using our scripts and storyboard as our guide, and working in pairs, students will discuss what is required from the camera operator as well as the actor throughout our short film.
- They will decide who will take the acting parts in the film and who will be directors.

Homework: Looking at different films (within the suitable age certificated rating) students are asked to observe actors and how they have added an extra ingredient to their performance to make it more memorable.

Week 8 - Marketing / Publicity for your film

- Marketing and publicising your film well is essential to its success.
- This can involve promoting to press, TV, radio through to advertising.
- Good communications skills are a must in this role.
- As a group, we will investigate what channels would be ideal to market our film, starting with designing our own film posters and advertising banners, interviews.

Homework: Students are asked to look at film advertising – posters, adverts and trailers, TV and radio promotional interviews. A representative of the group will be asked to do an 'interview' with a school teacher – perhaps for the school magazine?

Week 9 and Week 10 - Ready and Action!

- We'll be bringing in costumes and props for the filming of our short film in this session.
- We will first be rehearsing our roles and completing a finished 'uncut' version for us to all look at individually on our final session together.
- **The final cut** will have been produced using all of the skills, techniques and processes taught throughout the course.