

BRAINWAVE MEDIA

TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL FILMMAKING

Pre-Production

- **Script and plan everything**
A well planned shoot is the key to creating your vision.
- **Choose a cast who can act**
Use local drama groups to find a cast who can perform.

Production

- **Rehearse before recording**
Make sure you are happy with the performance and planned camera moves before you record.
- **Placement**
Don't put your subject in front of a bright background eg a window – make sure the light is on the subject as the camera sees it.
- **Do not “cross the line”**
Always keep the camera to the same side of two people.
- **Use the “rule of thirds”**
When framing a shot, try to align objects with an imaginary noughts and crosses grid on the screen.
- **Use a tripod**
Unless you are showing an earthquake, a shaky shot can distract the audience.
- **Use an external microphone**
Recording sound with the in-camera mic is difficult, especially when the camera is not close to the action.
- **Pans & zooms**
Let the camera follow the action.
- **Record a “wildtrack” of a location**
The sound of the location without people speaking is very useful in the edit to cover blank spots.

Post-Production

- **Have a reason for everything in the edit**
Special effects are great, but only if they add something to the story.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

www.bbctraining.com/modules/5915

Learn how to film with the BBC! Their guide takes you through the basic principles of filming.

www.filmmaking.net

Here you can find filming FAQs, lists of film schools and even equipment classifieds.

www.britfilms.com

A great production resource as well as a directory of film festivals. Essential for getting your film seen!

www.creativecow.net

The forum for film and video professionals but welcoming to beginners. An invaluable resource for technical advice.

www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk

The UK Film Council have schemes in place for funding short films. It can be hard work but you could get the money you need for your project.

www.depict.org

An online 90 second film competition. Enter your film here but also watch as many films as possible.

www.indie-film-making.com

A good breakdown of each stage of film making.