

Resources for the Young Filmmaker

Lucas Maxwell

Electronic Sources

Action-Cut-Print! The Monthly Newsletter and Resource Centre for Filmmakers

<http://www.actioncutprint.com/youngfilmmakertips.html#anchor2785489>

This online newsletter is an excellent resource for filmmakers of all ages. It also often has advice for young filmmakers in particular. Using interviews with established film directors, writers and producers, the site provides straightforward answers to questions regarding picking the right film school, shaping your own style, dealing with difficult people, where to find the right equipment, and working with different types of film crews.

Exposure: The Internet Resource for Low-Budget Filmmakers

<http://www.exposure.co.uk/>

This is a great, basic resource site dedicated to providing the young filmmaker on a fixed budget with the best avenues to making their first film. It provides lists of worldwide film festivals and funding opportunities, numerous articles and guides on the basics of filmmaking, interviews with both established and budding filmmakers, discussion forums, and a comprehensive list of

recommended reading. This is an excellent starting point for young filmmakers.

Film Threat

<http://www.filmthreat.com/>

This site is dedicated to providing "truth in entertainment" and to champion the increasingly popular explosion of independent and underground films. This site does not provide tips for young filmmakers, rather it is a site where teens can review movies and share ideas, read interviews, watch short films and trailers for new movies as well as keep in touch with upcoming film festivals.

First Light Movies

<http://www.firstlightmovies.com/>

First Light Movies provides funding and inspiration to teen filmmakers throughout the United Kingdom. Since its beginning in 2001 it has enabled over 10,000 young filmmakers to write, act, shoot, light, direct and produce over 750 films. First Light Movies works directly with filmmakers and organisations to cover a diverse range of topics and genres and to also make use of digital film technology. The site provides a wide range of sample movies in its film sections and allows you to write your feedback on each one. The First Light team is made up of young filmmakers who

make it their mission to get you in touch with the right sponsors and partners to make your film a reality. Its "How to make a film" section walks you through every step you need to take to make your first film. An excellent resource.

Student Filmmakers

<https://www.studentfilmmakers.com>

Based in New York City, this web site has many useful tools for the budding filmmaker. It has a detailed list of filmmaking workshops, festivals and film schools (U.S. only), as well as a free networking community which is world-wide. The online film store has every piece of equipment needed for making a film whether you are an advanced director or just starting out. Also provided are freely available short films made by young filmmakers. The only drawback of this site is that it is mainly geared toward a United States audience, but it still provides a lot of useful information.

Young Filmmakers Academy

<http://www.youngfilmmakers.org>

Based out of California, the YFA aims to develop filmmaking skills in youth. It is a non-profit organisation that offers hands-on film and video production workshops to children and high school students between the ages of 9 and 18. Regardless of the student's financial situation the YFA's mission is to allow a young person's ideas to be seen and heard on film. The Academy provides summer film camps where students can

learn to express themselves artistically through film.

YoungCuts International Film Festival

<http://www.youngcuts.com>

The YoungCuts Film Festival is North America's only international film festival whose main goal is to advance the careers of young filmmakers. The Festival is mainly an event showcasing the best young filmmaking talent for both student filmmakers and non-student filmmakers. The Festival features all types of short films produced by people 25 years and under and was created to help youth launch their film and television careers by providing exposure and recognition of their works. The first Festival was held in Toronto in 2005 and in 2007 it will be held in Montreal from August 16 to 19. The Festival encourages participation from youth worldwide. Submissions, selection criteria, and much more information is available within this web site.



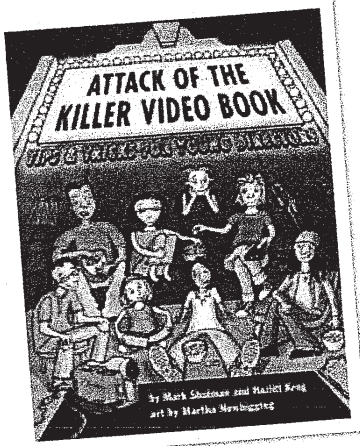
Print Sources

Attack of the Killer Video Book: Tips & Tricks for Young Directors

Authors: Mark Shulman and Hazlitt Krog

Published: 2004

This book explains how great films can come from consumer grade cameras, recording equipment and the family's home computer. It's a fun, illustrated guide dedicated to explaining to teens how to take advantage of this hardware and create an effective film. It is very light hearted and aimed at people slightly younger than the rest of resources listed here. This guide acknowledges



