

GETTING STARTED IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRY

This document provides an overview of learning, career and networking opportunities for practitioners who are new to the industry, and those working in the industry looking to develop their skill set. We recommend you use this resource as starting off point, but it's intended as a guide only and we make no claims as to its accuracy, authenticity or comprehensiveness.

TRAINING

There are several tertiary institutions in Melbourne that offer industry-related courses at a range of levels. The following list is a broad overview. Courses specialising in areas such as make up design, production design and digital media are also available, but not included below.

- **VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS (VCA)** courses range from entry level short term (i.e. the Summer and Winter Schools and the Foundations Program) to undergraduate and post-graduate degrees. Detailed information can be found at www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/ftv
- The **UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** runs a Filmmaking Summer School. Details on their intensive and short courses can be found at www.summerfilmschool.com
- **OPENCHANNEL** regularly runs short courses, seminars and specialist courses for all experience levels. Many of Australia's most accomplished filmmakers began their careers at Open Channel. They also run a Young Filmmakers School designed specifically for teenagers over the school holidays. For more information visit www.openchannel.org.au
- **AUSTRALIAN FILM TELEVISION AND RADIO SCHOOL (AFTRS)** production, research and collaborative activities contribute directly to the nation's creative economy. The school focuses on continuing to nurture and launch the careers of the next generation of Australian screen storytellers and audiovisual practitioners. AFTRS run a wide range of short courses in Melbourne covering just about anything to do with the industry. These courses are often not entry level but, are for people wishing to further develop their skills. To receive regular updates, subscribe to their newsletter and check out their site go to www.aftrs.edu.au
- **RMIT School of Creative Media** has a number of undergraduate and post-graduate courses focussed on developing practical industry skills. These cover screenwriting, film and television production, sound and vision, and digital media including games, animation and interactive media. Further information can be found at www.rmit.edu.au/mediacommunication
- **SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY** offers a range of film and digital media related courses at both undergraduate and post graduate level. Their list of courses is available at www.swin.edu.au
- **LA TROBE UNIVERSITY** offers undergraduate and post graduate degrees in cinema studies, covering both theory and production. Visit www.latrobe.edu.au
- **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY** offers a range of degrees that teach theory and practical skills in film, television and digital media production. More information is available at www.deakin.edu.au
- **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY** offers a variety of screen and media related courses, at TAFE, undergraduate and postgraduate levels. www.vu.edu.au

SCREEN AUSTRALIA

→ **SCREEN AUSTRALIA** is the key federal government funding body for the screen industry. On their website you will find information about the screen industry in Australia, their funding programs, and many useful resources for filmmakers.

www.screenaustralia.gov.au

Screen Australia guides relevant to early career practitioners include:

- I've Got a Great Idea for a Film
- Getting Started in Film, TV and Interactive Digital Media
- Australian Film & Television: Information for Filmmakers
- What is a Synopsis? An Outline? A Treatment?
- A-Z Budgets for Short Films, Documentary, Feature Film, Animation, and Interactive Digital Media

GETTING EXPERIENCE

→ **OPENCHANNEL** members can nominate to be listed on their crewing database, giving you the opportunity to improve your skills and meet like-minded people working on short film productions. You also receive discounts for both training courses and facilities hire. www.openchannel.org.au

→ Each year the **VCA SCHOOL OF FILM AND TELEVISION** holds a Crewing Night to find people looking to work on student productions - you don't get paid BUT you do gain credits and experience. The Crewing Night is usually held in May; call the school to find out more information. You can also add your CV and details to a crewing file, which can be accessed by the students all year round. <http://vcam.unimelb.edu.au/ftv/involve>

→ The **SCREENHUB** website includes film, TV and digital media job listings. There is also a weekly update of unpaid and paid industry jobs. There are always a number of productions looking for crew prepared to volunteer their services. You'll need to subscribe to use this service. www.screenhub.com.au

→ **ENCORE MAGAZINE** lists paid industry positions on both its website and in the hard copy of the magazine. These jobs generally require some experience. www.encoremagazine.com.au

→ The **PRODUCTION BOOK** has a listing of paid and unpaid work available nationally in the film, TV, advertising and new media industries. If you register you can also leave a 'work wanted' listing. www.productionbook.com.au

→ There are a number of recruitment agencies who specialise in the entertainment industry, and answering and booking services for film and television crew. Detailed listings can be found in **THE PRODUCTION BOOK** and the **ENCORE DIRECTORY**.

NETWORKING

- Film Victoria publishes a free, online **INDUSTRY DIRECTORY** at www.filmmelbournedirectory.com
This incredibly useful resource provides comprehensive contact information for a whole range of Victorian based practitioners. From armourers to wardrobe, producers to editors, Film Victoria's Industry Directory is the go-to for anyone and anything needed to create screen content.
- The **ENCORE DIRECTORY** is a great resource for finding skilled crew and making contact with industry professionals. The hard copy is a must-have for any production office and costs approximately \$140. Subscribers can also access the directory online at www.encoremagazine.com.au
- You can access to **THE PRODUCTION BOOK** online for a small fee, giving you access to 230 categories featuring over 18,000 listings for key personnel, companies & services to the film, TV, advertising & multimedia industries, divided by state www.productionbook.com.au.
- **THE MELTING POT** is a Screen Producers of Australia (SPAA) initiative and is an online place to collaborate, network & discuss screen projects. It's free to join and members are able to post information on themselves and their projects including footage and promo reels. There are also webinars, posts of the latest news, interesting jobs and industry events weekly. www.meltingpot.spaa.org.au

