

# FILMMAKING

NARRATIVE FILMMAKING & COMMERCIALS

**Instructor:** Christian Ackerman

## **Class Description:**

This action packed hands-on class, includes a crash course in filmmaking. Learn how to write a basic story line, assemble a cast and crew then film and edit. Learn to produce commercials and non-commercial PSAs (public service announcements). Write a screenplay which may be the final major production. This course finishes with a movie screenplay written by the students. Their work will be featured at our annual Student Film Festival in May at The Pharaohplex.

Industry guest lecturers will be part of the class experience.

## **Structure:**

Class Size: 20-25

Days: Monday & Tuesday

Class Time: 4:30-6:30

Film is a tuition free 32 week course split into four 8 weeks sessions. Students can take one or more of these sessions. First year students are encouraged to complete all four sessions of one course.

## **Class Objectives:**

- Foster creativity and innovation.
- Improve writing skills.
- Improve communication skills within creative workgroups.
- Learn to work in a team.
- Learn computer skills, lighting skills, camera operation, workflow techniques, and editing.
- Have Fun making a real movie.

## **Learning Objectives:**

After successful completion of this class, students will understand:

- Working with a group in a creative environment.
- How to operate a movie camera.
- How to write a screenplay.
- Work as a film crew.
- How to make a movie.
- Use state-of-the-art editing program.
- Lighting a studio.
- Pre and Post Production of filmmaking.

## **PreRequisites:**

- Be motivated.

## **Class Timeline:**

### **HANDS-ON CRASH COURSE (Weeks 1-8)**

- Introduction to the class, demonstrate use of equipment, Celtx screenwriting program, and editing software.
- Learn MAPS production logo and branding standards.
- Write outline for short film. Students will write 3 stories during this period.
- Produce, edit and Final Cut 3-4 short films for Youtube.
- Mini-Film Festival @ The Westview

### **GROOVY COMMERCIALS (Weeks 9-16)**

- Introduction to PSAs (public service announcements)
- Learn Celtx screenwriting program
- Students choose their topics then write, review and rewrite scripts.
- Film, edit and upload to Youtube.

### **THE BIG MOVIE SCREENPLAY (Weeks 17-24)**

#### *10 minute Short Contest*

- Introduction to writing a three act screenplay. Begin exploring ideas.
- Write scripts on Celtx screenwriting program. Writing contest.
- Revise scripts, announce screenwriting winner(s). First place winner's movie is produced.

### **THE BIG MOVIE PRODUCTION (Weeks 25-32)**

- Cold read through of script, audition cast, and select crew.
- Select locations, schedule shot list, and film schedule.
- Film, edit basic assembly of dailies, and get the movie in the can.
- Divide up groups to edit certain scenes, edit any special effects if needed.
- Film approved by MAPS.
- Final last minute edits.
- Screen the Film at The PharaohPlex.

## **Outcomes:**

Mini- film festival(s) @ The Westview  
Upload completed projects onto Youtube  
Student Film Festival

## **Evaluation:**

- Journals
- Quality of completed projects
- Knowledge of technical / computer skills
- One on One interviews
- Exit Surveys



### **Program Goals:**

- To provide safe after-school mentoring programs for Ravalli County High School students in the media arts.
- To develop skills in communication, teamwork, community awareness, problem solving and media literacy.

- To promote positive development through individuality, leadership and creative and intellectual curiosity.*
- To increase vocational opportunities.*