

5 day training programme in Cinematography

Tutor: Alan Trow

The aim of the course is to give students a greater understanding of the principles of cinematography with particular regard to shooting on 16/35mm film.

The role of the cinematographer in the production of a motion picture is hugely complex and requires expert knowledge in a variety of areas including:

- technical matters relating to equipment and film stocks
- the ability to be able to organise a potentially large camera, lighting and grip crew
- visualising and interpreting the script
- working with a production designer to create workable sets for the movie
- providing input for the production manager and assistant director for the shooting schedule
- knowing how to deal with actors during the shooting of the movie and encouraging good set etiquette from the crew
- PLUS developing a working relationship with the director so that the director's vision can be put on film.

Ultimately the cinematographer is responsible, through this combination of technical and artistic skills, for the visual content of the movie and has a great influence on the perception of the audience to the story content.

Many of these skills are borne from experience and indeed, every new production will offer up new challenges for the cinematographer to resolve which will add to that experience, but he or she must learn quite a lot of well established techniques, before being entrusted to photograph their first movie.

Course Structure: It is envisaged that the course will be very much hands-on, with camera and lighting equipment available and the time and opportunity for students to freely ask questions. DVD images will be for demonstration used throughout.

Day 1 Discuss the principles of photography and the nature of light. Look at examples of different lighting styles in art, and watch clips from various movies and discuss. Talk about motion picture film stocks the photo-mechanical process and the relationship with the processing laboratory.

Day 2 Look at the mechanics of a 35mm movie camera and its operation. Compare different types of camera and their suitability for various set-ups. Talk about the use of lenses and filters and how to decide which to use. Look at mounting the camera on different support systems, i.e. fluid head, gear head, dolly, crane, steadicam.

Day 3 Lighting for film. The difference between daylight and artificial light, colour temperature and the use of hard and soft light. Look at the vast range of traditional and modern lighting equipment available to the cinematographer.

Discuss the use of gels and diffusion to change the look of the light and use of flags and dimmers to control it. Talk about correct exposure of film stock. Look at the use of exposure meters and colour temperature meters.

Day 4 Using models, set up and light a series of shots- portrait, wide shot, day/night interior. Shoot footage of each perhaps on different film stocks, to be viewed at end of course.

Day 5 Review of previous days' work. Opportunity for students to handle equipment and ask questions. If possible visit lab and watch TK of test shots. If it's not possible to access a local lab then the schedule could be changed to allow for getting footage to and from an outside facility.

Alan M Trow B.S.C - Biography

Cinematographer/Director

Alan has 40 years experience of working with a camera. He trained with the Ministry of Aviation in England shooting with large format stills cameras and later 16mm and 35mm movie camera. After a period working as a freelance stills photographer, where he won two awards and staged several exhibitions, he moved into cinematography. Over the last 25 year he has shot in many parts of the world including Singapore, Borneo, Brunei, Texas, Vancouver BC, Romania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kosovo, most of Europe and in Hollywood, LA.

Alan has given Master Classes for Kodak & Fuji, is a visiting lecturer at the London Film School in Covent Garden and International Film School, Wales and is a member of the Film panel for Screen Academy Wales. His movies include Up'N'Under which was one of the most successful independent British movies in recent years, Monolith, shot in Hollywood with John Hurt and Lou Gossett Jnr and Dear Nobody, a movie of the week for the BBC.

He has been a Full Member of The British Society of Cinematographers since 1995

Late 2006 and most of 2007 Alan was prepping to direct, **KESULAT**, a feature set in Kosovo. He is slated to DP **Cheeseburger Manifesto** in Romania .

A Selection of FEATURE CREDITS : 35mm (unless indicated)

Nature Unleashed TORNADO Thriller shot and set in Romania – Nu Image./Media
Pro. Producer Avi Lerner/Michael Flannigan
Dir: Alain Jakubowicz . Starring Daniel Bernhadt.

MONOLITH Action Thriller – in Hollywood USA.
Director : John Eyres Prod: Michael Polaire
Starring John Hurt, Bill Paxton. Lou Gossett Jnr.
Lindsay Frost.

