

# ***BIG TROUBLE LITTLE PICTURES***

## **A TOTAL ARTS FILM FESTIVAL**

**A GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR OWN MOVIE  
AT HOME**

**RESOURCE PACK**



**CO-CREATED BY CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION AND THE TOTAL ARTS TEAM**

## CREATIVE LEARNING AT CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

Cambridge Junction is the arts centre where art meets life - a creative hub providing a high quality cross art-form programme of: arts development and presentation; popular culture; and creative learning and skills development, using the organisation as a site for learning. Working closely with schools, colleges and the local community, our creative learning activity places young people at the centre of our work, providing opportunities to develop creative skills through hands-on learning, empowering them as cultural and community leaders.

### TOTAL ARTS

Cambridge Junction's Total Arts group is a fortnightly participation group for young disabled people. For over five years, we have worked with over 60 young people aged 11 – 19 to create several short films, art installations, and devised theatre pieces for performance, and in the process, build creative skills and confidence.

Total Arts has engaged and empowered the young people through high quality artistic activity, achieving strong artistic outcomes and enhancing the communication skills and wellbeing of the young people involved. We are very proud of the quality of the films, their artistic integrity and the personal development of the young people.

For the last three years, Total Arts participants have programmed, managed and curated their own film festival, ***Big Trouble, Little Pictures***.

### WE WANT YOUR MOVIES!

Total Arts are doing an open call out to young people and families to create a short film and share it online. Your film may then be platformed at the next ***Big Trouble, Little Pictures*** film festival, on the big screen at our partner venue, The Light Cinema, Cambridge. Due to Covid-19, we are unable to confirm a date for the festival but keep an eye on our website for updates.

**Make a film, upload it to your own social media channel/s, use the hashtag #BTLP, tag us @Cambjunction and we may select it to share via our official Cambridge Junction channels! The selected film will be shared fortnightly on a Thursday. Please also email the link to your film to [Beth.bailey@junction.co.uk](mailto:Beth.bailey@junction.co.uk).**

**Alternatively, if you do not wish to share your film via social media, but would still like to enter your film to the film festival, send it to [beth.bailey@junction.co.uk](mailto:beth.bailey@junction.co.uk) so our Creative Learning team can see your wonderful film!**

**The deadline to submit a film is Tuesday 30 June 2020, 6pm.**

#### *Criteria:*

- ☐ The film must be made by or with young people and/or families
- ☐ The film needs to be between 1 – 10 minutes
- ☐ The film can be in any genre but it MUST be family friendly. If it wouldn't pass a PG cinema classification we won't be able to share it or screen it.

## **HOW TO GUIDE**

This guide is intended to help you to make a successful film. It is designed around 5 key steps; Story or Concept, Storyboarding, Cast & Crew, Shooting and Editing. Of course, this is not a definitive guide, but it is a tried and tested method that our Total Arts team will go through each time that they make their own short film.

### **Hints and Tips**

Here are some points that you might want to consider before you get started.

#### **Keep it Simple**

What is it that you want to say with your movie and what is the most effective and efficient way to communicate that message?

#### **Who's it for?**

Consider who you want to watch your film. The festival is family friendly and will be targeting children, young people and families so keep that in mind when you're making your film.

#### **Genre**

What style of movie would you like to make. There are many different types of movies ranging from documentaries to mockumentaries, murder mystery to sci-fi, comedy to animation. Research the genre that you choose and think about how you would like your movie to look

#### **Length**

Remember, the film must be between 1 – 10 minutes in length to be included in our festival. That includes any opening titles and closing credits.

#### **Show don't tell**

It's always much more interesting when you can leave some things up to the imagination of your audience. You don't have to explain everything. Let the visuals and camera angles tell the story.

#### **Sound**

Good quality sound is as important as the image. Remember, we will be showing your movie on the big screen and the sound will be amplified through large speakers that will fill the auditorium. You might want to consider using an external microphone and monitor the sound when filming by using headphones. Also think about background noise, for example, it might be a lot noisier filming outside instead of indoors.

#### **Get Feedback**

Ask people who haven't been directly involved in making your film what they think as you're developing it. You could ask for feedback on a script or storyboard before you start filming or ask them for their opinion on a first edit. An outside perspective can be very useful.

