

Understanding The Basics Of Film-Making

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF **FILM-MAKING**

SELECTED TIPS - 78 PAGES!



78 Pages!

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Can You Hear Me Now?

Audio is one of those things that you have to have for your movie but don't want to really think about. You want it to just magically happen and let's face it, nothing in filmmaking happens "magically". It might look that way but it doesn't. What you need is a good audiophile, somebody that loves to hold a boom with a microphone on the end of it.

You can look for someone talented with sound or you can figure it out yourself. I suggest that you get at least 2 decent remote mics that sync with your camera. While your camera may have sound it is usually really bad. The remote mics can be worn on the body of the actor. These will work adequately but proper mic placement is necessary.

When placing the mic on the talent use your fist with thumb extended up and pinkie extended down in the ol' hang loose hand sign. Place the thumb under the chin and at the end of your extended pinkie is where the mic should be placed. This places the mic close enough for good sound but far away enough from the mouth to prevent popping and sibilance.

If you are fortunate to have a mic with a boom then this is the way to go with group scenes. It is a real pain for a boom operator to handle a boom for an entire day of shooting, but those audiophiles just love this stuff. They will hold a boom for days and love it.

Once you get your sound back in the studio you will need to edit it along with the image. Previously filmmakers had non-linear systems to edit their sound but now you have available non-linear editing. This means that NLE gives you the ability to move sound clips back and forth within the video itself.

Along with recording the dialog of the film there is always sound effects and a soundtrack to provide. The movie would be quite dry if there is no soundtrack or sound effects. Making a soundtrack can be quite difficult unless it is all original work. This is when you might look for music that is already recorded but that could present quite a few problems.

Violating copyright on anything belonging to another artist or their agent that owns the rights to the music, can hold you up in post-production and keep you from being able to release your film. There are ways around this but only a couple. You can always use music that is public

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domain. Any piece of music or image that has not ownership attached to it means that there is no person or organization that has a proprietary interest in this music or image.

The second solution for adding a soundtrack to your film is to simply use original work. This is easy if you happen to have a friend that writes and performs music that works with your film. Many budding composers and musicians are looking for a chance to work with a filmmaker so that they can partner their music making talents.

Finding A Location Or Your Film

Being a location scout would seem to be the most fun out of all the jobs offered in the filmmaking industry. It seems that it would be a dream vacation to travel and see if a location checks out or not. Believe it or not, headaches abound in securing a location to shoot.

There are many more details involved in securing a location to shoot a film than simply finding the location. There are permission and releases to be obtained from everyone involved. Proof of liability insurance and authorizations of access to the location may need to be obtained. The scout will convince the owner that having a 150 person crew camped out on their front lawn it going to be good fun.

Previously it might have pacified the local authorities if you gave them some small compensation, like a good bottle of whiskey, but these arrangements are no longer available. Now you must have official permission from the local authorities to use certain locations for filming. These releases must be paid for and put on file so that they can be accessed during the shoot. Once the location scout has secured the location they become the location manager. This means they are responsible for parking access and accommodations for he cast and crew.

Sometimes unusual arrangements are made in order to use a location. Stephen King's "Rose Red" was filmed at Thornwood castle in Lakewood, Washington. This castle was brought over from Europe, brick by brick, and rebuilt on sea shore of American Lake by Chester Thorne. Chester Thorne was one of the founders of the Port of Tacoma. Initially while it was a good location, the castle needed to be returned to its old grandeur. The production and location managers struck a deal to refurbish the castle.

The result was that almost \$800,000 of renovations was preformed on the castle. The restoration work done to the castle can be seen at Thornwood castle's website. The work done was in exchange for the use of the location once it was finished. The owners of the castle in exchange for the use of the location received \$800,000 in renovations. I am sure they thought it was good deal. This case exemplifies the lengths to which producers will go to in order to secure a good location.

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Location scouting was previously done at a time when the digital technology was not available to the location scout. Scouts were required to travel to the actual location and they usually ended up using Polaroid shots for their reference. Now there are location agencies that can give you virtual tours of locations and the scouting can truly be done online. All you need to do is put in a request for locations on the Internet and you will find scads of listings for location scouting agencies.

Now for those of you that are producing your own independent films, you will have to use your wits to secure your locations. If you are using your own house or apartment it will be no problem but if you are using a location that doesn't have general public access you will need to secure releases from the owners of the facilities you want to use.

How Can I Learn Film Making Without Going To School?

This site can put you in touch with a course that will teach you film making without going to school. This DVD course is taught by 15 Emmy, Telly, and Cine award winning Hollywood film maker Jason J. Tomaric. He spent over 2 years developing this ideal film instruction course. He uses his film- "Time and Again" as a case study for the 5.5 hour interactive DVD that will take you through the entire film making process.

He has taught at film schools throughout the nation, including the New York Film Academy, and Ucla, and will take you to the set of his film. Your instructors will be the professional film makers who worked on the film. There is certainly no boring instruction on this DVD set, and you will be shown how to make a Hollywood caliber movie on a very small budget.

The advice and guidance you will glean from this DVD series is easy to follow, and no serious student of film making should be without it. Everything the novice film maker needs to know can be found on this series. These quality production values are available to anyone who has ever wanted to be a film maker.

You will learn everything about directing, casting, writing, cinematography, producing, editing and much more. This set includes a CD-ROM with all of the storyboards, scripts, industry resource guides, and contracts. There is even unabridged footage that you can practice editing at home. You will also receive in-depth interviews with cast, crew and other important people on the film.

First you will watch the film "Time and Again", and then move on to Disc 2. This has over 30 chapters in 5 units over 5.5 hours. These cover the film making process from start to finish. Disc 3 contains the actual script with notes from the director himself. You will also receive templates to use for your own projects.

The Producer's Notebook is a tool that will show you the paper structure you will need to make a great movie on a small budget. This includes:

- * Directors notes and Shooting Script.
- * Storyboards.

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- * Contracts with crew, cast and locations.
- * Breakdown of the scenes.
- * Call Sheets.
- * Camera Logs
- * Industry resource guides from, Panavision, Apple Computer, Arri, Audio-Technica, Lowel, Matthews Studio Equipment on lighting, editing, camera gear, and more.

You will also receive a 270 page Production Manual, full of tips you need to know, diagrams, resources, tricks, and charts. This manual will tell you everything you need to know about film making, and covers everything from insurance, acting, directing, editing, distribution, fund raising, and budgeting.

If you want to know more about this great DVD on film making, or you would like to order the DVD set you can find it all at: Filmschoolondvd.com. You will learn film making from the best and never need to set foot in a film school. Better yet, you will learn at your own pace how to become a great film maker.

How To Produce Your Own Film Making Endeavor?

You may want to start out by producing your own film, if you are up to the task. It is a great burden to take on a project, especially when you are new to the business. If you can accomplish this, you will have a film you can show to display your commitment to a film making career.

Once you decide to produce your own film, you will need the resources to make your movie. A film grant is one way to get the funding for your film, but it can be difficult to get this type of grant. You will need to know how the process works when applying for a grant. There are different types of film grants, money, equipment, room and board, film, music, producing, screen writing, directing or a combination of any or all of the above.

Each grant giver has certain guidelines you must meet to qualify for their grant. Quite a few of them want you to produce a documentary of some type. Many of these grant projects have been given awards and are shown on television because they are so inspiring.

The purpose of these grants is designed to help film makers who are unable to get other funding. Others do not have the money to get into a good film school, but they have the talent. These grants create great film makers as well as wonderful films. Some grants allow film makers to get regular funding in the future, after they have shown what an excellent film maker they are.

When a grant funder is considering a project to give to, they look for the passion the film maker has for the project. This is the most important point of consideration when reading a grant application. The film maker will carry this passion and dedication throughout the film making process, no matter how long it takes to finish the film.

The Guerilla Filmmaking Grant was designed to encourage creative, resourceful filmmaking for artists working outside of the "Hollywood industry". Twice a year they award \$1000 to produce, shoot, and edit a feature length film. The film maker has control over the look, feel and content of the film. A DVD release of the movie is included. The film maker keeps all rights to distribution. They also include Marketing Advice to help the film maker distribute and sell the movie. All film rights are retained by the film maker. Anyone in the world that is thinking of producing an English language feature film may apply for this grant.

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You need to go to <http://www.mediadarlings.org/filmgrant/> to check out the entire grant process of this grantor. You will find all of the information you need, and all of the guidelines you must go by to apply for this Guerilla Filmmaking Grant. If you have any questions you can contact them.

There are many places an independent film maker can apply for. Just type filmmaking grants into your favorite search engine and you will see what I mean.

So Many Cameras, So Little Time

Without the camera there is no film, no movie to make. If you start making film on a regular basis you will learn to capture image with a number of different cameras. You will have your favorite but there will be many different ones that you have to hold. At a certain point using film became all but obsolete and digital took over. The introduction of the digital camera made capturing image infinitely easier.

Film cameras are good to work with in the beginning because they teach you how to use a lens. You learn about depth of field and how to push and pull focus plus a variety of other things that you will use when directing the camera. I like to think of using actual film as more organic. The image is a bit hazy and lacks that artificial crispness that a digital image can have. However there is no denying that digital is immediately gratifying.

In the beginning digital was no match for film, but the technicians tweaked it until they developed cameras that are amazing. Film has been relegated to high art and now we have no second thoughts about shooting in digital over film. The costs of processing are totally absent when you use digital to shoot. Getting your film developed was so expensive that in many cases it was prohibitive, but now there are completely acceptable digital cameras in a variety of cost ranges.

