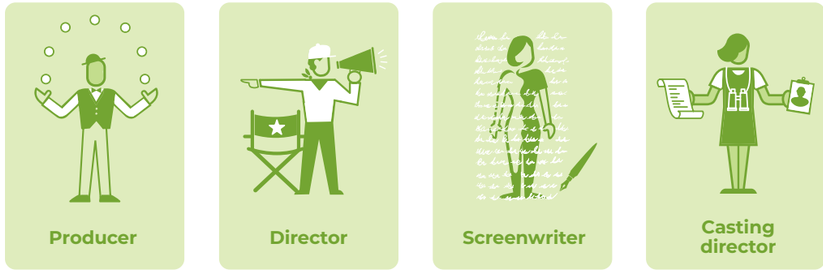
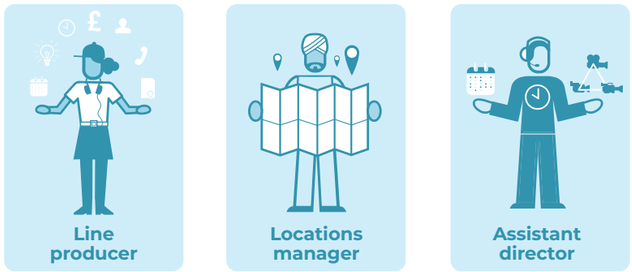
Follow the arrows to find out how an idea becomes a film...

Development



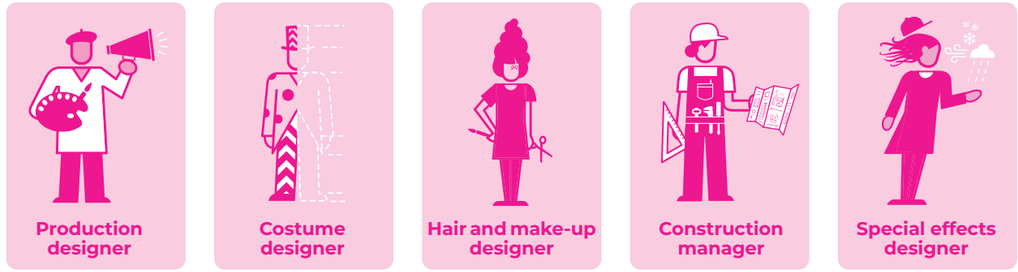
Turning an idea into a script

Production management



Careful planning and organisation

Craft

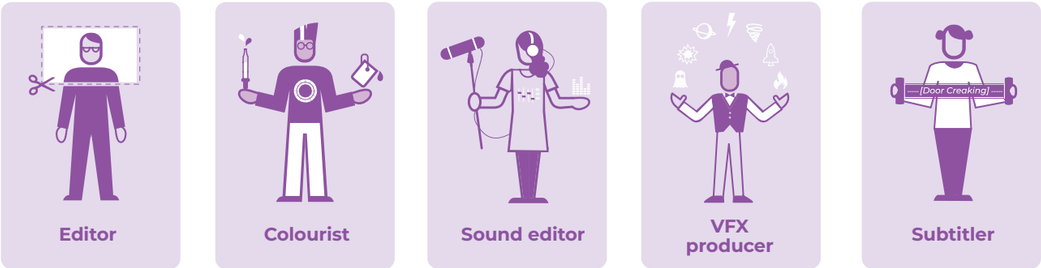


Creating the look of the film

Technical

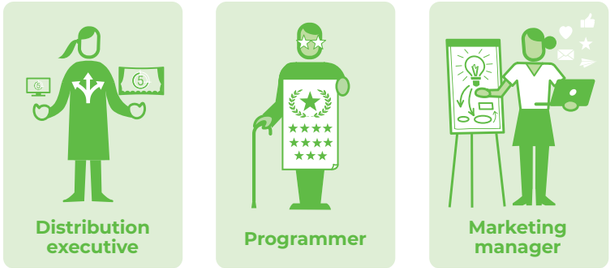
Making sure it all gets captured perfectly

Post-production



Shaping and polishing the final product

Sales and distribution



Selling the film and making sure people see it

Audience (you and me)

Who makes a film?

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INTO FILM

ScreenSkills

How a film is made

Everyone likes watching a good film whether they see it at the cinema, on TV or on their phones. But not everyone knows how a film is made. This is how a film goes from being a thought in someone's head to a movie on the screen.

Development

A film or TV drama starts with an idea. The idea might come from a director, a producer or a screenwriter. Once everyone agrees it's a good idea, the producer raises money to pay for the film and the casting director finds the best actors for the parts.

Production management

Then there is detailed planning. The line producer works out how much money each department will be able to spend. The locations manager finds a place to shoot the film. The assistant director works out the order in which the film will be shot. (Films are rarely shot in the order in which they appear on screen.)

Craft

The production designer decides how the film will look. They work with the costume designer, who leads the team that makes the costumes, and the hair and make-up designer, who is in charge of the team that styles the hair, wigs and make-up. The construction designer oversees the team that makes the sets.

