

TIPS FOR FILMMAKERS

GET ORGANIZED. Start filming EARLY. Organize your time and start scheduling everything as soon as possible. You will probably have to re-take a lot of your shots, and good editing takes a lot of time!

SCREENPLAY. Your film should probably be basically 3 acts:

Part 1: Introduce characters and set up story

Part 2: The meat of the story

Part 3: Wrap up story

Check out: www.independentfilmadvice.com

STUDY FILMS. Pick a movie you love and watch it with the sound down; look closely at the camera angles, the editing and the lighting. Watch short films on Youtube or Vimeo and see how an effective story can be told in five minutes.

WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT. Don't write a movie that you don't have the resources to make. So... no giant battle scenes, no guys riding elephants, no high-tec special effects. Play to your strengths. There's probably something unique that you or your friends have access to that you can use in your movie. If your dad has a tractor, write a movie around that. If he doesn't, *don't*.

DON'T NEGLECT THE BASICS. Get to know your equipment, and practice with it. Learn the basics of shot composition. Do your best to record quality sound (use an extension mic on a boom), and if that's beyond your means. Utilize resources on campus! Visit Photo and Film Club

THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS. Can you hear the person speaking? Is there lots of background noise drowning out everything? Would adding music make the scene more dramatic? What type of music would be best? Is the lighting good? Are there lots of bad shadows? Are you always shooting from the same camera angle? Try shooting from a ladder, from the ground, zoom in, pan, from a moving car, close-ups, etc.