Find a digital video camera and a tripod to work with. You will need a tripod with fairly thick legs for sturdiness and a good fluid head for panning. Also before you buy your tripod, make sure that the camera releases from the tripod easily and quickly. You will want a camera that has a good battery system for remote shooting.

There are, any number of great digital cameras out there. You should be able to find a decent camera to shoot action between \$500 and \$800. If you can manage to scrape together \$1,000 a good camera is the Samsung VP X220L camcorder with wired external lens. This camera has a neat compact body and it is very durable. A testament to this fact is that this camera was used in the Jack Ass show.

Do some product research, buy your camera and start shooting. Handle your camera so you know just how to pan and focus with the equipment you will be using. Play it back and see how

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it handles different lighting levels and shutter speeds. Check out how it focuses automatically and practice a bit of manual focusing.

I suggest that you start carrying a camera and building an image bank. An image bank will give you basic generic images that you will need to use as cutaways and various other functions in your film. Learn to look at things through the lens. Direct and build different scenes in the frame and shoot them in still photography first. Before you start production of the actual film, practice shooting with your new camera. You can shoot your crew and the talent. Shoot anything that moves until you get it down.

Let There Be Light

Filmmaking involves incorporation of different elements to transform the story script to a live story on the screen. Among the technical elements -- sound, lighting and editing -- lighting has a special role. In the theatre the audience sees the motion picture accompanied by the synchronized sound track. All visual impressions on the viewer depend on proper lighting arrangements.

Although one can choose from among a variety of lighting kits available in the market, but with some basic understanding, you can also assemble a working light kit using some commonly available and affordable components. From you local hardware store you can buy lights with metallic reflectors that are used in repair workshops. These can be hung anywhere using the attached clips and easily moved. You can use bulbs of desired wattage and color in them.

The other very useful item is extension cords; you must have a good stock of them. You need them almost everywhere but most particularly for lighting. You may also like to have an adjustable, say 3-leg, stand. These may be used to mount lights using clips or for light diffusers. Having a white board to balance white light while filming will be another useful thing to do. These can also be used as reflectors to bounce light on some object.

The final item in your tool kit will be a light diffuser. It is some sort of thin white see-through material. You shine light on this material from one side and the diffused, or shall we say, "spread", light comes from the other side and shine the object. With this technique the object does not appear too bright or "hot".

You must keep in mind that light is not always white and it has different colors. Normally you discover it when you begin to use the camera. For instance, if you shoot at night in a room that has tungsten bulbs light, your film will have yellowish tint. Likewise, fluorescent light gives greenish cast. If you are shooting outdoors, the light effect will be blue, particularly if you are shooting in a shade.

If you want an impressive natural light effect, shoot just when the sun is about to set. The light at this time gives a wonderful Carmel colored glow. However, you only have few minutes to complete your shot before the sun sets. Still, if you are smart and keep everything ready, you

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can take great shots. You may want to use this time for your filming activities, particularly during late part of the spring or in summer months of the year.

You may also like to learn the basic 3 point standard lighting set up which is the standard technique employed by professional camera man and photographers. As the name suggests, you use three lights for different purposes: the first or main light shines the object; the second light erases the shadow of the first light; and a third light is used behind the object for adding dimension on the object. You adjust the lights until you get the desired result you want. This basic three-point light technique is used extensively in different variations. So, you may want to practice with this technique and see for yourself how it works.

Natural light is always better. Keep in mind that light at noon is a bit too harsh and causes shadows under the nose and eyes of the object giving them appearance of being tired. To offset this undesirable effect, you will need to set up lights on the ground down below. But then it creates another undesirable effect -- ghostlike appearances used in suspense movies which is something that you may not want in your shot.

Well, this is just a pep talk on importance of lighting in the filmmaking. Better enlighten yourself on lighting by taking some production classes to get hands on training.

Film Making Equipment Rental: All That You Should Know

The moment you are done with the preliminaries and have finalized the budget for your film making project and chalked out a schedule to complete it, the first thing you should worry about is the equipments that you will require to produce your film. You need to shop around for the film making equipment rental houses and their prices. It will be useful to prepare a list of rental houses. Further, there may be equipments that require reserving ahead of time so that you have them when you need them.

Some of the vendors may offer you a complete package while others may not be so generous. But if you are sure about what equipments you will need, you will be able to get to the right vendor.

While you are talking to the vendors ask them specifically whether they can supply the desired equipments at the dates you require them. Don't forget to brief them about your project and kind of equipments you will need. Because the vendors often have the latest information on newer equipments that you are unlikely to know.

You will be booking some equipment in advance -- it is referred to as a hold. You don't pay for an equipment while reserving it, Keep this in mind. It is quite possible that your equipment is reserved by someone else, i.e., it is on hold. In such a case, if you wish, you can reserve it from a future date, provided the vendor assures you that he will give you the equipment by the date you need it. Also ask the rental house if you can place a confirm order. They will now contact the person who has reserved the equipment and ask him to either confirm the order or else withdraw his hold.

You should know it very clearly that when you confirm your order, you are required to pay rental right from the date you reserved it. It does not matter that you are not going to use the equipment immediately from the date of hold. In case there is change in your plan, do contact the rental house at your earliest so that they make suitable arrangements with some other customer.

The equipment you have rented has already been used by several other users, so you should test it well before shooting your film. You can't find fault with the vendor, in case you waste your energy and time with faulty equipment. Even if the equipment was fine when you got and tested

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it, but can go bad anytime. So you need a proper insurance cover. The equipment rental house can introduce you to some good insurance company to cover you production activity.

It is important that you sign a written agreement with the film making equipment rental house that clearly specifies rental cost, the time of receiving and returning the equipment, your liabilities as well as responsibilities, etc. While receiving the equipment check whether all its components are in place and that the equipment works satisfactorily. It is better to discover faults while still at the vendor's place than while shooting. Also ensure that every item of your list has been delivered to you, else you will be wasting your precious time running around for a missing item. Double check everything, no matter how minor it seems. It is advisable to collect your complete list of equipments one or two days before the shooting date. This way you will have enough time for checking your equipments and there won't be unpleasant surprises when you actually use them.

The Joys Of Film School

If you are someone who wants to become a filmmaker, film school should be a place of joy for you. Because it not only equips you with the basic film making skills, but it also serves to shape your passion. Besides, it gives you the thrust and direction to produce your own film with new and fresh ideas.

There are several well reputed film schools in the country. Well, if California is always going to boast of highest number of film schools, followed closely by New York, you still have lot of other film schools in rest of the country.

Let us first talk about the most sought after "Top of the Pie" film schools which are dream of every aspiring filmmaker. The foremost would be the AFI. It was established in 1967 and is known for specialty in traditional narrative films. It offers six areas of study to the students -- Screenwriting, Directing, Production Design, Production and Editing.

Next in line is the California Institute for the Arts which was established in 1961 by Walt Disney for focus on animations. Then there is the San Francisco State University, also set up in the sixty's. The then prevalent political landscape has greatly influenced its course content. Now move on to UCLA and USC. Enter New York and you find Columbia University School of Arts and the New York University. Both schools have long list of film writers and directors who owe their training to them. For instance, Spike Lee reminds me of New York University.

It appears that if you wish an entry into the "golden gates" of any of these symbols of academic fame, you are going to need the grace of God and his miracle making powers! So, better start praying right from now. And if despite your best efforts (and prayers!) you fail to make your proud entry inside any of the heavenly gates, no need to despair. Rather than staring at the blissful faces in there, turn around and you will find a lot of other film schools across the country with good programs.

There are several film schools in the Pacific Northwest. There is a very good film school in the University of Washington. Another interesting option is the Evergreen State University. It is famous (or infamous!) for its kind of liberal style of education. In place of grades, they have a system where both students and teachers evaluate every thing -- themselves as well as the

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program. They are known as Greeners and they take pride in their critical thinking. Their program, known as MediaWorks, has produced several radical and cutting edge filmmakers.

You will have to consider a few things before you pick a film school. The first thing is the cost of education. This is the ground reality, because if you are going to take loan for your education, you must consider how soon you will be able to repay it after finishing school. To answer this question, consider the kind of internships they offer. You can learn about it from past students who recently graduated from the schools you are considering.

Film school is the comfortable launching pad for your rocket of burning aspirations. It provides you the opportunity to put your hands on all types of equipments and facilities required for film making. For instance, you will learn how use a camera, recording devices, editing equipments, sound studios and edit bays. Another unique aspect of film school is the pool of talent -- other students. Students crew for each other. You have all this while you are at school. Once you are out, you can only envy what you had at the school.

So, whichever film school you choose to attend, try to enjoy it fully. It is a place where you have freedom to experiment and facilities to work out your projects. Rather than thinking of sleep at night, plan on falling in love with pizza and Top Ramen.

How To Make An Entry Into Film Making Industry?

Getting into film making industry is both tough and challenging. You can't get into film industry with the approach you normally follow at other places. Things are done differently here and better you know how it works. Positions are hardly advertised and film makers hire crew based on personal contacts and networking.

Since each film is a project of certain duration, jobs are temporary. Those working in the film industry know that they are always worried about their next job. Film makers make one film at a time so don't need to hire permanent crew. When they need people they count on those whom they already know. Needs are rarely advertised. Your chances of success depends on whom you know and how much you know.

