

Inspiration:

The 10 Shot Wonder Workshop – Filmmaking with a Youth Group

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Introduction

Making a film or piece of video content is a fantastic creative process which can engage even a very mixed group of young people in working towards a united goal. Through engagement with the filmmaking process, young people can find their voice, tell their story and explore creative ways to express themselves through the medium. Finally, they get to exhibit their work to each other, their families or friends at a premiere or to a wider audience at a youth film festival. A huge validation of their efforts and acknowledgement of their creative teamwork!

Equipment Needed

Video camera or smartphone: Make sure it has an on-board microphone to capture sound and it can connect to a projector or large monitor before you start.

Editing software: This can be on a computer or your smartphone. It only needs to be a basic package which can trim video clips, add a soundtrack and titles. (See links section)

Clapper Board - Young people love a clapper board as it makes them feel like a real film crew. You can buy them online and they really make a difference.

Projector / Large Monitor – Make sure you have cables to attach your video camera or smartphone to the projector / monitor so the group can watch their film at the end of the workshop.

Extra kit (if you can afford it or borrow it!)

Microphone & Boom Pole - Not Essential, but really gives you greater control over the sound quality when recording voices. Make sure it connects to your camera or phone.

Lights - Lighting can really add to a scene, so if you have them, great! If not, don't panic.

Participants

A group of 8-10 young people is a good size for making one short film. If you have a larger group, I would suggest splitting the group to allow better engagement for each young person on the crew. A young person's personality and interests will determine what role they have on the crew. The boisterous ones might be suited to acting; arty types might like to build props, dress the sets or operate

the camera; those into computers might like the editing software etc.

Learning Outcomes

Young people learn how to collaborate using their different skill sets; to communicate in new ways and contexts; and to work creatively as a team in order to make each scene a reality. Everyone has a designated role on the shoot, and they must negotiate with each other and co-operate to progress their film. Youth filmmaking workshops will promote the development of creativity, imagination, and self-confidence, as well as social and cognitive skills. Creating a short film in two hours can support young peoples' belief in their ability to achieve goals! Young people will also learn a range of hard skills including operating a camera, using lights, recording sound, as well as the post production process of editing their masterpiece.

Getting Started

This filmmaking workshop assumes that you have worked with the group before and that the young people are used to working with each other and have established a group contract.



THE 10-SHOT WONDER WORKSHOP (2 HOURS)

Given the short timeframe a lot of youth workers have with their group, and the need to show the fruits of your work together, this workshop was devised to deliver a finished film in a very short amount of time. The workshop is aimed at giving an extremely active introduction into the world of making a film together. It is a high energy taster which will hopefully lead to you working in more depth with the group on the individual elements of the filmmaking process to produce a more accomplished piece of work.

INTRODUCTION: (10 Mins)

Generally, this time is used to both warm-up the group and explore the aim of the workshop. Ask the group to stand in a circle and copy your moves. Ask them to shake out their right hand 4 times, their left hand 4 times, their right leg 4 times, their left leg 4 times, counting out loud as they do it. Repeat the sequence with counts of 3, counts of 2 and a count of 1. By the end, they will all be shaking like clowns and you will have woken them up!

Before you start, facilitate a quick discussion on how the participants and facilitator can show respect for each other and the equipment, and explain to the group what you are aiming to achieve in the

workshop. Devise and shoot a film in under two hours!

STEP 1 - STORY (10 Mins)

Break participants into groups of 3 or 4. Set each group the following tasks to help them choose the story for their film:

- Pick a fairy tale.
- Set it in the present day in the youth club or space you are in.
- Break the story into ten scenes and write them out in bullet points.
- Pitch the idea to the larger group.
- Vote for the story they would like to film.

STEP 2 - CAST & CREW (5 Mins)

In this workshop, you are the Executive Producer, in charge of the budget and studio time that the film gets! Help the group select from the following list of cast and crew roles so that each participant has a specific job they are interested in:

- Director (manages the performance of the actors)



- Assistant Director (Crew Manager – manages the running of the film set)
- Camera (composes the shots for each scene)
- Camera Assistant (assists the camera person)
- Sound (operates the microphone & boom pole if you have one)
- Sound (monitors the sound on headphones to make sure it's all good!)
- Clapper (marks the beginning of each shot 'Scene 1, Take 1' etc.)
- Actors (you can have as many as you like, but keep it simple for your first production)

If you have a small group with mainly actors, the important crew roles are Director, Camera & Sound. Both Camera and Sound can be done by one person if needed. You can fill the role of Assistant Director (to lead the crew) if you need to keep things moving.

STEP 3 - THE SHOOT (75 Mins)

Explain the Rules of the 10 Shot Wonder.

1. The story **MUST BE FILMED IN SEQUENCE** (start at the beginning and work through to the end of the story)

2. Each scene must be covered in **ONE SHOT** (try to keep scenes brief and to the point)
3. **ONLY ONE TAKE** of each scene is allowed.

Check in with the group to make sure they understand the rules, know what everyone is doing, are able to use the equipment and have a time-frame in mind for the shoot. If only one take of each scene is allowed, what's the best way to make sure they get it right the first time? Facilitate a discussion on the best way to rehearse each scene before rolling the camera. When they are ready to shoot, your role as a youth worker is to encourage, guide and facilitate them through the process and make sure they are safe, supported and having fun throughout.

STEP 4 - THE SCREENING (15 Mins)

When the group have shot all ten scenes, you need to connect your camera or phone to a projector or large screen for the first screening of your masterpiece. Because you have shot in sequence and only taken one shot of each scene, the group can now watch a rough cut of their movie from beginning to end (press play for each scene!). This



is great validation for the young people who have worked on the project with you.

FINISHING/WRAPPING UP (5 Mins)

Talk with the group about how they feel the process went.

- What were the best parts of the filmmaking process?
- What would they do differently?
- Would they like to do filmmaking again? If so, would they like to do something over a longer period of time and make a bigger effort to create something more polished?

Plan your next meeting for the group and decide what to wear when you all go to the Oscars! :)

