



Shoot it!

Film training in East London

Shoot for All Volunteers: Short Summer Course – August 2007

This is a cutting edge campaigning programme for young volunteers aged 16-25 who feel strongly about global inequality, want to make an impact and think film is a good way to do it. Volunteers learn documentary film making while working on challenging short films investigating contemporary themes, including volunteering itself.

The programme is not just for would-be filmmakers. There are numerous complimentary roles for those less interested in the shooting side. Volunteers form crews and the various roles available include fundraising, admin, sound, camera, lighting, presenting and public relations; there is no shortage of new skills to learn or opportunities to use existing skills.

This intensive short summer course involves a minimum of three hours per day (mornings **or** afternoons) Monday to Thursday for two weeks and ends with an all day Saturday film shoot. The course takes place in Hackney, East London and is taught by film professionals and tutors using broadcast quality equipment.

Please be aware that it takes far more than two weeks to edit, complete, market and distribute a film, and therefore course participants are expected to sign up for at least a further 30 hours voluntary work on their project, to be completed by October 2007.

Places are limited, so if this film training is for you and you want to earn your place through voluntary endeavour please apply now! **The deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 27th July.** The application form is available on our website in Microsoft Word format (please visit www.worldwrite.org.uk/filmclub.htm). You can download it, fill it in using Word and email it back to us, or print it out and post the completed form to us. If you don't have Word you can download the form as a PDF and then print it, fill it out and post it back to us.

Courses start on Monday August 13th 2007 and finish with the all day shoot on Saturday 25th August.

All applicants will be invited for interview at an introductory crew selection evening on Thursday 2nd August 2007.

If you wish to volunteer but are not interested in the film training please just send an email to world.write@btconnect.com; you don't need to fill in any forms!

Unfortunately there are no places for over 25s on this course but there are plenty of volunteer opportunities at WORLDwrite for over 25s.

Outcomes for young volunteers

The film facility helps volunteers to develop many transferable skills including script writing, camera work, planning, project management, literary skills, IT skills, teamwork, problem-solving, cultural sensitivity and so on. In other words it may help volunteers get a job as well as convey vital and challenging ideas.

In summary, WORLDwrite's film facility will:

- Provide access to digital technologies beyond the means of most;
- Maintain an open-door policy for all volunteers and an opportunity to apply their experience;
- Encourage participants to promote the aspirations of their peers globally and raise their own;
- Challenge media bias and be completely biased when it comes to global equality;
- Champion global issues and question parochial ideas;
- Ensure film and video productions are broadcast quality;
- Provide optional accreditation and broadcast the achievements of volunteers.

Who can do the film training?

This is not a facility that will guarantee fame and fortune for would-be horror moviemakers, or one to use for editing family wedding videos, nor is it a film school substitute or a course for professionals. It is for volunteers interested in working with WORLDwrite to tackle contemporary issues through film.

WORLDwrite's film facility and film training course is open to young people who are unemployed, working, living or studying in London, or those who can commute. It is for 16 to 25 year olds only, who want to volunteer with WORLDwrite.

What do the extra volunteer hours involve?

As the course is free, we expect everyone participating in the course to volunteer some of their time to assist with broader campaigning, course administration, fundraising, film promotion and events during the year. Not only does this enable WORLDwrite to keep going, but it ensures volunteers make their mark and develop extra skills along the way. After all this is not a film school; it's a charity that's serious about upping the stakes and campaigning for a better world.

Accreditation

Alongside WORLDwrite certificates, WORLDwrite also acknowledges young people's contributions by offering the Youth Achievements Award (YAA). UK Youth and the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) have developed the YAA to provide a national framework to recognise and accredit young people's informal learning. Volunteers interested in this opportunity will work with an awards officer and other young people to complete a portfolio detailing all roles and responsibilities undertaken, including any training undertaken. Young volunteers completing their portfolios will need to be willing to assess other volunteer's portfolios as well.

Course Structure and Outline

This outline will give you an idea of what will be covered in each session. To get the most from this course it is advisable for everyone to have a go at the suggested homework.

