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## GET STARTED IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRY

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This document provides answers to commonly asked questions from those starting out in the film, television and digital media industries. It is intended as a guide only and Film Victoria makes no claims as to its accuracy, authenticity or comprehensiveness.

### LEARNING THE CRAFT

There are a number of tertiary institutions in Melbourne that offer industry related courses at a range of levels. The following list is a broad overview of institutions and their relevant courses. However there are many other courses that specialise in areas such as make up design, production design and digital media that are 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](http://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](http://www.summerfilmschool.com)
- **OPENCHANNEL** regularly runs short courses, seminars and specialist courses for all experience levels. They also run a Young Filmmakers School designed specifically for teenagers over the school holidays. For more information visit [www.openchannel.org.au](http://www.openchannel.org.au)
- **AUSTRALIAN FILM TELEVISION AND RADIO SCHOOL (AFTRS)** is based in Sydney, where students are able to undertake full time post-graduate courses in key areas of film, television, digital media and radio production. AFTRS also run a wide range of short courses in Melbourne covering just about anything to do with the industry. These courses are not entry level and 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](http://www.aftrs.edu.au)
- **RMIT's 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/creativemedia](http://www.rmit.edu.au/creativemedia)
- **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](http://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/cinema](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/cinema)
- **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](http://www.deakin.edu.au)

## NETWORKING EVENTS

- For regular updates on Film Victoria supported industry events, subscribe to Film Victoria's **eNews** on our website [www.film.vic.gov.au](http://www.film.vic.gov.au)
- **SCRIPT ALIVE!** sessions are public readings of un-produced screenplays by Victorian writers. Sessions are designed to involve audiences and the industry in experiencing scripts in the raw. The scripts are read by professional actors who have rehearsed with the writer and director. You can subscribe directly to **Script Alive!** at <http://film.vic.gov.au/www/html/850-register-for-script-alive-readings.asp> For more information on Script Alive, go to <http://www.cinemanova.com.au/script.html>
- **SCREENHUB** lists a wide range of upcoming events including film festivals, screenings and industry forums. To use this and other Screenhub resources, and to receive regular updates via email, you need to become a member [www.screenhub.com.au](http://www.screenhub.com.au)
- You can become a member of **OPENCHANNEL** and receive invitations to OPENChannel and other industry functions, as well as a range of other benefits [www.openchannel.org.au](http://www.openchannel.org.au)
- Documentary makers should consider getting involved with the **MELBOURNE DOCUMENTARY GROUP** (MDG), hosted by AFTRS. The MDG holds meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at AFTRS in Docklands. The meetings give doco filmmakers an opportunity to get together for discussions and screenings. To register with the MDG, go to [www.aftrs.edu.au/go/short-courses/vic/about-us/index.cfm](http://www.aftrs.edu.au/go/short-courses/vic/about-us/index.cfm)

## CREWING OPPORTUNITIES – FILM & TELEVISION

- **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](http://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. For more information - <http://www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/ftvcrewing>
- **SCREENHUB** also sends out weekly updates of unpaid and paid industry jobs. There are always a number of productions looking for crew prepared to volunteer their services. You need to subscribe to use this service [www.screenhub.com.au](http://www.screenhub.com.au)
- You can check out the **FILMNET** message board at [www.filmnet.org.au](http://www.filmnet.org.au) for free. You'll find crewing opportunities under the 'Unpaid Jobs Available - Victoria' section of the message board.

## OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

**SCREEN AUSTRALIA** has many useful resources online at [www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au) combining the services of what were the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia. Publications and FAQs relevant to emerging filmmakers include:

1. I've Got a Great Idea for a Film (FAQ)
  2. Careers in Film, TV and Digital Media (FAQ)
  3. Australian Film & Television: Information for Filmmakers
  4. What is a Synopsis-Outline-Treatment?
  5. Marketing Shorts Internationally
  6. Interactive Digital Media: Where to Get Money, Information, Advice
  7. A-Z Budgets for Short Films, Documentary, Feature Film, Animation, and Interactive Digital Media
- To keep up to date with what's happening in the world of documentary, subscribe to Film Victoria's **WHAT'S UP DOC?** This email bulletin includes regular information about screenings, networking events and other opportunities specific to the documentary sector. To subscribe, email Steve Warne (Factual Development Manager) at [steve.warne@film.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.warne@film.vic.gov.au)
  - If you need feedback on your script, both the **AUSTRALIAN WRITERS GUILD** (AWG) [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au) and **SCRIPT CENTRAL** [www.scriptcentral.com.au](http://www.scriptcentral.com.au) offer fee-based script assessment services by professional script editors.
  - For **LEGAL ADVICE** on matters related to film and television production, contact the **Arts Law Centre** <http://artslaw.com.au>, the **Australian Writers Guild** [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au) or the **Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance** [www.alliance.org.au](http://www.alliance.org.au)
  - **IF MAGAZINE** has a monthly newsletter and/or daily updates for the latest information on news, events, press releases, tech news and much more [www.if.com.au](http://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](http://www.urbancinefile.com.au)
  - Stay up to date with industry information by subscribing to useful resources such as:
    - **METRO MAGAZINE**, Australia's oldest, continuously published film and media magazine;
    - **THE REEL RESOURCE**, which includes up-to-date information about where you can find equipment, facilities & services;
    - **THE MOVING IMAGE**, Australia's premier journal for writings on theory, criticism, history, film practice, multimedia, television and photography.