#### **Stay Safe Online**

When making your own films/videos, please ensure that you:

- Receive permission from all those in the film and seek parental permission before you upload the film to social media.

- Don't film anyone else without their permission or their parents' permission if they are under the age of 18
  - Don't use your full name.
  - Don't film things that might reveal your exact address, or mention things that might reveal your location, such as school or somewhere you go regularly (e.g. a sports club or activity).
  - Wear appropriate clothing.
  - Remember that this content will be shared with potential audiences online
  - Keep yourself safe - don't share something that feels too personal, complicated or sad.
- 
- If you are worried or concerned about anything that you may come across online whilst researching and making your film, you can access National support via the following links:
  - Childline - for support
  - UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content
  - CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

## **5 SIMPLE STEPS**

### **STEP 1: Story or Concept**

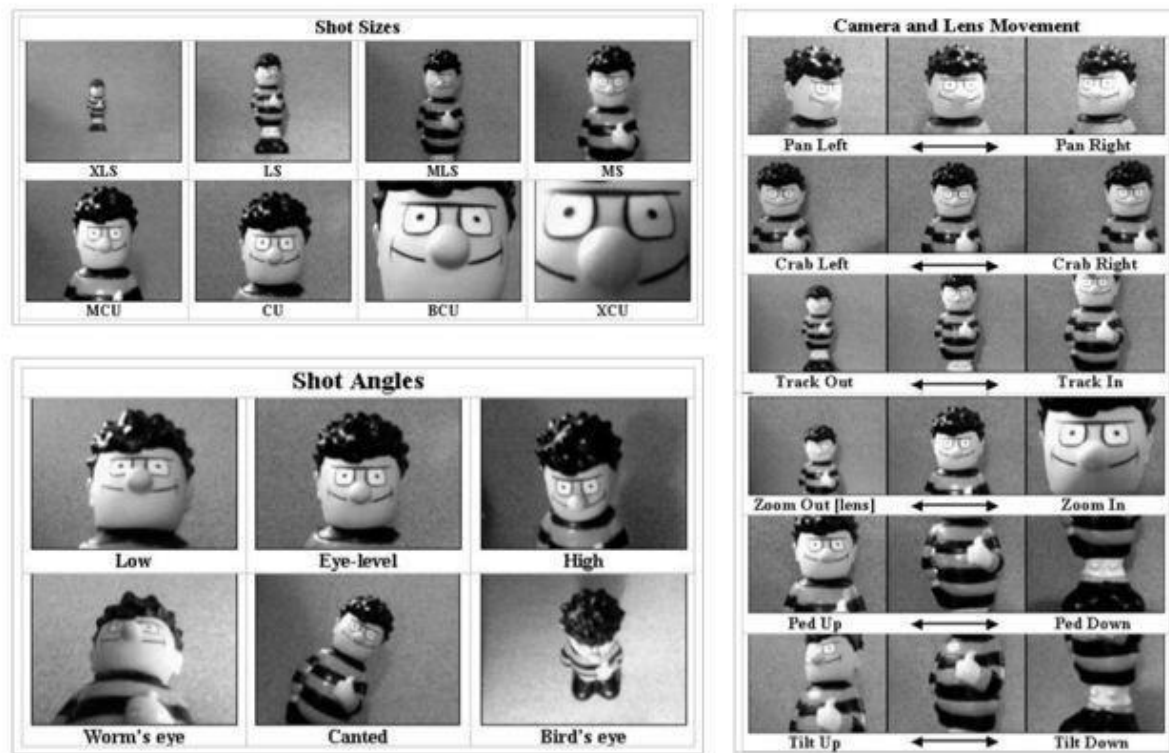
It's important to work together with the people you're making your film with, to come up with a good story or concept that you all agree on. You must consider what the best way to tell your story will be. You might want it to be a particular genre or style. You need to consider your audience and the message that you want them to get from watching it. It's also worth considering how many people are involved in making the film and who would like to be in front or behind the camera, as this may determine how many characters are in your movie. You then have to think about how to present your story. Will you have a linear narrative with a clear beginning, middle and end or will it have a more nonlinear structure that jumps around a bit and might use flashbacks to help explain the story. You may want to write a script for your film where each scene is described using action and dialogue with details of location or you might want to devise and improvise scenes around a set structure.

