UCLA Extension

FILM, TELEVISION & DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA

ONLINE PROGRAM

MICRO-BUDGET FEATURE FILMS

Total Control. Maximum Profit.

Program Description

Instructors Roger Soffer & Christian Ford focus on the realities of the emerging micro-budget marketplace (films budgeted at $150K-$350K) and the steps required to develop, produce and profit from a professional-grade micro-budget feature. Top casting directors, micro-budget packaging agents, line-producers, directors, post-production supervisors and distributors will make videocast and podcast appearances. Participants will have the opportunity to work with industry-standard production software. By the end of the program, each filmmaker will have created a unique roadmap to guide them toward their own eventual, or immediate, micro-budget feature, armed with the tools and network to profit creatively and financially.

Enrollment Limited. Register at www.uclaextension.edu or call 310.825.9971 / 818.784.7006

Micro-Budget Features: Total Control and Maximum Profit (Online)
June 25-September 17, 2007. Reg# S9975B - Film & Television X476.6A 4 Units $515
Fulfills Producing/Business requirement in the Certificate Program in Film, Television, and Digital Entertainment Media.

Course Topics

Script Development
Fundamental story choices control a film's cost. Build a narrative effective at the micro-budget level -- and powerful at any level.

Budgeting & Scheduling
Build the spine of your shoot to put time and money where you need it most, and use scheduling tricks that aid actors in delivering strong performances. Working from micro-budget case studies, plan a picture that will look like a million dollars, not cost it.

Casting
Skilled actors do work for love instead of money. Learn to forge essential alliances with casting directors and how to appeal to the psychology of your performers.

Directing
Micro-budget filmmaking substitutes creativity for the "build-everything/shoot-everything" studio mindset. Shape and communicate a vision that motivates crew, generates worthy performances and lets the filmmaker fully exercise creative control.

Production & Emerging Technology
Digital cinema options can now compete with the quality of 35mm film. Learn what these technologies offer and how to avoid their pitfalls.

Business Models & Distribution
Micro-budget financing arrangements allow you to know your expected return before you spend a dime. Learn from the buyers exactly what they're looking for.

Exploiting & Future Proofing Your Assets
Maximize the value of your film and ensure that it remains viable in the face of evolving exhibition technologies. Learn how micro-budget features, properly made, can produce revenue for decades.

Instructors

Roger Soffer & Christian Ford, a writing, producing and directing team, have written and produced miniseries for Hallmark, ABC and CBS, and sold features to Disney, Warner Bros., Paramount and others, including "Kazaam," with Shaquille O'Neil. Ford & Soffer also wrote, produced and directed the indie "Slow Burn," with James Spader and Minnie Driver. They are currently producing four micro-budget films, including "The Door With 2 Rooms," which Ford will direct.

In partnership

IFC tv, uncut.

mFilm