All available online at [www.metromagazine.com.au](http://www.metromagazine.com.au)

## OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES continued...

- **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](http://www.encoremagazine.com.au)
- 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. You'll find links to:
  - **Australian Writers Guild (AWG)**
  - **Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA)**
  - **Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA)**
  - **Australian Screen Editors (ASE)**
  - **Media Entertainment Arts Alliance (MEAA)**

and many other industry associations on the Film Victoria Links page. Just follow the Useful Resources link on the homepage at [www.film.vic.gov.au](http://www.film.vic.gov.au)

## WHAT'S SHOOTING

- To find out **WHAT'S SHOOTING** in Victoria, follow the link on Film Victoria's homepage [www.film.vic.gov.au](http://www.film.vic.gov.au)
- Screen Australia keeps a list of **UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS** that tracks projects at all stages of production nationally. Look under the 'Filming in Australia' menu on their homepage at [www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)
- Encore Magazine also compiles a comprehensive national **PRODUCTION REPORT**, which is available either in hard copy from all good newsagencies or online for subscribers at [www.encoremagazine.com.au](http://www.encoremagazine.com.au)
- IF Magazine also tracks what's **IN PRODUCTION** nationally. You can find the latest information in their monthly hard copy magazine or online at [www.if.com.au](http://www.if.com.au)

## MAKING CONTACT

- Film Victoria's **PRODUCTION DIRECTORY** of industry contacts is free and online at [www.film.vic.gov.au](http://www.film.vic.gov.au) From armourers to wardrobe, producers to editors, you'll find links to everyone and everything you need to make a film. Follow the 'Useful Resources' link on the Film Victoria homepage.
- Screen Australia also has a list of **PRODUCTION RESOURCES** which includes a wealth of information to help everyone in the industry, from actors to video distributors and everyone in between. Visit [www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)

### FILM VICTORIA

Level 7, 189 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne 3000  
Victoria, Australia  
[www.film.vic.gov.au](http://www.film.vic.gov.au)  
ABN 30 214 952 770

GPO Box 4361 Melbourne  
Victoria 3001 Australia  
Reception 61 3 9660 3200  
Fax 61 3 9660 3201  
[contact@film.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@film.vic.gov.au)

## MAKING CONTACT continued.....

- 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](http://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](http://www.productionbook.com.au).

## ALSO WORTH CHECKING OUT

- Film Victoria supports film festivals such as the **ST KILDA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL** [www.stkildafilmmfestival.com.au](http://www.stkildafilmmfestival.com.au) (which also includes the *Industry Market Day*) and the **MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** [www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au](http://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](http://www.acmi.net.au)
- **POPCORN TAXI**, located at ACMI Cinemas, is a regular film event that provides the opportunity for filmmakers and enthusiasts to meet, watch a variety of films, and discuss the filmmaking process. Discussion focuses on the filmmakers' craft and career, exploring the choices made in the filmmaking process and how their vision was brought to the screen. Guests are generally Producers, Directors, Editors, Cinematographers, Visual Effects Supervisors, Designers, Composers and Actors. Information about upcoming sessions can be found at [www.popcorn-taxi.com.au](http://www.popcorn-taxi.com.au) (remember to click on the Melbourne link). You can subscribe to their newsletter to receive regular reminders.
- Also screening at ACMI Cinemas is **MELBOURNE CINÉMATHEQUE**, 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](http://www.melbournecinematheque.org)
- ABCTV's **AT THE MOVIES** [www.abc.net.au/atthemovies](http://www.abc.net.au/atthemovies) is a weekly programs dedicated to critiquing what's new on the big screen.
- **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](http://www.afiresearch.rmit.edu.au)

## ALSO WORTH CHECKING OUT continued....

- Victorian film and television related community radio programs include 3CR's **MEDIA MOVES CINEMA SCENE** Saturdays from 11am – 12pm [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au) and 3RRR's **FILM BUFF'S FORECAST** which broadcasts from 12-2pm every Saturday [www.rrr.org.au/program/film-buff-s-forecast](http://www.rrr.org.au/program/film-buff-s-forecast)
- **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.

## FINDING WORK

- **SCREENHUB**, a fee-based website, includes film, TV and digital media job listings and a weekly jobs bulletin newsletter [www.screenhub.com.au](http://www.screenhub.com.au)
- **ENCORE MAGAZINE** lists paid industry positions on both its website and in the hard copy of the magazine. These are generally not entry level jobs [www.encoremagazine.com.au](http://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](http://www.productionbook.com.au).
- **FILMNET** lists paid and unpaid work on their message board [www.filmnet.org.au](http://www.filmnet.org.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**

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