### **STEP 2: Storyboarding**

References to specific camera angles or shot types won't appear in your script, that is the job of the storyboard. A storyboard will visually detail how you would like to shoot your scenes. You don't have to be the best artist, but it's important to roughly sketch out how you want your shots to be filmed.

Think about what shot types will help emphasise your story best.

## CAMERA SHOTS, ANGLES AND MOVEMENT



**Establishing shot or Extreme Long Shot (XLS)** can be used at the start of the film to show where the film is set.

**Long shot (LS)** shows the whole of a character from top to bottom but can also show the whole of an inanimate object - like all an apple.

**Medium Long Shot (MLS)** is between a long and medium shot, showing the character from the knees up.

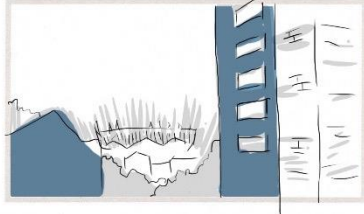
**Medium shot (MS)** is used to show a character from the waist up.

**Close up (CU)** of a character's face can be used to show emotion or reaction or to focus the audience's attention on an important feature of the story.

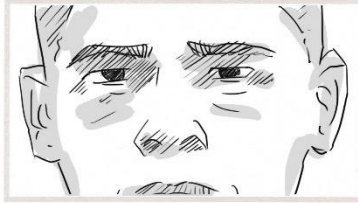
**Extreme close (XCU)** up is used to highlight overexaggerated expressions or detail

## STORYBOARD EXAMPLE

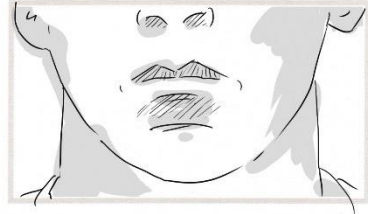
**JAMIE RAE**  
STORYBOARD ARTIST



**VISUAL:** Establishing shot - Old Trafford visible through urban skyline.  
**AUDIO:** Music overlay.



**VISUAL:** We open on Rojo stood outside Old Trafford.  
**AUDIO:** "They call it..."



**VISUAL:** On Rojo - jump cut up to tight framing on face/mouth.  
**AUDIO:** "...the Theatre of dreams."



**VISUAL:** Cut back to extreme WIDE on entrance, Rojo stood outside CLOSED gates, then gates open as he nods to lead us to follow him in. Camera then cut in to behind Rojo as he enters.  
**AUDIO:** Music overlay.



**VISUAL:** On club flag, with glass front in background.  
**AUDIO:** Music overlay.



**VISUAL:** Low angle on epic building front from behind opening gates.  
**AUDIO:** Music overlay.

**STORYBOARD TEMPLATE**

Feel free to copy and use this storyboard template when you making your own

Scene:	Scene:	Scene:
Scene:	Scene:	Scene:

### **STEP 3: Cast & Crew**

#### **The Cast**

You need to consider how many people are involved in making the film and who would like to be in front or behind the camera, as this may determine how many characters are in your movie. Some may play multiple roles, as long as the characters are distinguishable enough. Remember to make sure that anyone who is performing in front of the camera is happy and comfortable to do so. **The Crew**

If you look at the credits of any film, you will see a huge array of creative, technical and organisational roles who are the secret stars of the big screen. With a small crew you may have to multi-task and take on a number of roles. Here are just a few of the key roles that you may want to consider

#### **DIRECTOR**

A director is responsible for overseeing every creative aspect of the film. They develop a vision for a film and what an audience should gain from the experience. They are the primary storyteller.

#### **CAMERA-PERSON**

They are responsible for framing the shots and physically operating the camera.

#### **SOUND**

They are responsible for recording the sound on set during the film. This may involve using a sound boom or shot-gun microphone and monitoring the sound using headphones. They may also think about adding sound effects and sourcing these if you choose to use them. They may also want to think about the soundtrack to the film. Just make sure that you have permission to use any music that isn't original.

#### **EDITOR**

The editor will be responsible for editing all of the footage together. This is a very important job and very time consuming. For every minute of film, it can take approximately an hour to edit.

Of course, there is no reason why you can't be both behind and in front of the camera – as long as you're not acting in every scene!



