**Who makes a movie?**

Everyone likes watching a good film whether they see it at the cinema, on TV or on their phones. But not everyone knows how a film is made. The film industry in the UK is worth over £15 billion! If you enjoy being creative and telling stories, it could be the perfect place for you to find a job. There are lots of different jobs people do that come together to make a film. Let’s look at some of them here...

**Director**

The director is responsible for what appears in front of the camera. Directors work with the actors and decide when filming a scene starts and finishes. They say: “action” and “cut”.

**Producer**

The producer is the boss. Producers are responsible for the whole production. They raise the money and hire the director.

**Actor**

The actor is the star of the show! They play the parts of the characters in the story. If you like drama and performing in front of other people then you could be perfect for this role.

**Screenwriter**

The screenwriter writes the story. They write the dialogue between the actors and all the things that happen in the film.

**VFX producer**

The VFX producer puts in all the thing that can’t be filmed – like cars bursting into flames. They manage a team that puts these in using computer-generated images.

This resource was adapted from the 'Who makes a film' resource by Screen Skills, Into Film and the ARTS Council England: [https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1573](https://www.intofilm.org/resources/1573)
ACTIVITY: QUIZ

Which Career Are You?

Complete this quiz to find out which career in film is for you.
Don’t worry if your skills and interests don’t match up with these roles!
Find many, many more at www.creativeskillset.org

1. Which of these is your favourite subject?
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Computing
- Literacy/English
- None of the above

2. What is your strongest skill?
- Listening carefully
- Writing stories
- Designing new things
- Coding
- Being the leader!
- None of the above

3. When you are watching a film, what are you thinking about most?
- How well (or badly) the film has been put together
- You can’t wait to go home and create the visual effects on your computer
- You’re too busy looking around the room for objects to recreate the sound effects
- You are drawing the characters
- You are predicting all of the character’s lines
- None of the above

4. What would you most like to receive as a present?
- An iPad with all the latest apps
- A big box of paints and brushes
- A special notebook for all the ideas you get during the day
- A drumkit
- A video camera
- None of the above

Once you’ve answered all the questions, count how many of each shape you selected and then visit the next page to find out which career could be ideal for you.
Answers

Mostly 😊

You are a make-up, hair or costume designer

Skills to develop:
• Hairdressing and make-up
• Imaginative and artistic
• Know hair, make-up and clothing through history
• Designing clothes for characters

Mostly ⭐

You are a VFX artist or editor

Skills to develop:
• Know how to use computer editing equipment
• Understand storytelling
• Interest in animations and computer games
• Careful attention to detail

Mostly ▲

You are a Foley artist or sound designer

Skills to develop:
• Excellent listening
• Creative problem solving
• Love of sound and music in films
• Good at copying sounds you hear

Mostly ✗

You are a screenwriter

Skills to develop:
• Writing stories and plays
• Accept criticism of your work
• Good at using descriptive language
• Convincing others to like your work

Mostly ■

You are a director

Skills to develop:
• Strong leader
• Good at making decisions
• Excellent communication
• Understanding of whole filmmaking process

Mostly □

You are one of hundreds of other roles

Visual Storytelling

Visual storytelling is a technique used by filmmakers to tell their stories using action rather than dialogue (words or speech).

Instead of characters explaining how they are feeling or what they are thinking (which might be quite dull for the audience), it is easier to give the audience information through the character’s actions and movements.

This rule can be remembered as Show, Don’t Tell!

Example 1:

Instead of having your character shout, “I am so ANGRY!” you could show them slamming a door, frowning and kicking a chair. There would be no doubt that this person was angry and the audience would understand this straight away.

Visual storytelling can also be used effectively to show what a character is thinking. A character might not speak their thoughts aloud, but their actions and movements can help the audience to understand thoughts and ideas.

Example 2:

Instead of having your character saying, “I’m going to steal the robot’s gun and escape!” you could show her looking from the robot to the gun and then to the door of the spaceship.
INT. LOUNGE - LATE AFTERNOON.

BILL (16) is dressed casually in jeans, t-shirt and mismatched socks. He hasn’t washed for a few days. He is lying on a battered sofa in the lounge of a suburban family home.

BILL tries to read a magazine but throws it aside after a few seconds. He checks his mobile phone: no messages.

BILL flicks the TV on using a remote. An alien-abduction film fills the screen, bright colours, shouts and screams explode into the room. BILL immediately sits up to watch it: he is transfixed.

BILL
Woooow! I wish...!

Suddenly, a loud crash and huge bang! Smoke fills the room.

BILL
Aaarh! What’s happening? LET ME GO!

ROBOT
Engage the laser beam! Capture the human specimen!

A green laser beam cuts through the smoke, BILL levitates off the sofa...
Activity: Show, Don’t Tell!

FOR THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL NEED:

- A camera/tablet/smartphone
- Groups of 2-4 people
- Camera Shots Sheet
- Storyboard Template or large piece of paper and pens to create your own

How to complete this activity

- Imagine that you are a scriptwriter and you have been asked to revise the script for a film.
- The director thinks there is too much dialogue in the script and wants you to make some of the key scenes more visually creative.
- You have selected the following five lines of dialogue to change:
  - “I’m hungry”
  - “I’ve lost the cat”
  - “I’m so tired”
  - “I’m late for school”
  - “I’m really annoyed with her”
- Using these lines of dialogue, write a short description of the shots you would film, to show what the character is feeling.

“I’m hungry”

“I’ve lost the cat”

“I’m so tired”

“I’m late for school”

“I’m really annoyed with her”

- Now use the Storyboard Template to plan the camera shots you will use. Once complete, use your camera, tablet or smartphone to record the shots, aiming to shoot between 10 and 30 seconds of film.
- Think about what you will need to include in the shot to make it clear to the audience what the character is thinking or feeling.
- When you have shot your scene, share this with another group and ask them to guess what the character is thinking or feeling.
Be a Film Critic

Watching films and sharing your opinions with friends and family can be great fun, some people even choose to review films for their career! Film Critics can share their opinions on websites, social media, YouTube, TV, magazines and more. Often a film critic will say what they like or don’t like about a film before giving it a rating.

Now it’s your turn to write a film review! Below is a writing template that will guide you through the process of reviewing a film. So pick a film and get started!

Title of Film

Introduction
Describe how you feel about the film overall. Hook the reader by making it interesting and exciting
**Paragraph 1 – Summary**

Write a brief and snappy description what happens in the film. Try not to include any spoilers that can give away the ending or best bits.

**Paragraph 2 – Context**

- Use your favourite creative comparisons to help explain what the film is like.
- Include useful information like the names of actors and other films that the director has made.
Paragraph 3 – Evaluation

- Did you like the film? Why? Why not?
- Use a range of adjectives to describe how you feel

Rate your film out of 5!