Session One: What's in a Doc? Can documentary filmmaking challenge our thinking?

This session will cover contemporary documentaries, their content and impact, and consider the impact of online TV. An outline of the course structure and requirements will be given. Volunteers will:

- Review clips from contemporary campaigning documentaries and consider their content and impact;
- Review clips from WORLDwrite's volunteer-made films;
- Examine work in progress, film plans and ideas;
- Understand the course structure and requirements;
- Collect reading material and course hand outs.

Homework: Read up on and watch as many documentaries as possible. Tutors will make recommendations.

Session Two: Getting to know the camera

This session introduces digital camerawork techniques used in film, television and video production. Volunteers will:

- Learn how to manipulate the standard controls of a DV camera;
- Learn how to use basic exposure settings to correctly expose the subject;
- Understand the correct use of time codes.

Homework: Camera practice.

Session Three: The art of great camera use

This session will ensure volunteers will:

- Consider the possibilities and limits of hand-held camera work;
- Learn the elements of the shot: motivation, information, composition, sound;
- Understand camera angle and continuity;
- Gain hands-on experience with cameras;
- Understand screen language and the basics of shooting a sequence.

Homework: Read material on shot composition.

Session Four: Lighting – the expert's guide

Correct exposure is essential for documentary film production. Light can also heighten the meaning of any given work. This session will acquaint volunteers with the techniques and aesthetics of lighting. Volunteers will:

- Understand basic lighting and colour theory and how to balance differing light sources;
- Use the basic tools of lighting;
- Learn how to light people's faces correctly;
- Have an awareness of the health and safety issues involved with working with lights;
- Set up and shoot in a poorly lit location.

Homework: Camera and lighting practice and background reading.

Session Five: Sound

Audiences expect the sound quality of a documentary to flow seamlessly, continuously and realistically reflect the positions of subjects and the context. This session will be devoted to sound. Volunteers will:

- Understand the options available for recording audio, as well as different types of microphones and different position, usage and audio levels;
- Consider how to record ambient material and dialogue in different locations;
- Understand the use of wild track, music and sound effects;
- Understand post-production possibilities for audio mixing.

Homework: Camera and sound practice; background reading on sound.

Session Six: Script development, shooting plan and crew formation

In the session volunteers will develop selected ideas, finalise crew roles and begin to plan out the film. Volunteers will:

- Further develop the selected script ideas;
- Assign roles and responsibilities for the film crew;
- Consider budgetary constraints and raising funds;
- Consider shoots involved;
- Complete administrative preparations.

Session Seven: Script development, shot list and casting

In this session volunteers will continue script development plans, develop shot lists and cast presenters and subjects for interview. Volunteers will:

- Cast presenters and contact interview subjects;
- Resolve locations including gaining permission;
- Draw up a shooting schedule and timetable.

Session Eight: Planning and practice

In this session crew members will rehearse their roles, from presenting to interviewing to practicing camera use, sound and lighting. This is a hands-on session. Volunteers will:

- Practice and work according to their individual crew role;
- Prepare for and conduct interviews and shoot presenters using correct camera placement, lighting and audio procedures.

Session Nine: The big shoot, plus footage review and course review

Volunteers will:

- Shoot in designated crews on location as scheduled;
- Critically review footage (sound and visual material);
- Assess and evaluate the course, consider next steps and make volunteering plans.

What Happens Next?

It is up to volunteers who have completed this summer course to consider levels of involvement in the next phase and how and when to put in a minimum of thirty hours voluntary endeavour. There are plenty of post-production roles and the most committed may have a chance to learn the editing process.

Who we are

WORLDwrite is a youth education charity, NVYO (National Voluntary Youth Organisation) and development NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) based in Hackney, East London. The organisation aims to challenge prejudice and stereotypes by providing young people with a unique opportunity to see the world from a fresh perspective through a first-hand investigative experience. WORLDwrite has international links with Ghana, Brazil, India, Germany, Japan, Eire and Uganda.

