

Documentary Video-making – Course Profile

AIMS OF THE COURSE

- ▶ To develop planning skills in the creation of a documentary-style video.
- ▶ To consolidate existing filming skills and learn to shoot with editing in mind.

PRE-REQUISITES

- ▶ It is assumed that students will have had a reasonable amount of previous experience in shooting on video.
- ▶ Ideally students should have completed the Swanrose *Filming Skills* course or have equivalent knowledge and practical experience.
- ▶ Although not strictly necessary, you may like to bring your own camcorder, a spare charged battery and a blank tape plus your tripod (if you have one). In the practical filming you will be working as a group and so maybe only one student will actually be doing the filming.

TEACHING STYLE

Students are guided through a series of lessons and practical exercises. Each lesson is targeted on specific learning points fully supported by comprehensive notes.

Delivery of the course (**London or On-site**) can be on a 'small group' basis or delivered on a 'one-to-one' basis to meet your own specific needs.

SUPPORT AFTER THE COURSE

We hope that our comprehensive course manual will provide you with first class support after the course.

However, should you have a problem with any of the course content, you have personal tutor support for up to three months following the date of the course.

We pride ourselves on our friendly and efficient support and, indeed, we rely upon that to encourage students to return for further training.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- ▶ Identifying a theme or subject.
- ▶ Research prior to shooting.
- ▶ Outline 'shape' of the video.
- ▶ Ways of 'telling the story'.
- ▶ Use of storyboards, scripts and schedules.
- ▶ Checklist of equipment for on-site shooting.
- ▶ Permissions and access arrangements.
- ▶ Using a presenter to tell the story.
- ▶ Setting up and shooting interviews.
- ▶ 'Vox pops' – what they are and how they are used.
- ▶ Shooting with editing in mind – shot sizes and angles.
- ▶ Quality issues with editing and distribution in mind.

Time can run away with itself on this course. We have kept it to just one day on account of costs and emphasis is on learning the techniques rather than perfecting them to produce a result. This course is more about planning than actual film-making. Put these techniques into practice and you will have success.

The course tutor will explain the main learning points as detailed above and these are also well-covered in the course notes for later reference. Students will then be given a subject and outline theme for a short video film for which they will be required to draw up a storyboard, shooting script and shooting schedule. In the afternoon session students will film the storyboard as a group following which the tutor will carry out a rough edit in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the sequences.