Another idiosyncrasy of the film industry is that unless asked for, don't send your resume. Decision makers have hardly any time to read resumes. Sometimes the production houses advertise positions, but be aware that it could be just for the purpose of projecting an image of equal opportunity employer -- just a publicity stunt. Chances are that someone is already shortlisted. The resumes they receive only serves to prove that the position was advertised openly and filled after considering all applicants.

If due to some play of luck you find yourself in an interview, never show antipathy towards certain types of tasks. If you have this mind set, better stay away until your mind begins to see some sense. Working in film industry means schedules and duties which keep changing at short notices. There are no fixed working hours and a day is usually quite long. While you are lost in your work, your personal life takes a back seat.

Professionalism is what is expected from body in film industry -- it does not matter that you don't know anything (or much) about film industry; and it also does not matter that you are a just a beginner. You become a professional the moment you get hired. If your naivety or inexperience shows up, then you are not acting professional -- and most likely you will end up being labeled as incompetent who can't handle the job.

Professionals produce results of high quality, it does not matter that they are new in the job. They are not supposed to bother about being paid, kind of tasks they are supposed to do, or

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how many hours they have to put in. As a professional you are supposed to come prepared to the sets. You are expected to always give excellent results in whatever you do so that the film maker is convinced that you are really the best choice for the current job and should think of offer taking you in the next project also.

You should maintain a friendly outlook and positive attitude so that you become liked by other crew members. No one want to be around someone who is always frowning and critical. Everybody has bad moods but it can't be all the time. If you are generally depressed or have some serious problems in personal life, then film industry is not the place for you.

It is probably best to make an entry in the film industry is as an intern or volunteer. You must be prepared to work for free or be willing to accept whatever is offered to you. This way you will have the opportunity to prove that you have potential and are a professional in your approach.

What Will My Film Making Crew Expect From Me?

Today almost anyone, who knows a word or two about films, can start making film. The lack of experience on the part of the new film maker often results in misunderstanding between him and his crew. He must constantly be asking the question: Do you understand me?

Capturing sound while filming is the job of the sound mixer. He is supposed to be perfect or almost perfect in his job. He also cues the camera man and keeps him updated. It is crucial to ensure that he is well equipped.

New comers commonly think that they only need just these two persons in the crew -- the camera man and the sound mixer, who is also known as the video tech. And then it is for the camera man to demand more people in the crew, and that their role is to worry about the budget approval.

After the size of the crew has increased, it is usually discovered that the new additions need training as well as assimilation into the activities. Quite frequently, new directors can't explain the shots properly and the crew members just don't know what they should be doing.

When there is any type of change, everybody need to be informed about it, particularly the sound mixer, who in turn, passes it on to the camera man. Then the camera man passes the instruction to his assistant, the gaffer (the chief electrician of the film unit). Hence, the whole flow of information will stop unless the sound mixer have the correct information at the proper time.

It is also important to show rehearsal to the crew, before actually shooting it. This way the concerned crew members become aware of what they should be doing when the shot is taken. It also provides opportunity to adjust lighting, focus, and sound microphones, etc. A new comer often thinks of rehearsal as a waste of time and tend to avoid it under time pressure. It leads to confusion even among actors. The crew normally understands that recording shot at such a juncture is a total waste.

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One does not get good scenes automatically, the background and foreground actions ought to be perfect before the shot is taken which demands good direction. Due to their impatience, the new film makers just want to go ahead with shooting.

The director has to clearly indicate to the camera man and the sound mixer when the recording of a shot is to begin and the time to cut or end it. The crew also should be told when the shot has been satisfactory. The crew would want to hear the word "action" before the camera man starts the camera. For video taping, there is a time lag between start of the machine and when it is ready for recording. So the machine is started early that means that there will be some recording before the shot actually starts which will have to be eventually edited out.

The word "cut" tell the camera man to stop shooting. It also tells the crew when the shot is over. A new film maker often does not understand the importance of this protocol. There are other annoyances that the crew has to deal with while working with a new film maker. The best policy for a new film maker is to invite frequent feedbacks from the crew. He should be repeatedly asking the question: Do you understand me?

What About Film Making And The Internet?

This is a most exciting time for independent film makers. Now that the internet and digital technology have paired up, we are seeing the old way of Hollywood shifting to the new independent film makers. The emergence of this technology has paved the way to new markets and tools for the film making industry. Most significant is the fact that this development has changed the areas where the independents have had the most difficulty- development, marketing, and distribution.

Studio big-wigs have ignored the internet, treating it as a passing fad or a tool for film promotion. When Time-Warner was taken in by AOL, they understood what the impact would be. The Blair Witch Project brought this point home, the young film makers brought fame to the film with very clever web marketing. Hollywood production, marketing, and distribution has become the old way of film making, and this is causing a good bit of anxiety with the major studios.

Independent film makers who have traditionally been left out and ignored by the film making industry, are now building websites. These sites deal with the traditional ways of film making, but many of them address the problems with financing, marketing, and distribution, and suggest remedies for these problems. Independent film makers are able to directly contact potential investors with scripts and potential story ideas. They are able to pitch their ideas to the investor themselves.

There has also been an insurgence of online festivals, distributors, and resources where an independent film maker can market their film to a worldwide audience and show the product to the interested party directly. This market is available to all, and the forerunners make up the criteria as they go. These new film makers will harness the internet, and be successful in digital film making.

There are several methods and techniques when it comes to digital production. There are innovative trends and studies of up-and-coming independent film makers, online. You are able to learn about script development, marketing, digital distribution, how to enter film festivals, and much more. These topics are available to anyone who is interested in learning the new techniques in film making.

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The internet is fast paced and growing steadily. These techniques have been out there for a while now, but as I said they have been ignored by traditional Hollywood for quite some time. These techniques are evolving rapidly and they will be critical tools for the independent film makers who want a successful career in the new revolution of the film making industry.

Of course, before you jump into film making with everything you have, my advice is to become familiar with every internet concept and tool that can help you produce, develop, and market your project. Weigh the possibilities to find the best technique for you, your budget (while it does come with a cost, you will find internet based film making is cheaper), and your artistic abilities.

As far as financing your film making endeavor, you may want to look into film making grants. There are several out there, just do a search on the ever evolving internet.

What About Internships In Film Making?

A job in film making is like any other position you apply for. If you have no experience, you will probably not get an interview. When you can't get an interview, you won't get the job, and if you can't get the job you will not gain experience. Experience is a must to get a job in film making.

There are times that people get a lucky break and seem to fall into a job in the film making industry, this certainly doesn't happen very often. Realistically, if you want to get into the film making industry, it will be up to you to make it happen.

While internships are hard to find, as there is fierce competition in the industry, they are a good way to get your foot in the door. You can overcome some of this by contacting production companies and proposing your own internship. Film makers are more liable to accept free help during busy times. You will probably make important contacts that can be invaluable in the future.

There are a few different ways to arrange your internship. You may approach a film crew during a shoot and volunteer to help. If you are persistent they will usually allow you to do some work on the set. This may not be your ideal job, but once you are in the mix you will meet people who work in the film making industry. These contacts could lead to big opportunities down the road, and the job you really want.

Or you can check the classifieds in the trade papers for mid-level, or senior openings in the field you are interested in. If they are recruiting for that position, they usually are short-handed and need some help in that department. When you spot an ad like this, call the office manager directly. Once they are on the phone, tell them you are interested in an internship. Add that you know they are busy and you could meet with an assistant instead. Ask them who you could contact about this and tell them you will call them yourself. Make sure you do contact them if you are serious about getting an internship. It is imperative that you act professionally when contacting anyone in this industry.

You can call the human resource department of any production company, at any time and offer to be an intern. Try to pick a department that you have the most interest in becoming part of, or

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learning about. Whatever your choice, make sure you keep a good attitude, it may take a little time, but sooner-or-later there will be someone who is willing to accept your offer.

The film making industry is a close knit group and the more people you meet, the more likely it will be that you find work in the area of film making you desire. Above all, even though it may seem fruitless, don't give up, you have as good a chance as anyone to break into film making.

What Are The Top Five Film Making Producer Skills?

The knowledge of film making is not enough to create a good movie producer. This quality might be good if you are a studio executive, or in any other job out of film making production. To be a good producer you need to develop certain skills, for you to become an independent film maker.

The first and most important skill is organization. You may already have this skill, and frankly it is not an easy skill to teach or learn, but you can learn to become more organized. If you have trouble remembering where you put your wallet or the last time you had the oil changed in the car, you will need some help in this area. Buy a book on how to get organized or take a class in organization. Do what you think best, but get organized.

The second skill is the ability to make quick decisions. No matter how well your plans have been laid, there are a lot of gray areas and changes that can come up during filming. You will run into decisions that need to be made right now. You can develop this skill by realizing from the start that you are in charge, and you will be making all of the decisions, any mistakes that are made, you will be making. If the decisions are wrong you will know it soon enough. As the film maker you must act decisively, accepting blame when necessary, the members of your cast and crew will go along with what you say.

The third skill is the ability to be a good negotiator. You will find that you will be making decisions about everything on the set. Everything will usually need to be negotiated. When rates are negotiated, know the top price you can pay for any one item according to your budget. Try to lower that by 20 or 30 percent by negotiation, you really need to keep yourself in the know. One thing to remember, if you don't negotiate the right price you can decline the item and look elsewhere for it.

The fourth skill is one of diplomacy. Film makers need to keep a close reign on gossip and rumors. You may have to step in the middle of feuds and conflicts. The trick is to remedy the situation without taking sides. You need to practice diplomacy every working day.

To be a great film maker, you will need to have plenty of energy. Caffeine may help you wake up in the morning, but you will need real energy if you are going to make it through the duration

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of the film. You need to eat well and make sure you take vitamins to keep yourself from breaking down with the long working days.

