

SHORT FILM MODULE - THE PITCH

PITCHING A PROJECT

What do you need in a pitch?

No more than one page.

What the film is about - boil your idea down to it's purest, most concise form.

What is your film really about? -

Themes - it can't just be people on Facebook - think about how it will all be filmed, if there's a lot of people just looking at phone or computer screens that's going to be very dull.

Characters - fully fleshed out characters not just there for the film, these characters have had a full life before we meet them in the script, you as actors need to know everything about them, as you would for any project.

Scenes - why are they there, what happens in them? Do they move the story along? What different thing to they bring to the story?

Even if the story is nothing more than person goes to chip shop to buy chips, when he gets there they've sold out - they still have meaning to him, why does he want chips, who does he meet along the way, what is his reaction when there are no chips etc.

Location - be realistic, there cannot be too many locations for this particular project, they have to be accessible and they have to add something to your film. You will be mostly filming in natural light as there is little set up required, for speed..

The Plot - What actually happens? - The story - what physically happens. Not the themes or underlying point but the actual nuts and bolts.

Practicalities - Basic shot lists, costume, props, all must be worked out in advance and be ready to go on the day, as must locations, permissions granted if necessary. (Wet weather alternative may be necessary)

Two pitches by the end of the first week - each with a scene that you will act out - the scene can be no shorter than a page but no more than three - then we will see which seems the most interesting.

Don't be constrained by normal settings. You could be in a room in the college but it could be after the apocalypse rather than just two people in a room, think about the setting.

For a ten minute film you are looking at nothing longer than 10 pages, shorter than that if there are a lot of directions, action.