NEWS, INFORMATION & RESEARCH

- **eNEWS** is our a fortnightly email newsletter for screen practitioners. You can sign up to via the subscribe link at the bottom of our website homepage. www.film.vic.gov.au
- You can also follow us on **TWITTER**. <http://twitter.com/filmvictoria>.
- To keep up to date with what's happening in the world of documentary, our **WHAT'S UP DOC?** email bulletin includes information about screenings, networking events and other opportunities specific to the documentary sector. To subscribe, email Steve Warne (Documentary Development Manager) at steve.warne@film.vic.gov.au
- **AUSTRALIAN FILM INSTITUTE (AFI) RESEARCH COLLECTION** at RMIT is a non-lending, specialist film and television industry resource open to the public. The Collection has particular strengths in screen history and theory, Australian cinema, and features a diverse range of books, journals, film scripts, film directories, reports and film festival catalogues. The AFI Research Catalogue is available to search online at www.afiresearch.rmit.edu.au
- **NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE** hosts a collection which spans 100 years of Australia's audiovisual heritage. The 'Search the Collection' function gives you online access to information and some items which have been digitised can be previewed directly online. colsearch.nfsa.gov.au
- **THE INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE (IMDB)** is a US-based search engine and database that includes a listings for most Australian and international films, documentaries, telemovies and television series. www.imdb.com

IN PRODUCTION

- To find out what's **IN PRODUCTION** in Victoria, follow the link under the **Industry** tab on our website www.film.vic.gov.au.
- Screen Australia produces a monthly **UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS REPORT** that tracks feature, television, drama and documentary projects at all stages of production nationally. www.screenaustralia.gov.au
- **INSIDE FILM** and **ENCORE** magazines also track what's in production nationally. You can find more information on them in the publications section of this document.

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

- Joining an **INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION** can broaden your list of contacts and help you develop your professional career. Industry associations lobby on behalf of members to ensure their rights are protected and working conditions are enhanced.
 - Australian Writers Guild (AWG)
 - Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA)
 - Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA)
 - Australian Screen Editors (ASE)
 - Media Entertainment Arts Alliance (MEAA)

- **THE AUSTRALIAN FILM INSTITUTE (AFI)** is a membership-based organisation that has promoted Australian film and television since it was founded in 1958, and is responsible for producing the annual AFI Awards. The AFI provides its members with a range of services including cinema discounts, access to preview screenings and discount tickets to the AFI Awards. www.afi.org.au

SERVICES

- For **LEGAL ADVICE** on matters related to film and television production you can contact:
 - Arts Law Centre of Australia <http://artslaw.com.au>
 - Australian Writers Guild www.awg.com.au
 - Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance www.alliance.org.au

- The **AUSTRALIAN WRITERS GUILD (AWG)** also offers fee-based **SCRIPT ASSESSMENTS** by professional script editors and **SCRIPT REGISTRATION** services. More information on both these services can be found on their website.

- **THE AUSTRALIAN COPYRIGHT COUNCIL** is an independent non-profit organisation that provides online information on copyright in Australia. www.copyright.org.au

FESTIVALS & VIEWING

- We support film festivals such as the **ST KILDA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL** www.stkildafilmmfestival.com.au (which also includes the *Industry Market Day*) and the **MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au

- **AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE (ACMI)** is dedicated to the moving image in all its forms, and has regular free screenings, exhibitions and a fee-based video lending collection. **ACMI** also run *Screenplay* - regular readings of un-produced film scripts. For information about upcoming events or to subscribe to their newsletter, visit www.acmi.net.au

- Also screening at ACMI Cinemas is **MELBOURNE CINÉMATHÈQUE**, offering a diverse program of classic, cult, animation, experimental, documentary, silent and short films to Australian audiences all year long. For further information go to www.melbournecinematheque.org

- **SHORT FILM SCREENINGS** occur in various venues (usually pubs and clubs) and locations throughout Victoria - both competitive and non-competitive formats. Check local listings for details.

PUBLICATIONS

- **IF MAGAZINE** has a monthly newsletter and/or daily updates for the latest information on news, events, press releases, tech news, productions listings and much more. www.if.com.au
- **URBAN CINEFILE** is an online publication dedicated to the Australian film industry. You will find reviews, interviews, competitions, trailers, news and more www.urbancinefile.com.au
- **METRO MAGAZINE** is Australia's oldest, continuously published film and media magazine. It also produces **THE MOVING IMAGE**, Australia's premier journal for writings on theory, criticism, history, film practice, multimedia, television and photography. All available online at <http://www.metromagazine.com.au>
- **ENCORE MAGAZINE** has a free weekly E-News bulletin. Subscribers can access a range of resources such as the Production Report, the online Encore Directory, job listings and industry relevant articles. Visit www.encoremagazine.com.au

RADIO, PODCASTS & TV SHOWS

- **AT THE MOVIES** is a weekly program broadcast on the ABC and dedicated to critiquing what's new on the big screen. www.abc.net.au/atthemovies
- Victorian film and television related community radio programs include:
 - 3CR's **MEDIA MOVES CINEMA SCENE** Saturdays from 11am – 12pm www.3cr.org.au
 - 3CR's **JUMP CUT** Thursdays from 11am – 11:30am www.3cr.org.au
 - 3RRR's **FILM BUFF'S FORECAST** which broadcasts from 12-2pm every Saturday www.rrr.org.au/program/film-buff-s-forecast

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