UP 'N' UNDER Shot in UK. Directed by John Godber. Starring Neil
Morrissey , Samantha Janus, Ralph Brown, Griff Rhys Jones.
Prod: Mark Thomas. Entertainment Films



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| DRAGONWORLD | Shot in UK, Romania & USA. Director : Theodore Nicolaou. Starring Sam Mackenzie & Courtland Mead. Andrew Keir, Lila Kaye. Prod Albert Band. Moonbeam Entertainment/ Paramount Pictures |
| CHASING THE DEER | Shot in Scotland. Jacobite romantic drama in 1745. Director Graham Holloway. Starring Brian Blessed. Iain Cuthbertson, Fish. Cromwell Productions: Producer, Bob Carruthers. |
| THE PUNK & THE PRINCESS | Romeo & Juliet shot on the streets of London Director : Mike Sarne. Starring Charlie Creed-Miles, Jess Conrad, Vanessa Hadaway. |
| NIGHT SIEGE | Action Thriller – in South Africa. Director John Eyres. Starring : Bryan Genesse, Beth Toussaint. Nu Image; Producer; John Eyre. Avi Lerner. |
| RENDEZ VOUS | Romantic drama shot in London. Starring John Barrowman – Dir: Michel Abusabul |
| CYBERJACK | Sci Fi Thriller shot in Vancouver. Director Robert Lee. Starring Michael Dudikoff, Brion James. Everest Ents. John Curtis |
| PROJECT SHADOWCHASER | Action thriller set in Washington, shot at Pinewood Studios, UK Director John Eyres. Starring Joss Ackland , Martin Kove, Meg Foster, Paul Koslo. EGM Production. |
| HESTER | Emotive drama about a Chinese family. Dir: Jade Mar. |
| PUFFER FISH | Avant-garde love story in Wales- Dir: Robert Hardy |
| A DAY OUT | A Child's Fantasy in Wales. Dir: Helen Grace |
| DEAR NOBODY | Poignant teenage love story based on novel by Berlei Doherty- Director Juliet May Drama for BBC /Zenith HD (BBC Film of the Week) |
| GOODNIGHT GOBLESS | Horror film shot in Wales. Director: John Eyres/Alan Trow (s16mm) |
| GRIM | Horror movie shot underground in Clearwell Caves, UK Director Paul Matthews. (S 16mm) |
| THE COMIC | Horror Fantasy set in the future. Director Richard Driscoll. |

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Recent TELEVISION CREDITS :

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| JEN'S BIG ADVENTURE | Docu-drama in Palm Springs, California. HD Director Alan Trow. |
| LITTLE PUDDING | BBC WALES. Dir Ed Talfan. Prod. Dawn Walters |
| BAD HAIR DAY | BBC WALES Prod. Karen Lewis |
| MIND TO KILL | Detective drama with Philip Madoc – SKY/BBC s16mm |
| HARM DONE | Ruth Rendell mystery Dir: Bruce MacDonald / Prod: Neil Zeigler s16mm |
| DIRTY WORK | Dir: Sandy Johnson & Douglas McKinnon / Prod: Martyn Auty |
| HOPE & GLORY (first series) | Lucy Gannon's drama starring Lenny Henry & Amanda Redman Dirs Juliet May / Peter Lydon / Kenny Glennaan /Justin Hardy. |
| TURNING POINTS | Teenage drama for BBC – Dir: Patrick Reams |
| SURVIVORS | Drama/doc –reconstruction of tornado horror shot in Texas. Director Nic Justin/Alan Trow - United Film & TV |
| WITHIN LIVING MEMORY | Children's period drama.. Dir Patrick Reams / BBC |
| MIND TO KILL | Detective drama series starring Phillip Madoc shot on location in Wales. Various episodes - Directors Peter Edwards & Ceri Sherlock Ch5/Sky |

Commercials for: (DP/Director)

The Anaphylaxis Campaign, EU, Shell, Grey Worldwide, Golden Brau, NTL. Romtelecomm,
Panasonic, First Leisure.

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