INTO
FILM

TOP TIPS FOR
YOUNG FILMMAKERS

BFI
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STORY IS VERY IMPORTANT

It can be very tempting to start filming as soon as you get your hands on a camera. However, taking your time with planning and developing your story will help you create a stronger film.

- Make a film about something that you are interested in or passionate about
- Brainstorm your ideas, share with friends and ask for their feedback
- Create a storyboard to help visualise how the story will play out on film
- Less is more. A simple story told well can be very effective. A complicated story with little focus could confuse your audience

WHO IS YOUR AUDIENCE?

When developing your film ideas, you should consider who your intended audience is. This will help with the planning and making sure the voice and tone of the film is appropriate for the intended audience.

- If you want your film to have a wide appeal, make sure the content is appropriate for a family audience
- Think about what will make your film appeal to other young people

APPROPRIATE CONTENT

Into Film shares many of the youth made shorts we receive on the Into Film website and YouTube channel for other young people to enjoy. Therefore, it is important that the content of your film is appropriate. Films that appear to condone or encourage risky behaviours also have a limited appeal for youth film festivals.

- Avoid swearing and offensive language
- Avoid showing risky behaviours such as drug taking, smoking and violence
- If depicting risky behaviour is part of your story, is it necessary to show them in order for the audience to understand what is happening?
- Use your creativity to think about how to explore these behaviours in a responsible way

USE ANY EQUIPMENT

Filmmaking is now very accessible for most people. You can use whatever equipment you have available to you. At the very least, you need a camera, editing software and lots of enthusiasm.

- It is possible to make great films using smart phones and tablets and you can also make the most of filmmaking apps available on these devices
- Borrow equipment from family, friends, your school or youth group.

SOUND

One of the most common issues with the films we receive is poor sound quality. This might be due to the equipment used or the choice of shooting location. Good quality sound is as important as the quality of the video footage you capture.

- Use an external microphone as built in mics on cameras do not always produce quality sound
- Use headphones to help identify any issues with sound recordings
- Try to avoid busy or loud areas when filming, especially if you do not have a suitable microphone.

USE A TRIPOD OR KEEP THE CAMERA AS STILL AS POSSIBLE

A tripod offers stability within a shot and once set up, allows the filmmaker to ensure all takes are shot from the same position. This also prevents shaky camera work, which can be off putting for the audience.

- A good tripod will allow for proper controlled movements to produce smooth pans (camera moving horizontally) and tilts (camera moving vertically) and avoid unnecessary camera shakes
- If you do not have a tripod, rest against a wall and keep your arms still during the shoot
- You can rest your camera on a flat surface to ensure you achieve a steady shot

MUSIC

When selecting the music for your film, it is important that you only use songs that you have permission to use. This means you cannot use your favourite One Direction song or any other popular tracks that you like. The process for obtaining permission for copyrighted songs is costly and can take a long time.

- Use one of the many copyright free music libraries online (such as Incompetech or AudioMicro) that allow you to use a wide variety of music tracks in your film projects at no cost
- Make the most of the musical talents in your film group and compose your own music.

LOGOS AND BRANDING

It is important that you do not include any obvious or deliberate branding or logos in your film.

- Ask actors to wear neutral clothing, free of any branding or logos such as Nike
- Do not include close ups of branded items such as mobile phones or computers
- Avoid close ups of posters, paintings or newspapers/magazines in your film

LENGTH OF FILM

You can submit films that are up to ten minutes in duration (including titles and credits). However, Into Film would encourage you to submit shorter films. If made well, a two minute film can be much more engaging than a ten minute film.

- Films lasting one minute and under are of interest to Into Film as they can be screened in front of features as part of the Into Film Festival
- Films lasting three minutes and under have a wider appeal to film festivals around the world
- Don't be scared to cut out parts of your film if you think they don't work. If you are unsure, the audience probably will be too

MORE INFORMATION

Filmmaking resources - www.bit.ly/1v4Gsvo

How To films - www.bit.ly/1sLs9W1