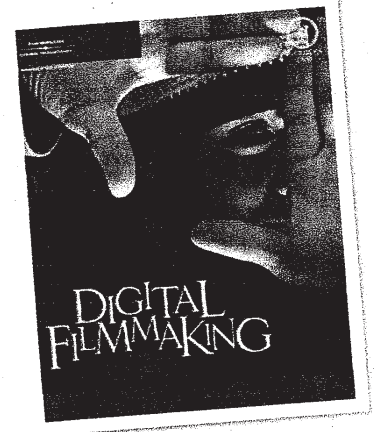
that filmmaking tools are rapidly changing. Therefore it avoids providing too much technical information. Instead it focuses on filmmaking elements that remain constant such as script writing, storyboarding, shot selection and composition, audio, lighting, and editing basics. This guide will give you the skills needed to start mastering the art of filmmaking. It is a fun look at the genre and promises not to go out of date any time soon.

Digital Filmmaking for Teens

Author: Pete Shaner & Gerald Everett Jones

Published: 2004

Aimed at people Grades 7 and up, this guide for the young digital filmmaker comes with a DVD which includes films made by teens in a filmmaking workshop in



New York City. This guide clearly points out that the majority of time it takes to create a film is spent on editing. Only two of the ten chapters focus on shooting the film. The other eight chapters are devoted to acquiring digital equipment at a low cost, storyboarding, lighting, planning, editing, adding music and how to effectively present and finally release the film. Chapters are organized into a series of how-to instructions embedded with definitions, tips and notes. The instructions are very clearly documented and easy to understand. This guide is for beginner filmmakers who are hungry for more and serves as an excellent guide for filmmaking at home or in a class or workshop.

Filmmaking for Dummies

Authors: Bryan Michael Stoller and Jerry Lewis

Published: 2003

This is an excellent resource that people of all ages can find useful. The authors have over 30 years of experience as writers, producers and film directors. This book defines the difference between independent and studio films, explains different genres so you can find one that suits you as a filmmaker, explains how to find that perfect location, provides detailed information on storyboarding, directing and including credits and titles in your film. Also included in this guide is advice on writing and finding screenplays, how to raise finances for your films, budgeting and scheduling, hiring the right actors, planning, shooting and directing your film, editing, how to find a distributor and finally, how to get involved with and enter film festivals. In addition, detailed sections on digital technology focusing on creative elements that apply to both film and video production are provided.

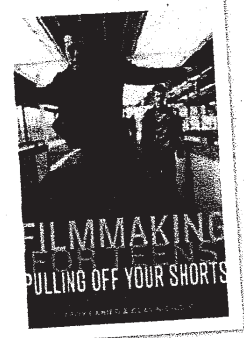
Filmmaking for Teens: Pulling off your Shorts

Authors: Troy Lanier & Clay Nichols

Published: 2005

Dubbed "the filmmaking Bible for teens," this how-to guide is written by filmmaking teachers at an Austin, Texas high school and is a great resource for teens interested in making their first

film. The guide provides detailed instructions on how to write a script as well as information on the numerous roles a filmmaker must be prepared to take on, including writing, producing, directing and editing.



Advice on finances, location selection and advice on acquiring film equipment is also included. Emergency preparedness is also a major topic of this guide, how to keep it cool when dealing with no-shows, stormy weather, and technical difficulties. Using this guide, teens can be sure their first film is presented clearly and professionally.

Screenwriting for Teens: The 100 Principles of Screenwriting Every Budding Writer Must Know

Author: Christina Hamlett

Published: 2006

This guide acts as a workshop in a book aimed at helping teens prepare their first short film. The guide is divided into concepts which include creating and establishing plot, pace and character development. Also included are introductions to several genres and writing exercises for practice. This is an encouraging, easy reading book that avoids formality and condescension. Hamlett also provides a comprehensive reading list for people interested in furthering their scope of knowledge on screenwriting.