When you have mastered these five basics of a film making producer, you will be able to use your knowledge of the film making process and produce a great independent film.

Where Can I Go To Learn Film Making?

There are several choices when it comes to film making schools. At the Los Angeles Film School, you will learn the art of film making by actually making a film. Your first week you will be handling a camera, and by the time you are ready to graduate you will have made many films during the span of a year.

The Los Angeles Film School campus is located in the heart of Hollywood. Where better to learn film making than in the town that made it famous. You will learn film making on the corner of Vine and Sunset where the school is located. You will be only a few steps away from The Kodak Theater, and the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The LA Film School boasts a faculty of Hollywood professionals who have credits on films like Spider-Man, The Matrix, and Blade Runner. They bring with them their years of experience to help you become the best film maker possible. You will be taught directing, producing, screenwriting, the art of cinematography, production design, everything they believe will be useful in the career of a film maker.

While experience and location are important, the curriculum is of the latest in technological film production. This state-of-the-art curriculum in film making is one of a kind and cannot be found anywhere else. This school is the best place to begin a career in film production.

The members of the faculty are the current film makers, the students, the film makers of the future. It is the mission of the LA Film School to send the next generation of film makers into the industry full of self-confidence in their abilities, a sense of excellence, and a passion for movie making.

The five biggest reasons to attend the Los Angeles Film School are:

1. The small class size and a hands-on environment.
2. The faculty of professional film makers that are devoted to teaching the craft.
3. The state-of-the-art facilities.
4. You will keep all rights to any films you make.
5. The reasonable cost of your education.

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The school is located in the heart of Hollywood, and is surrounded by the major motion picture studios and the film industry business. You will be within walking distance of many of the studios you have, until now, only dreamed about working for.

While no film school will guarantee you a permanent job when you graduate, you will get to know your instructors who ARE the film making business. They will be able to give you instruction on the best way to go about breaking into the film making business. Your instructors want you to succeed by teaching you everything you need to be able to develop a career in the film making industry.

Not only will you be in the thick of things when it comes to the film making business, you will learn how to approach major production agencies. By the time you leave the LA Film School, you will know the business inside and out, not to mention have more than a few films that will show what kind of a film maker you can be.

Why Should I Work For Free In Film Making?

When you work for free in the film making business, it will not be because you don't need or want to get paid. It will be because you are trying to gain experience and be able to find work in the film making industry. For one thing, you need experience to be hired in the film making business, and to gain experience you need to have worked in the film making business. It is a vicious cycle and most of the time the only way to break it is to intern or volunteer to work for free on a project.

This can actually lead to paying job on the film maker's next project if he likes your work. This is a great way for a film maker who is on a tight budget be able to work with a production crew. And whether the film is a success or a flop, the knowledge needed to find gainful employment will be yours when the shoot is done. You will be able to add this experience in your resume to show that now, you have the experience needed to be a paid worker on the crew. If you worked hard as an intern on one production, but the film maker did not hire you for his next project, you should not worry too much. You will be able to show the experience you have gained and have at least a fighting chance to get a paid position.

If you enroll in a film making school or University, you will see that an internship with a film maker is part of a four year course of study. It certainly isn't inexpensive to take a four year course at a school. Deciding to work on a film making crew as an intern, will be one of the best choices for you, if you have no experience in the film making industry and want to rub elbows and make contact with people who know the business inside and out, and they may be able to point you in the right direction. You will even find that some production companies will pay their interns minimum wage.

Investing your talent and know how in an internship will build your resume and network so that down the road you will be hired for the position you desire. You may want to intern more than once to really add to the experience on your resume. This is not a free ride for you, you must show the film maker that you are serious about working on the film, and are up for the position. Do network with the crew to aid you in finding a paying job after your internship is through.

If you find the work too grueling, the hours too long, and you just aren't getting in the swing of things as you should be, maybe it is good that you learned this early. Above all, no matter how

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new you are to the film making business, always act in a professional manner and you will find you will be on your way to a great career.

Audio for Films – 10 Easy Tips

Films are an audio visual version, yet most film makers focus solely on the visual part. They tend to forget that without a good audio quality the film would totally lose its impact!

None of your scenes would create that horror or terror or tickle without the right background score! Some of you might think that it can happen just like that - like a magic – but, the news is that nothing in film making happens like a magic!

For a good audio impact what you need is a trained audiophile - a professional who loves to handle the boom of several wanted and unwanted noises with a microphone all through the day.

You must know that almost all the cameras have an in-built mic that records all the dialogues delivered and the other sounds during the shoot but this mic is one of a very poor quality. So, ultimately every film maker lands up working with some external mics.

Here are a few tips to understand your external mics better and enhance the audio quality of your film:

1. Look for a professional in the field who would guide you through all the technical requisites.
2. In case you are planning a lower budget, try working with a friend who is a fresher in the field. He might be inexperienced. But a well trained young talent works wonders at times, better than the far experienced ones.
3. Invest in at least 2 good quality remote mics that must sync in with your camera. You make your actors wear these remote mics on their body. In order to make them work well, you must place them correctly.
4. Placing the remote mic is rather tricky, but once you know the right way, it is just another daily job for you. You must use your fist with the thumb extended up & pinkie extended

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down just like the ol' hang's loose hand sign. Now, place your thumb under the actor's chin. Now where your extended pinkie ends, is where you place the mic. It means that the mic close enough in order to capture good sound, but far from enough from the actor's mouth thereby preventing popping and sibilance.

5. For the group scenes, a mic with a boom is just excellent. The audiophiles have a real tough job that is to handle a boom for days together. But these professionals are trained for the same and are really passionate about it.
6. After the shoot and the recording of the sound done there simultaneously, these sounds are carried back to the studio. Here the film maker edits these sounds so as to match with the images. Unlike the olden days of film making, now the filmmakers have 'the Non-Linear Systems to Edit the Non-Linear Sounds.' Popularly this technology is known as the NLE – it enables you to move your sound clips back & forth within the video itself.
7. The sound tracks and sound effects add mood and life to the film. It is always advisable to create fresh music for the film rather than copying it from some where else. Using recorded music could lead to major legal hassles that would affix your film in the post production stage only.
8. Copyrighting laws are quite strict and violating them could cost you far too much to imagine. Remember, anything that belongs to another artist/s or their agent/s that is if they have an ownership right to the music, no one can use the same without their written permission. There are some ways around this law but not as many and not that easy as well.
9. You can only use the music that is from the public domain. You can only use the music piece or image with no ownership attached to the same that is there are no person/s or organization/s to claim the proprietary interest of that music or image.
10. To get original work it is always good to hire a professional. To go economical and work rather comfortable try working with a fresher or a friend who is talented enough to compose interesting soundtracks and effects. These days you shall find many budding composers & musicians in search of a chance to work for a film to expose their talent and art.

Finding A Location For Your Film - 9 Easy Tips

While Location Scouting in film making seems to be the most fun profile, full of traveling and freedom, this job just like others involves its own rules and duties to be obeyed. Here is a detailed analysis of how the locations for the films are looked out for:

Film Making involves several portfolios with varied job profiles. One among them is location scouting that on the forefront seems to involve only loads of traveling and fun. But in the core it is a hard core managerial job with of responsibilities involved.

While these days things are yet easy with the location scouting agencies coming in to the picture. All you need to do is file your request for a location with the apt requisites with a location scouting agency and they would help you find one of your choice. Further, they would also take you to a virtual tour to the location until you are satisfied. The ultimate hub to look out for these agencies is the World Wide Web or the internet.

In the yester years, when the film makers did not have digital technology on hand, it was indispensable for the location scouts to travel all the way to the location and see if it suits their requisites. There after, he/she took the Polaroid pictures of the place to show to the rest of the film crew and finalize the place.

The major issue in using any location for shooting is the permits – that is permission from the owner, from the local authorities and the supplying agencies. Those who are making their independent films, might use their own house or apartment for shooting. But in case you opt to use a location that has a good access of the general public, it would be essential to procure releases from the owners of the facilities.

The film makers can just go to any extent to get the right location for their film. For instance, consider - Rose Red – a film made by Stephen King. This film was shot at Thornewood Castle in Lakewood, Washington.

It is unbelievable that the entire castle was brick by brick shifted from Europe and rebuilt on the shore of American Lake. This was done by Chester Thorne. He was one among the founders of the Port of Tacoma. Anyhow, the castle had to be returned back to its original grandeur.

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Interestingly, the production & location managers formulated a deal so as to refurbish the Thornewood castle.

The deal landed up an overall cost of around \$ 800.000 for the renovations of the castle. This restoration work is yet preserved and can be seen at the website of Thornewood Castle. The castle's owners clearly asked for the renovation in exchange of the use of the same.

As a modern day location scout one has to perform the following duties:

1. It is not just enough to find a location, but there are many more permits involved in the same.
2. Permission and releases must be obtained from all the authorities involved.
3. You would also require proofs of liability, insurance & authorizations of access to the location.
4. The scout must be able to convince the owner to allow 150 person crew camping out in their front lawn.
5. Earlier, thing became smooth with some small compensation and a bottle of whiskey. But the scenario is pretty different now. An official permission from your local authorities so as to use a certain location for filming is a must.
6. These releases must be duly paid for.
7. The same must be filed and should be accessible during the entire shoot.
8. The location scout becomes the location manger once the location is secured.
9. Now he stands responsible for any and every upkeep of the location like parking access, accommodations for the cast & crew, etc.