## **STEP 4: Shooting**

Today, you can film on anything from a high tech camera to your own smartphone. You don't need lots of money and lots of kit to make a good film. All will produce different qualities of footage but you may be looking for a more 'low-budget' look and feel for your film, in which case a smartphone or tablet is perfect. We're looking for a wide variety of different films for our festival so whatever you choose to film on, we'd love to see it

### **Hits and Tips**

#### **Zoom function**

Smartphones and tablets with a great camera and the ability to record in high definition are no longer difficult to find, however when filming on one it's important to consider that you may need to physically move closer or further away from your subjects to establish shots as not all have a good zoom function.

#### **Stay Steady**

If you don't want your footage to come out distorted and blurry, it's important to keep your phone or tablet steady while recording. Use both hands to hold your device or you can invest in a hand held stabilizer or tripods which will keep your device still when recording

#### **Sound**

It's important to make your film sound as good as it looks. Unfortunately, the built-in microphone in most smartphones and tablets is both low quality and improperly placed. It is very common to catch wind and unnecessary environmental noise that will compete with or drown out any important audio while shooting video outside. This is almost impossible to edit out later. It is advisable to shoot your video in a quiet place, preferably indoors where there is little or zero ambient noise.

#### **The calls on set**

It's important that when you're filming all background noise is kept to an absolute minimum. Following these set calls is a useful way of letting everyone know that you are ready to begin filming, and is essential for the film crew and the people in-front of the camera.

***Director: QUIET ON SET***

***Director: ROLL CAMERA***

***Camera-Person: CAMERA ROLLING (when they've pressed the record button)***

***Director: ACTION!***

***(& AT END OF THE SHOT)***

***Director: CUT!***

## **STEP 5: Editing**

Just like shooting a film has become much more accessible, so has editing. There are lots of free programmes and software that you can edit on now. What you use to shoot on may determine what you will use to edit.

### **Free Software**

- ☐ iMovie for Apple Products including iPhone, iPad, iMac and Macbook
- ☐ HitFilmExpress is a free computer editing software
- ☐ Kdenlive for Windows and Mac
- ☐ Audacity for both Windows and Mac
- ☐ VLC Media Player for both Windows and Mac
- ☐ Mpeg streamclip video converter for both Windows and Mac
- ☐ Stop Motion Studio animation app for iPhone and android
- ☐ Power Director app for video editing

Tutorials of how to use the free software can be found on YouTube.

### **First Cut**

A first cut is shaping the overall structure of your movie, and removing what doesn't work. It should start feeling like a film. Basic titles, voice-over, music and photographs can be added. You may want to screen to a few selected people at this point and listen carefully to their feedback.

### **Filters and effects**

Your movie can be fine-tuned with colour correction, filters or transitions. The trick is for you to consider carefully what these effects will add to your film and use them sparingly. A lot of the filters and effects come in handy for subtly modifying your shots in ways that the average viewer won't necessarily notice but will add a professional look to your movie. For instance you can straighten and re-size images. Colour correction is done to create a dramatic 'look' for a scene or film, or to ensure that the colour temperature of different shots in the same scene match. When you make these adjustments to your film it is always worth remembering that it will sound and look different on each screen and set of speakers it is played on. Audio should be mixed so dialogue and music is finely balanced, and so that it doesn't distort. Sound effects and music can be added. Good quality headphones or a decent pair of monitor speakers can help.

### **Rights and Legalities**

It's important that you have the correct permissions for any music or sound effects that you use in your film. If it's not original music you need to seek permission to use it.

### **The Final Cut**

Your movie is finished and ready! If you have consent, you can now share this online! Please use the hashtag **#BTLP** and tag **@Cambjunction** and we may share your film. Please also send a link to your film to [beth.bailey@junction.co.uk](mailto:beth.bailey@junction.co.uk). We will be sharing a new film on our social media channels fortnightly on a Thursday.

Alternatively, share it with us by sending it over email to [beth.bailey@junction.co.uk](mailto:beth.bailey@junction.co.uk).

**If you have any questions, please email Beth Bailey, Producer: Creative Learning - [beth.bailey@junction.co.uk](mailto:beth.bailey@junction.co.uk).**

**Remember, the deadline to submit a film is Tuesday 30 June 2020, 6pm.**

**We look forward to seeing your movies!**