Origins, achievements, organisation

WORLDwrite has a unique history of providing quality creative programmes and campaigns which advance international understanding and North-South equality. With a passionate team and solid financial management of its no-bit budget the charity has managed exchanges across continents and, in recent years, headline-hitting documentaries. Through its provocative films, free film training, exchange programmes, conferences, workshops, festival programmes, hosting projects, school tours and experimental events, the charity has pioneered an uncompromising approach to global equality, championing aspirations and the best for all.

WORLDwrite is volunteer run with occasional part-time paid staff. It presently has several hundred volunteers, with no shortage of new enquiries each week. The charity directly benefits about 1,500 people each year through its programmes and educational resources, including free film training. The charity has a management committee of 20 members made up of key staff and members of the local community. WORLDwrite is proud of its unique open-door policy to all volunteers.

A quick historical overview

1992: European tour examining the Holocaust and contemporary racism involving young volunteers in the UK and partner groups in Frankfurt, Berlin and Paris; centre opened in Birmingham.

1993: National open-submission exhibitions on war and censorship and images of the 21st century; volunteer summit in Strasbourg.

1994: UK-wide tour involving 400 schools to re-examine the meaning of Hiroshima and the problem of racial thinking; centre opened in Nottingham.

1995: National exchange programme with Japan; arts exchange; national essay competition; centre opened in London.

1996: Exchanges with Germany; *Images of Africa* exhibition; Ghana exchange launched.

1997: Gained charitable status, NYVO status and UN DPI NGO status; first outward Ghana exchange; computer refurbishment programme commences to provide computers to UK volunteers and villages and schools in Ghana, India and Brazil.

1998: Exchange visit with rubber tappers in the Brazilian Amazon; first educational film produced and launched with the Brazilian Embassy.

1999: Further Ghana exchange; first Ghana film made for community use, looking at North-South inequality; further shipments of computers to Ghana and India; Brazil hosting programme; India exchange.

2000: Millennium relay over three continents involving volunteers carrying the baton for development; accompanying film work, exhibitions, workshops and summit.

2001: Ghana hosting programme, touring performers from Ghana across UK schools and debating development; huge computer appeal and refurbishment programme completed with container loads for Ghana.

2002: Uganda hosting programme, touring Ugandan Red Cross youth workers with workshops and presentations to encourage volunteers and community groups to debate humanitarianism and

the importance of neutrality and aid; arranged alternative summit with SOAS on sustainable development.

2003: *Raising Horizons to Raise Water* walk across London; further school summits; *Breaking Boundaries* programme; film facility launched and wins a national award for its fresh and pioneering opportunities.

2004: *Breaking Boundaries* conference; first documentary, *The Bitter Aftertaste*, released with Irish partner Group Trasná; Trasná-Ghana exchange; volunteer hosting programme; film groups pioneer ideas for new films, including *Flush it and see* and *Corruptababble*; major auction; *Shoot it, Share it, Save it* programme commences; outreach film training with local groups and Irish partners.

2005: Major Ghana shoot for series of five documentaries; global appeals for Ghana partners ASA and Tsibu Bethel; 100 computers sent to Ghana; festivals screen WORLDwrite films; further celebrity-led auction; hosting programme for young Ghanaians; tours arranged with USA students.

2006: UK-wide tour of universities and schools for documentary *Damned by Debt Relief*; Ghana hosting programme; grants procured for Bethel Cambridge school; charity plans Bulgaria film school; marquees and film tents at festivals; web microsites developed for new films; WORLDwrite shorts win huge online audience; over 300 apply for WORLDwrite's intensive film training.

2007: New film training programme launched and over-subscribed; eight films planned for release in the year; four new web microsites developed; first premieres are sold out as films hit the headlines; DVDs for schools launched; major festival programme commences; open lectures series gets under way; appeal launched for Ghanaian village.

Contact Details

WORLDwrite
Millfields Lodge
201 Millfields Road
London, E5 0AL

Tel: 020 8985 5435
Email: world.write@btconnect.com

www.worldwrite.org.uk

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