Fly Filmmaking – A 10 Day Challenge

Fly film making as the name suggests is a very interesting form of film making that is put across as a 10-day challenge in the Seattle International Film Festival. Here are some interesting highlights of this format of film making:

Just like Guerilla Film Making, Fly Film Making is another interesting form of film making. Spike Lee's - She's Gotta Have it – has received continuous critical acclaim for the efforts. This was a film made in the guerilla film making format. Here you literally use all that comes to your stride in the shortest span of time possible.

The concept of fly film making was conceived by the organizers of Seattle International Film Festival around 10 years back. As the name suggests, here you make films while you are on the fly. This challenge is taken up by three teams every year in the Seattle International Film Festival, showcasing Seattle's filmmaking community. The challenge is to conceive and make the film within 10 days.

Fly film making is a concept that has been borrowed by the other festivals in the current years. It is actually a great crowd pleaser. Though it seems just alike the latest Fox show - On the Lot – some differences are yet there. The basic model never-the-less is similar to that of SIFF's Fly Filmmaking.

Here some interesting facts of this challenge:

1. 3 separate teams are made to gather all that they may need to make a fly film.
2. The time frame given to them is about 10 days.
3. Within these 10 days, you will have to conceive & create the film.
4. The film's run time can be any thing between 5 minutes and 22 minutes.
5. Judges view the films and announce the results at the festival.
6. The teams start preparing themselves almost 3 weeks before the festival starts, that is the arrangement part.
7. The team comprises of director, producer, and director of photography, sound engineers & actors. Further it involves the post-production facilities.
8. Finally the entire team meets and works out the final details.

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9. The last ten days that is the actual period for making the film, all the three crews are left free to work out their own way.
10. Even the music is done while flying by the local composers & recorded by some professional musicians.
11. This challenge does not consider the cost factor and avoid unnecessary politics that often comes up as a hurdle in creativity for the normal film making processes.
12. This challenge anyhow, becomes difficult due to the fixed time frame.
13. At the end, the participants get amazed with their own efforts.
14. The final results of their efforts make it hard to believe that the film was made in merely 10 days.
15. Actually film making becomes time consuming due to the time taken in decision making. With the time constraint coming in to the scene, the participants carry on with whatever they get on hand first and this saves the time spend in making decisions and discussing the ideas.

In case you would like to experiment fly film making, it is a great experience, but you would have to arrange for your own camera & work out the post-production procedures.

This experiment might be easier for a film making student. As a student, you can make use of the school's equipment loan program. You can also avail the post production facilities free of costs. It would be a challenge for you on the individual front as it would teach you how to economize your time & resources for a short film.

How Can I Learn Film Making Without Going To School?

On Filmschoolondvd.com 15 Emmy, Telly, and Cine award winning Hollywood film maker, Jason J. Tomaric teaches you all the details of film making. The phenomenal well researched interactive DVD comprises many modern learning formats. With reference to Tomaric's 'Time and Again' the details of this comprehensive set are given below.

Do you ever wonder that without going to a film making school, can you ever learn the art of film making? Well, this site offers a complete course on film making including all varied aspects in detail.

A simple DVD course would help you make Hollywood standard films within a stipulated budget at the convenience of your home. After all, this course has been researched for over two years by none other than the 15 Emmy, Telly, and Cine award winner Jason J. Tomaric. Tomaric has given film making classes through out the nation, together with the ace names like New York Film Academy, Ucla, etc.

This celebrated Hollywood film maker has devised this comprehensive film instruction course with reference to his block buster hit - Time and Again.

This 5.5 hours interactive DVD explains the complete film making process teamed with all sots of all of pre-requisites like scripts, storyboards, industry resource guides & contracts.

The set comprises of advices and guides you through the amazing journey of film making. This set of DVD is a must for all serious film making students. An indispensable investment for all novice film makers, this virtual course teaches you all that you need to know about quality production values.

The special features of this DVD set are the following:

1. The set includes DVD of the film – Time and Again. Before following the instructions you must watch this film.
2. The professional film makers who have been a part of this project would be your instructors.

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3. The format of the DVD is quite professional rather than the boring instructions format.
4. The DVD set is interactive allows you to learn at your own pace.
5. The instructions focus on teaching you techniques to make a Hollywood caliber movie within a small budget.
6. In the DVD, you shall visit the set of the film – Time and Again.
7. Among the essential aspects of film making this set includes:
 - ◇ Direction
 - ◇ Casting
 - ◇ Writing
 - ◇ Cinematography
 - ◇ Production
 - ◇ Editing, etc.
8. The DVD set comes along with a CD-ROM that contains:
 - i. Storyboards
 - ii. Scripts
 - iii. Industry resource guides
 - iv. Contracts
9. For those who want to practice after learning, the DVD set contains an unabridged footage that you would like to edit yourself at home.
10. The set also comprises of the in-depth interviews of the crew, crew & other important individuals involved in the film.
11. The set is divided in to three CDs, out of which first if the film - Time and Again.

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12. Disc 2 is divided in to over 30 chapters that culminate to 5 units of over 5.5 hours in total. These chapters cover all the aspects of film making process right from the beginning until the end.

13. Disc 3 holds the actual script of the film, along with the director's notes.

14. You shall also receive the templates that you can use during your own projects.

15. Producer's Notebook is the tool that explains the paper structure. You would need this in order to make your own small budget movie. The Producer's Notebook includes:

- ◇ Directors notes & Shooting Script
- ◇ Contracts with cast, crew and locations
- ◇ Storyboards
- ◇ Call Sheets
- ◇ Breakdown of the film's scenes
- ◇ Camera Logs
- ◇ Industry resource guides from Apple Computer, Panavision, Audio-Technica, Arri, Matthews Studio Equipment, Lowel, etc.
- ◇ These contacts would help you resource editing, lighting, camera gear, etc.

16. Further, this set comprises of a 270-page Production Manual. This gives you tips that a film maker must know, resources, diagrams, charts and tricks. Envisaging the complete details about film making, this manual covers all important elements like:

- ◇ Insurance
- ◇ Directing
- ◇ Acting
- ◇ Distribution
- ◇ Editing
- ◇ Budgeting
- ◇ Fund raising

If you still want to know more about this phenomenal DVD on filmmaking, just log on to Filmschoolondvd.com.

Ordering this DVD set from this site, you can become an expert film maker without setting a foot in any film school.

How To Produce Your Own Film Making Endeavor?

There are several talented film makers who wish to launch their film making units but they lack the finances. <http://www.mediadarlings.org/filmgrant/> helps you get the grants.

Those who want to start producing their own films must understand that this task involves a big responsibility. A complete film is a mass project that must be taken up after a lot of planning and affirmed decision, especially when it comes to establishing an independent business. The initialization of any film production unit happens with a film. This film displays your commitment towards your film making career.

Once you have decided to produce a film, the next you shall need are the resources to make a movie. And one way of doing that are the film grants.

Film grants get you the required funds to make a film, but like all other luxuries it does not come easy. First you must be trained enough and well acquainted with the process of film making and over & above that with the process of applying for a film grant.

The various types of film grants are:

- ◇ Money
- ◇ Room and board
- ◇ Equipment
- ◇ Music
- ◇ Film
- ◇ Screen Writing
- ◇ Production
- ◇ Direction
- ◇ Combinations of any of the above or all the above

Some special features of these film grants are as follows:

1. These grants are meant to help the budding film makers who lack the funds to present their talent.

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2. Like other grants, even the film grants come along with certain guidelines that you must meet in order to qualify for the grant. Very few grant projects come in the form of a documentary or a social message. Several grant projects have been awarded for their inspiring messages. They have also been shown on the television for the same.
3. There are also many students who can not afford a quality film school, but are learners in true sense. These grants land up creating great film makers and scouting awesome talents.
4. Certain film grants are such that once you prove your caliber and talent as a film maker, you shall be allowed regular funding in future.
5. The key factor that a grant giver looks for while giving the money for the project is the passion and dedication of the individual. After all, film making is an art and one needs to love their work like anything when it comes to such creative fields.
6. Their grant application is read quite thoroughly. No matter how much time it takes to complete the film, this dedication, passion and craving for work must show up in your application.
7. Guerilla Filmmaking Grant
8. In order to help the artists outside the Hollywood Industry, the Guerilla Film making Grant was devised, encouraging creative and resourceful filmmaking. This grant awards \$1000 twice a year to shoot, produce, and edit a film that is feature length. The one who receives the grant that is the film maker holds complete control of the feel, look and content of the film. The grant also includes a DVD release for the movie. In such cases the film maker is also given all the rights of distribution.

Besides, the film maker is also guided through the marketing tips and ways 7 means to distribute and sell his/her movie. He/She retains all the film rights.

9. So, anyone across the globe who is dreaming of producing an English feature film can apply for the grant.

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So, dear budding film makers are you still waiting? Just log on to <http://www.mediadarlings.org/filmgrant/> and check out the grant process in detail. The site contains all the information required. It also provides you with the guidelines that you must follow so as to apply for the Guerilla Filmmaking Grant. In case of any further queries you can also contact the operators directly.

Further, try keying in 'filmmaking grants' in your choicest search engine and you shall find many more resources to help the independent filmmakers.

Promoting Your Film

Promoting Your Film at Low Costs – 14 Easy Tips

It might be easy to make a film if you have the talent, but attracting the audience to watch the same can be tricky. Here are some inexpensive and simple means to promote your film effectively.

There are many independent film makers who do brilliant work but its goes unnoticed as no one comes to know about them. So the film makers must make it a point to promote their film as much as possible.