Technical

When filming begins, the director of photography is responsible for the shots. The gaffer makes sure the lights are right and the grip looks after the stands on which the cameras are mounted. The sound mixer records the sounds and the script supervisor makes sure everyone is following the script correctly. The director is in charge of this team.

Post-production

Once a scene has been filmed, the footage (or *'rushes'*) is sent to the editor. The editor works with the director to put the story together from the various scenes that have been shot. Then the sound, music, colour and visual effects are added. Finally the subtitles are created.

Sales and distribution

The next job is to get the film onto screens, so that the audience – that's you and me – can watch it. Distribution executives do deals with cinemas, TV channels and other platforms like Netflix and Amazon. They agree where films will be shown and for how long. Cinema and TV programmers select the films and decide what time to show them. Marketing managers help let the audiences know the films are coming out and helps get them excited about watching them.

Who makes a film?

Producer
The producer is the boss. Producers are responsible for the whole production. They raise the money and hire the director.

Director
The director is responsible for what appears in front of the camera. Directors work with the actors and decide when filming a scene starts and finishes. They say: "action" and "cut".

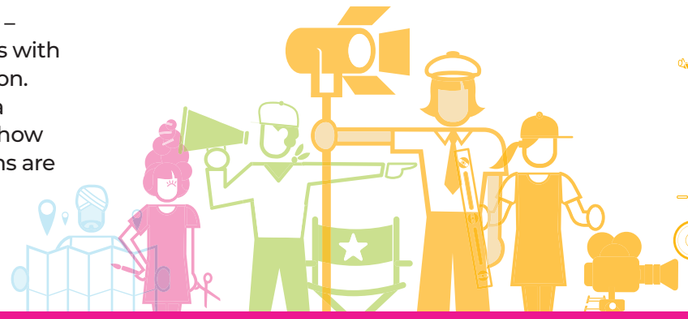
Screenwriter
The screenwriter writes the story. They write the dialogue between the actors and all the things that happen in the film.

Casting director
The casting director finds the actors. They need people who look right for the part and who have the right skill as actors. They might also want people who are famous, so people want to come and see the film.

Line producer
The line producer works out how the money should be spent. Line producers hire the crew. They make sure everyone on the set is safe. They keep everything organised.

Locations manager
The locations manager finds the best places to shoot the film – whether that be on a train, up a mountain or in a desert. They get permission from the person that owns the location and keep it in good condition.

Assistant director
The assistant director plans the order in which they scenes will be shot. Assistant directors help the director by deciding where the cameras need to be while the director is busy working with the actors.



Production designer
The production designer decides how the film will look, everything from the art on the titles to the props and the style of the sets.

Costume designer
The costume designer designs or buys the costumes. Costume designers oversee the teams that make the costumes and do any repairs if clothes snag during filming.

Hair and make-up designer
The hair and make-up designer decides what the hairstyles and make-up will be like. Hair and make-up designers buy the wigs and organise the team that gets the actors ready to go on set.

Construction manager
The construction manager hires the carpenters, plasterers and painters who build the sets and make sure they look as the production designer wants.

Special effects designer
The special effects designer creates the world of make-believe on set. Their team can make it rain or snow, whatever the weather. They create explosions, start fires and make monsters.

Director of photography
The director of photography (DoP) is in charge of the cameras and the camera operators. DoPs makes sure that the pictures look good.

Gaffer
Gaffers help the director of photography make beautiful pictures by creating the right light. They might control natural light by using a filter or decide on the best position of lights on set.

Grip
Grips are responsible for the stands on which the cameras are mounted. They operate cranes and platforms-on-wheels to put cameras on and get the right camera movement.

Sound mixer
The sound mixer records the sound during filming – the dialogue and the sound of the background atmosphere.

Script supervisor
The script supervisor makes sure everything has been filmed as the script says. They make notes on any changes which they pass onto the editor.

Editor
The editor puts together all the rushes from the various scenes to tell the story in the best way.

Colourist
Films are shot in a way that makes it possible to alter the colour. The colourist adds the colour during the editing process, making it look as good as possible.

Sound editor
The sound editor puts in the sound effects. Music gets added at this point too.

VFX producer
The VFX producer puts in all the thing that can't be filmed – like cars bursting into flames. They manage a team that puts these in using computer-generated images.

Subtitler
When the editing is complete, a subtitler writes out the dialogue, so it appears on the screen so people who can't hear can enjoy the film. Some translate the dialogue into other languages.

Distribution executive
The distribution executive does deals with the cinemas, TV companies and platforms like Netflix and Hulu. They say how long they can show the films for.

Programmer
Cinema and TV programmers select the films and decide the best time of the week or day to show them.

Marketing manager
The marketing manager lets people like you and me know that the film is coming out. They create billboards, write newsletters and put the message out on social media.

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Design by Dave Gray. iamdavegray.com
Based on an original concept by Ian Murphy and Allan Burrell. compositingcoach.com

For further information go to **screenskills.com**

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