Usually people consider the promotion part once the film is made. But, I would suggest that once you have the title of the film on hand start the rapport building process. The large studios as we all know have their in-house publicity departments that spent loads of money to promote their creation. But your brain child would not suffer due to lack of expenses.

Here are some inexpensive and free modes of film promotion:

1. Your word of mouth builds a lot of reputation.
2. While earlier the only sources to advertise films were billboards or newspapers, now television has also emerged as a very strong medium. However, it is very expensive and perhaps only the well established studios can afford them. Internet has introduced several new alternates in the marketing field provided one knows the trick to use them to the fullest. Internet or the World Wide Web as the name suggests offers varied promotional tools at your disposal. You would have tough time choosing among them. We suggest capture all of them together as it would lend you great help.
3. While your film is at its infancy stage, start a blog. Make regular entries in this blog and make a regular feature for many.
4. Now consider making a logo of your film. Remember, this logo would be used be in several places so it must be very attractive and should have the spirit that your film has.

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5. Now switch to making a website of your film. Your logo would formulate the primary design portion of this website.
6. You might consider contacting some professional to design your logo and the website, but those who want to go economical on this front as well try gaining help from some friend or do it all by yourself. Just log on to the internet and you shall come across several websites that offer the domains & the website building tools.
7. Next, submit this website to some reputed search engine.
8. Design merchandise of your film with the film's logo like T-shirts & hats. I remember, one of my friends put her film's logo on some panties and then sold them. More and more girls bought these panties. Also the sale of these merchandise fetches you enough money for the post production phase.
9. Further, switch over to Myspace. Here build a Myspace page especially for your film. Many music artists now-a-days use Myspace for the promotion of their music. It has worked wonders for them. So trying it for the promotion of your film seems to be a great idea.
10. Now, as the time has passed and you have some portions of the film ready, consider putting them on YouTube.
11. Select some places where the film of your genre are played and try putting up your film there.
12. Next, work out some attractive fliers of your film and spread them across among the youth, like the local college. Usually, all the colleges have a common area for students' public postings. Place your fliers around these boards. The young college students are always open to new & different stuff, so they can be the best audience to have. This will fetch your art a great reputation and recognition.

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13. You can also try introducing some interesting contest where you shall reward prizes to the winners.

14. Once your film is ready to put up a premiere show, consider preparing a Media Kit. Distribute these kits to some local TV & radio stations.

Now, you can look forward to hire a professional publicist!

Selecting The Right Camera

The market these days is flooded various types of cameras. Here are some easy tips to make your pick among all the alternatives available.

In order to make a film, the one basic equipment you require is the camera. There are various types of cameras available in the markets that are all meant for different purposes. When you step in to film making, you shall use all of them on a regular basis and learn the differences as well. In the process you might also develop some personal favorites to work with.

Yet at some point all these become obsolete – one technology came in and swiped away the rest – the Digital Cameras. This technology simplified the art of film making to a great extent. With these, not even sky is the limit.

As a beginner it is a great experience to learn the ways and means of using the film cameras.

They teach you several interesting things like:

- ◇ Using a lens
- ◇ Understanding the depth of the field
- ◇ How to push & pull the focus, etc.

While it is an undeniable fact that digital cameras have brought in a revolution in film making and have been accepted with open arms world over, I sometimes think that using an actual film was rather organic. The images then were li'l hazy but they did not have an artificial crispness created with the digital technology.

Initially, the digital cameras did not compete well with the films. Hats off to the technicians who tweaked the digital technology, until and unless they were able to develop the modern age digital cameras. The film has now been relegated to very high art forms, hence now the users have no questions remaining regarding shooting with digital cameras over films.

A major plus point of using digital camera is that it eradicates the enormous processing costs. Developing the film used to be so expensive earlier that many a times it was simply prohibitive. Now the digital cameras have come in with so acceptable cost ranges that they are bound to be a part of the culture.

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In such a scenario it becomes a must to invest quality time in the product research and market survey for the best deal available. Now, when you go ahead to purchase your digital video camera to shoot your own film, I suggest you must check out the following basic features in it:

1. Buy a digital video camera with a tripod. The tripod is a three legged stand for your camera.
2. Check that the tripod must have fairly thick legs to allow sturdiness.
3. It must feature very good quality fluid head for effective panning.
4. Make sure that the camera fixes properly and releases easily and quickly from the tripod.
5. The camera must have a good battery system to allow maximum remote shooting.

These days there are n number of digital cameras to opt from. So is their price range. Never the less, a good quality digital video camera for shooting all the action of your film would cost you amidst \$500 and \$800. In case your budget can stretch up to \$1,000, Samsung VP X220L is surely the right choice for you. This camcorder comes along with a wired external lens. Its neat compact body is quite attractive and handy to operate and needless to mention, it is utterly durable. No wonders, the Samsung VP X220L was used in the very known Jack Ass show.

When get hold of new camera, acquaint yourself with its functions and features as much as you can. Never skip directly to shooting the film with your new camera. First you must make yourself perfectly professional with it. Here are some experiments you must try on your new camera:

1. Handle it all by yourself to learn it in entirety.
2. Learn to pan & focus with your camera.
3. Play back your recordings and check for the techniques to embitter the recording.
4. Try working on different lighting levels & shutter speeds.
5. Find out how your camera focuses automatically.
6. Also practice some bits of manual focusing.
7. Make sure to carry your camera with you for some days and prepare an image bank for yourself. This image bank would give you some basic generic images. These would be helpful to you while making cutaways and with several other functions involved in film making.
8. Learn to focus anything and everything through the lens.

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9. Try directing and building varied scenes in your frame. Then first shoot those in still photography.
10. To practice shooting with your new camera, try a hand on your crew & the talent.
11. Simply, shoot anything moving, until and unless you get it right.

Film Making And The Internet - Over 10 Benefits

The traditional Hollywood film makers have been ignoring the power of internet for a long time now. The independent film makers are now tremendously gaining with their ignorance. Here is the detailed explanation of the benefits of internet for the independent film makers.

With the boom of the World Wide Web or what is commonly known as the internet, age old Hollywood is undergoing a drastic change with the strong emergence of the independent film makers.

Internet teamed along with the digital technology has paved way to several new markets for the films. Also it offers plethora of phenomenal tools to the modern age film makers. Most significantly, the internet has come up with effective solutions to some key problems that were earlier the major hurdles in the development of the independent film makers. These are:

- ◇ Marketing
- ◇ Distribution
- ◇ Development

The studio big-wigs would never have imagined the extent of the power that internet would gain. They wrote off this emerging trend long back and never ever pictured it as a tool meant for film promotion. But they were awakened to the truth when AOL took over the giant Time-Warner. They realized that this power that they were ignoring is the future commandant.

Blair Witch Project proved the same all over again when the young budding talents brought their films to great fame through well planned & intelligent web marketing. Now, it won't be wrong to say that Hollywood's style of marketing, production and distribution has now got obsolete. This awakening is surely giving goose bumps to the biggies of the industry that is the giant studios.

Coming to technological upgradation, it is not that Hollywood of the film making industry is started evolving only with the internet. Actually, rightly quoting internet has paced up the entire process by creating more awareness and making this field more accessible to the youth worldwide. The traditional Hollywood always ignored this concept of creating awareness through websites, but now they are almost forced to adapt to this emerging authority. These

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critical tools were earlier never available to the independent film makers, but now they can see forth a great career ahead, diving in to new revolution in the filmmaking industry.

Now, it is needless to mention that all the freshers who are planning to join this industry must acquaint themselves to the internet concepts and tools. These would guide you through a very economical resort to every aspect of film making like production, development, and marketing your project. Brushing up rather more on your artistic abilities and providing a number of possibilities for every technique, internet would surely help you plan a better budget that is less cost in every step.

The Hollywood industry has long been ignoring the independent film makers, but now this is how they are facing the challenge:

1. They build websites for their film promotion.
2. These websites also cater to the basic problems faced by the independent film makers like marketing, financing and distribution.
3. They suggest remedies to these and various other problems and hurdles faced during the process of film making.
4. Through these websites, the independent film makers are now able to contact the potential investors directly with their scripts & brilliant story ideas.
5. With no middle men involved, the transmission of ideas is now rather smooth, hence gauging more genuine deals.
6. The resurgence of on-line festivals has created excellent platforms for the distributors & resources to come together in the market.
7. They can now market their films to a vast set of audience, that is perhaps as big as the world at large.
8. Then the interested parties can see the product quality directly, speeding up the pace of this growing consumer market.
9. This new emerging market is open to all, its pace and movement decided by the forerunners.
10. Internet is infusing new ideas for development and is creating more awareness about the technical development happening across the globe. This way more and more people gain knowledge about digital film making, thereby creating rather successful & potential film makers.

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11. Talking of digital film making, now the market is flooded with several innovative methods & techniques. Internet allows you to understand as to what is the latest and the best in the film making trends.
12. You can go through the studies of the up and upcoming independent filmmakers, online.
13. Those who are interested in enhancing their knowledge about film making and the new techniques in this field, internet provides an endlessly large knowledge bank. It teaches you in depth about varied indispensable aspects of film making like:
 - ◇ Marketing
 - ◇ Script development
 - ◇ How to enter the film festivals
 - ◇ Digital distribution, etc.

Coming to the finance part of film making endeavor, consider looking for some film making grants. Just log on to internet and you shall find many givers out there!

Film Making Finance – 12 Points To Remember

Finance is a very important and crucial part of film making. While many people pull you here and there explaining about this vast topic, where as they are all beating behind the bushes, here are some real facts about film making finances.

Every film maker at some point in his career is supposed to make a choice between a hobby and a profession – that is whether you choose film making as a full time career or just a mere hobby. The key to the answer lies in their ability to finance or fund their own projects.

Film making, as we all know involves a lot of money in indeed, most off the film makers focus on their current project, not the future ones. Hence in order to become a film maker, it is immensely important to understand the professionalism involved in film making, and the mechanisms of film investment.

In this regard many people claim to be Mr. Know-It-All, but as a matter of fact, this is not any toddlers' job. Such people often try to take advantage of your ignorance in the field.

We suggest you to contact a legitimate company who are equipped with the right knowledge and have some experience in the field of film making. But, like all other services and products, there are so many consultancy firms out there. On what basis do you choose or reject one? Here are some basic facts that you must understand:

1. The fake or some average companies would merely try to grab your money away with high dreams and no results.
2. The legitimate and quality organizations would never promise you any investors. They would rather assist you with a list of the potential investors and help you win over them.
3. Whether your project gets an investor or not is matter that is decided by several factors like the subject of your project, the market scenario, your individual potential and its portrayal, and for those who believe, luck.

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4. The legitimate consultants understand that there is no fun stealing away those few dollars paid for consultancy that any producer could afford conveniently.
5. The genuine financial consultants at times do not even charge the percentage of the funds you have earmarked for the project. They charge you their fees but ultimately aim towards the success of your project and its effective distribution.
6. They must help you evaluate the accumulated interest levied on the money you have borrowed during production.
7. They would also guide you through a well planned financial end of your project.

The toughest part of this business comes in to the scene when you have to convince a financial consultant of a legitimate producer to get involved in your project. You must find an investor who trusts you and your project well enough in order to invest in such high-risk, that is film making. For this you must step in to the shoes of an investor and evaluate as to what would be his/her investing criteria.

There are some essential basics of film investing. These are:

1. Usually, a film investor contributes around 50% of the total cost of the film. Film producer bares the remaining 50%.
2. 30-40% is quite enough to make the film. This would totally depend on your convincing power to bring forth the end users to become a part of your plan.
3. The investor would always want that the budget of the film project is as low as possible.
4. Foreign sales must cover at least 50%.
5. An investment worth \$5 million is should be enough to allow the investor to buy several films.

As getting a film financed through investors is not an easy nut to crack, the independent film makers must consider the film making grants. Those who are passionate about this art and are

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in love with this profession, have a real scope of getting these grants. Just log on to internet and key in 'film making grants' and you shall get to know about several funders who are all willing to help such budding talents. All you need is to believe in your project. But make sure to gain enough knowledge about each grant as there are several types of grants that define different criteria for each.

Internship In Film Making - 7 Easy Ways To Try Your Luck

Getting internship in film industry is probably the only resort to gain experience in the field. Here are some tips to break through this hard nut.

Just like any other job on the roll, a placement in film making must be applied for in quite a formal manner. This also calls for experience like any other jobs. So, if you are a fresher do not expect any interviews so easily. And of course, no interviews means no job. As a chain reaction, you won't get a job with out experience. So, ultimately experience is the key to get you a job in filmmaking.

Very few fortunate people get that lucky break and come in to the vast film making industry. But of course, this happens very rare. Practically, it would be your own efforts that get you a job in the filmmaking industry.

In the fiercely growing competition, though it is tough, but the fact is that only internships can help you gain the required experience in the field. Internship acts as stepping stone in the field.

Here are some tips and tricks you can try to crack this hard nut:

1. Contact the film production companies and try proposing your internship.
2. Film makers often look for help when they have loads of work. So, making important contacts could be of invaluable help in the future.
3. Try approaching a film crew while a shoot is on and volunteer yourself for help. Be persistent enough and it might help. Initially they would give you some low profiled work on their set which might not be the ideal job you were looking for. But getting in to the mix, you shall meet many people who are already working in the film industry. Making these contacts can help you get big opportunities some where down the road, and might also get you your ideal job.
4. Go through the classifieds in all trade papers thoroughly. In case you come across some mid-level or senior level openings in the film making field understand that the

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company right now is looking for some people in the department as they are short-handed.

Try calling the office manager directly. When the office manager comes on the phone, say that you are interested for an internship in their company. Also show concern for their time and that you could meet some assistant instead. Check as to who would be the right person to contact and be sure to mention that you would call yourself. Further, be sure to contact them and show that you are serious enough for the internship. In the professional field, it is imperative to act very smartly and professionally whenever you contact any industry person.

5. Try to contact the human resource department of the production companies at anytime and offer to become an intern there. If given a choice, pick out a department of your interest or that what you really wish to learn. Whatever choice you make, assure that you keep up a good attitude.
6. This may take some time but sooner or later, if you have the caliber and persistence you shall surely get someone who would accept your offer.
7. Remember, film making industry is quite a close knit group of people. The more links you meet, it becomes more likely for you to get work in the field of film making.

Alas, have patience and tolerance – though it may seem to be fruitless, giving won't help. You stand equal chance like anyone else to get that break in the field of film making.

Investing In Film Making

While investing in film making might sound glamorous enough, its profits can take you higher than the sky and losses can lead to going down under to utter failure. Here are some tips to watch while investing in film making.

Those of you who have worked all through your life and are now wanting to put your hard earned money in some big time venture, many a time consider films as a great option. This option might sound glamorous enough on the forefront but has many gray shades attached at the same time.

Films do not certainly guarantee to be a hit or a miss – in case your investment lands up being a hit, it's a true jackpot, but in case it turns out to be a flop, the huge losses might create irreparable damage to your life and image.

Remember the key factor is never invest in a film making project, until and unless you are sure that you would be able to bare the loss of the amount invested and some more bucks over and above that.

Those who have come out to be great successes in the film making business, prove that now they are all completely financed and can bare the losses if any. Their experience teaches them several new ways and means to judge the viability of their investments.

It may sound easy to invest in filmmaking and make big money, but this is certainly a hard nut to crack. You must beware of those hounds, who claim to be Mr. Know-It-All and manage to drown your hard earned money with some simple yet worthless advices.

Here is the way to initialize the idea of investment in film making:

1. Equip yourself with the right knowledge required about film making and details about how the independent film makers work.
2. Get in touch with the film trends - know what's hot and what's not. As a film takes a long time to make survey as to what to trends would persist for the next year or so.

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3. Considering some particular film maker, research about him fully – his caliber, talent and above all, his experience in the field.
4. You must have faith in the project you are investing, else the others also would have no faith in it.
5. Try meeting the professional several times before the final decision is made so that you can check his passion of film making and his determination for the job, before spending even a dime on the project.
6. Gauge through their plans of making the film and if they would like to work with you all through the film making process.
7. If not, would they even allow you to visit the sets of film once a while to follow up the progress of your project?
8. Discuss all the issues that come to your mind and make written notes of what they assure you and the points being negotiated.
9. While no one can actually give a written guarantee regarding the success of the film, determination and your believe in the project indeed takes things ahead. Once you are convinced, this is a great avenue to mint money in this glamorous field.

Here are some quick tips that would guide you through the right negotiation in such deals:

1. Individually you would need to bear only 30-40% in the equity in order to make the film, and the rest should follow on if the rest are convinced.
2. Minimize the budget as much as possible.
3. The foreign sales must cover at least 50-70%.

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4. A viable script is what decides the future of the project. We suggest you to you're your own sweet time and look for the script that convinces not one but all and that is sure to fetch audience. Do not run up to hasty decisions and pick out just the first script that intrigues you.
5. Plan the distribution of the money quite carefully as it could fetch you a great deal of money by the end.
6. An investment above \$5 million could buy you more than 1film.
7. Never invest more than 50% of the total cost of the film while the making. The Producer must manage the rest, and in case he can't do so, withdraw now.
8. Do not compare your project with those produced by the big motion picture studios. Working with the independent film makers is all together different.

Being A Producer – 5 Top Skills Required

Being a film producer, just knowing film making is not enough. Here are the top 5 skills required to become a successful film maker.

Having the right knowledge on film making might help you run a studio or be a goof studio executive, but to become a successful independent film maker, you need have that special awe. In order to become a good producer, you must develop certain skills in you as an individual.

The top 5 requisites among the rest are as follows:

1. Organization

This is perhaps the most important skill required for a producer. Some of you might be organized enough, but you would all agree that this skill can not be taught to anyone neither can one learn it that easily. It is just about trying and getting it in to your system with practice. In case you keep forgetting the place you left your wallet at or are still calculating as to when did you last change the oil of your car, you certainly need to work in this area. Try reading some self help books like - How to get organized. There are many training sessions that could give you easy and effective tips on being organized. Pick you method your own way, but do get organized as being a producer this is a basis necessity for you.

2. Quick Decision Making

An individual's ability of making quick decisions is indeed helpful in several fronts of life. When it comes to film making, the actions and procedures are quite planned and hence predictable regarding the results, yet the field of film making is full of surprises. There are several gray areas that keep on forcing last minute changes in your plans. Being the producer, you would be the captain of the ship with all the onus for good or bad coming back to you. This would call for many decisions to be made right now with no time to think.

In order to develop this skill within your self, first of all realize thoroughly the since the beginning until the end you are responsible for all the decisions taken during film making. Any mistakes that follow can not be blamed on anyone else, but you, the producer. You must have the power

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to judge when your decisions have gone wrong. Being a film maker, it is a must for you to be decisive and accept the blame when ever necessary. Remember you are the role model for your crew & cast and they would follow what ever you say.

3. A Good Negotiator

All the decisions you make regarding the expenditure of the film would be final. You must understand that without negotiation, if you continue paying the prices quoted always, you shall far exceed your stipulated budget which is not something truly advisable. As a producer it is your duty to know the maximum price you could pay for any item as per your budget. Then try negotiating the bid by 20-30 percent. If it doesn't work out, make it a point to say no, but do not exceed your budget in any circumstances.

4. Diplomacy

A producer needs to manage a big group of talents and the crew. Hence, you must keep a close watch on the gossips and rumors. When you become a part of some feuds and conflicts, work out a remedy for the situation with out taking any sides. This is art you would need to master as you would use it every working day.

5. Energetic

A producer must be very energetic in order to face the hectic schedules every day. While a lot of you may think that consuming caffeine in the morning wakes you up fresh, remember a producer needs to have some real energy to face the bilk of challenges that come across during the process of film making. So, you must eat well & have lot of vitamins to avoid any break downs during the long working days.

Mastering these 5 basic individual skills, would make you a real successful film producer. Yet, applying your knowledge on film making to the fullest is a pre-requisite to become an independent film maker.

Los Angeles Film School

The LA Film School located in the heart of world film industry that is Hollywood, is dedicated to making passionate film makers for years to come. Here are some special features of this ace association.

When it come to film making there are endless choices available, but one among them stands above all the rest - the Los Angeles Film School.

Here you learn the art of filmmaking on the very practical front that is actually making your own films. Es, in the first week itself you are taught on handling a camera. By graduations, that is with in an year's span, you would have made several films all by yourself.

If that's not a reason justified enough for you to believe that the Los Angeles Film School is the ace, here are some more concrete reasons:

1. The campus of the Los Angeles Film School is located right in the heart of the films' capital Hollywood.
2. The school's location boasts of the corner of Vine & Sunset, just a few steps away from Kodak Theater and Hollywood Walk of Fame. It is surrounded by all major motion picture studios & the film industry business houses. Everything you dreamt of would be within a walking distance.
3. The faculty here comprise of known Hollywood professionals, those who have big films to their credits like The Matrix, Spider Man, and Blade Runner.
4. Their experience and practical knowledge would guide you trough a journey towards becoming an ace film maker.
5. The school is determined to train you all the required aspects of film making that is from A to Z. Such as producing, directing, cinematography, screenwriting, production design, etc.

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6. The curriculum of the school is certainly the best with all latest technological film production. It is this state-of-the-art curriculum that makes them distinctly ahead, hence making it the best ground to begin a successful film production career.
7. LA Film School goes ahead with a mission – that is to create the next generation of filmmakers for the industry – those who are self-confident in their abilities, excellent in facing all sorts of competitions, and passionate for making movies.
8. The small sizes of the classes allow very close and interactive learning in an unbeatable hands-on environment.
9. LA Film School's faculty is that of extremely professional film makers who are unquestionably devoted towards the art and are hence, truly loyal for teaching the craft.
10. The state-of-the-art facilities at the school make learning more easy and fun.
11. The students would have all the rights to the films they make during the span of the course.
12. The cost as per the facilities is quite reasonable for this sort of education.
13. No film school ever guarantees a permanent job after graduation. Yet, here you have the advantage of knowing your instructors who formulate the film industry of Hollywood in real sense. They would give you some instructions as to knowing the best ways to get that dream break in film making.
14. Your instructors would do their level best to help you succeed in developing a great film making career by teaching you anything and everything you would need to know in film making.
15. They would also teach you the ways and means to approach the major production agencies.

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16. The films that you make during the course, formulate an excellent portfolio that would help you in your professional journey ahead.

Film Making – A Booming Industry

Films have always intrigued us with its stories, characters and the over all impact. Here is the over view of this growing employment generator that is the film making industry.

World over, watching movies is the most preferred form of entertainment. When you go to a theatre to watch a very awaited flick you have lot of hopes form the same. The films' characters and story takes you to a whole new world where you live their emotions, excitement, trauma, drama and action. You fall so much in love with these characters some times that you just want the film to go on and on. It is like living a different life for a few hours. That is the magic of movies!

Here are certain economical facts of this blooming industry that is the film making industry and its impact as an employment generator:

1. Being one among the most preferred sources of entertainment across the globe, the film industry witnesses over \$ 6.5 billion of revenues every year.
2. This industry creates big images and names that are glamorous and become ideals for many that are the actors and sometimes the producers and director of the film. Yet, we hardly know the actual power behind this giant media the huge crew and the hefty team of technicians like the set designers, sound recordists, editors, casting person, location scouts, electrical technology people, make-up artists, publicity designers, and several others.
3. The Hollywood filmmakers produce & distribute as many as 400 to 500 films year after year, and the Americans invest several billion dollars in this industry by purchasing the DVDs and watching these films. DVDs are hence a very lucrative part of the filmmaking industry. There are thousands and lacs of audience who watch the film at the convenience of their homes through these DVDs. DVD marketing is therefore a growing trend. These include feature films, industrial & informational films, etc.

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4. The growing spread of the film making industry has given rise to plethora of employment opportunities in this glamorous filed. Those who are actually considering a career in this field can easily reap the benefits of this boom.
5. The emergence of satellite & the internet have played a major role in the delivering the films to the world. They have boosted up the film making industry tremendously. Films earn at least 40% of their total revenue through international sales and these sales increase rather are created and culminated only through the satellites and the World Wide Web or the internet.
6. This means that there is a lot of viability in the television industry these days. Those of you who are interested in a serious career in filmmaking and television, believe the opportunities out there are endless, all you need is determination and caliber.
7. New York city is the hub of shootings of these films and television programs that bring is a great deal of revenue for the city's economy.
8. The opportunities actually lie in the less glamorous off the screen jobs like production assistants and the set construction workers, etc. These low profiled jobs further pave way to the higher positions.
9. Also this boom is resulting in a need to have a big distribution network, therefore a lot of major studios are now embracing the concept of DVD rentals & cable.
10. While this flourishing industry have something in store for everybody out there, many of you may realize that this is not your cup of tea. If that is so, step out in time, else it shall be too late. But the key words in this field are patience and hard work. Until and unless you get a higher paying job, keep trying your hand with determination and sporting spirit.
11. There are several new comers required for the glamorous jobs as well like directing, acting, camera operation, screenwriting, grip, production, etc. With the apt attitude & patience, you might be fortunate enough to find a producer or a director who takes you in his crew time and again due to your good work.

Working For Free In Film Making - 12 Good Reasons

As a fresher it might sound odd to you to work for hours together with no salary. In film making you do it voluntarily for some real good reason. Here are those reasons.

Nobody wants to work for free. After all, who would not like to be paid for his toil and efforts? But, in the film making industry you are sometimes bound to work for no money. It is not because you are being forced to do so or you are not up to it.

Just like any other job on the roll, a placement in film making must be applied for in quite a formal manner. This also calls for experience like any other jobs. So, if you are a fresher do not expect any interviews so easily. And of course, no interviews means no job. As a chain reaction, you won't get a job with out experience. So, ultimately experience is the key to get you a job in film making.

Very few fortunate people get that lucky break and come in to the vast film making industry. But of course, this happens very rare. Practically, it would be your own efforts that get you a job in the filmmaking industry.

In the fiercely growing competition, though it is tough, but the fact is that only internships can help you gain the required experience in the field. Internship or voluntarily working on some project for free, acts as stepping stone in the field.

This so-called free service actually helps you get the right contacts and experience to get paid jobs in the film making field.

Here are some basic facts that you must understand in order to go through the internship process smoothly, with out creating frustration to the fact that it is an unpaid job:

1. Thinking positive enough, the film maker you are working with today might notice your dedication and talent and for his next project, they offer you a paid job.

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2. However, in some cases they might not pay for the next project as well but the fact that they are considering you for the next project means your work is satisfying them and you have a bright chance to get a paid job in the team.
3. Even if they do not contact you for the next project, do not be nervous or disheartened. This experience would add to your resume and you can apply for a paid job elsewhere as now you have some experience on hand.
4. Whether the film you have worked on goes hit or miss, the experience, contacts and learning you gain there are always worth the toil and time you have invested.
5. The film makers with a tight budget would love to keep interns in his/her production crew, so you stand a bright chance of getting an internship there.
6. In case you decide to enroll for a film making university or school, you would realize that internship is an indispensable part of the 4 year film making course. While getting in to such a school is certainly quite expensive, it is all the worth in terms of the knowledge you gain. Yet, internship proves to be real inexpensive ground for learning.
7. Internship gets you in touch with the right people and contacts who would explain you the business inside-out. They could also point you towards the right direction.
8. At times, some production companies pay the interns some minimum wages.
9. Some people voluntarily opt for several internships, so that when they apply for a job in film making, their resume is hard enough to ignore. So an investment of your talent, efforts and time in internship surely build you a strong resume and a hard core network that could help you get a magical break some day.
10. In order to get internship over and over again. You must prove your caliber with lot of work and clarifying with your act that you are indeed serious about the work and are indeed up to it.

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11. Network well with the crew. They might aid you finding a good paying job soon after the internship is through.

12. In case you find the field and your work too grueling, and the hours far too long, and you just don't fit in to the swing, that means you have realized the truth much before hand and that you can then look forward to some other field of your interest.

Alas, remember how so ever new you may be to the business of film making, always act as a sheen and you can foresee a great career ahead.