

# THE SEATTLE FILM INSTITUTE

## AN OVERVIEW

The Seattle Film Institute (SFI), founded in 1994, is well known for both the small size of our classes and our commitment to hands-on education. SFI is located on its own 7,400 sq. ft. mini-campus just 10 minutes from downtown Seattle. SFI offers the largest independent film program in the Northwest. With its 40-Week Total Immersion Program, SFI is a destination for students from all parts of the United States and abroad, including Canada, Finland, Japan, Taiwan and Israel.



## DEDICATED FACULTY

Faculty members are not only dedicated teachers but also experienced professionals in their chosen fields. Our teachers, often working professionals, give the school its character and identity, and provide a genuinely rigorous education in an open and supportive fashion.



## INTEGRATED PROGRAM

The Seattle Film Institute offers a fully integrated program in filmmaking and digital video production. Students in the full-time program live, eat, and breathe film as they explore production, screenwriting, and film history. These students are in class and hands-on labs for 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for 10 months.



## ADVANCING EXCELLENCE

Two notable partnerships help films produced by SFI students attain a special level of excellence. First, through the Pacific Northwest Film Scoring Program, our students team up with composers assigned to their films. Twice a year, Hummie Mann, Emmy-award winning composer, assembles a full orchestra to record original music scores for SFI films. And second, for our student directors, the Seattle Film Institute has a special waiver with the Screen Actors Guild that permits SAG actors to participate in student films. This is an incredible way for students to obtain professional level experience at the very start of their career.



## A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

The opportunity for students to develop and acquire skills in all aspects of the filmmaking process points to the real measure of the school's success—its alumni. Our graduates have jobs and internships locally and also in Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, and Austin. Just as important are former students who are making their personal mark on film communities across the United States by launching their own independent projects and companies.



## OUR COMMITMENT

Whether from across the world or down the block, students in the 40-Week Total Immersion Program find small class sizes, a commitment to hands-on education, and programs designed to help develop abilities, artistic vision and careers. After nearly 11 years, the Seattle Film Institute has become a destination for students who have chosen to take their passion and desires and turn them into the craft and art of filmmaking.



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## THE 40 WEEK TOTAL IMMERSION FILMMAKING PROGRAM

The 40 week full-time total immersion program provides a complete hands-on overview of the filmmaking and screenwriting process as well as a solid grounding in film history and analysis. During the program, students learn technical skills and practice standard industry protocol and, equally important, develop their personal artistic vision.

### ELEMENTS OF FILMMAKING

Elements of Filmmaking concentrates on areas involved with directing, production design, producing, and the practical workings of the film world. The first quarter reinforces basic skills in lighting, camera operation, and editing. The second quarter is

oriented towards production management, budgeting and scheduling, and reinforcing both the pre-production and production skills that are needed to successfully complete both lab and

out-of-class projects. The third quarter highlights very specific areas such as casting, audition techniques, working with actors, and art direction. The final quarter is geared to life after school. Here, students prepare their resumes and portfolio reels. Students also study grant writing and fund raising for documentaries as well as analyze patterns of producing, production, and distribution for projects including short films, independent features and major mainstream productions.



### SCREENWRITING

In Screenwriting students develop a fundamental awareness and understanding of script and dramatic structure that is crucial to understanding the filmmaking process. During the course of the program all students complete an original feature-length screenplay. The first quarter focuses on screenplay structure and the development of story ideas.



During the second and third quarters, the emphasis is on overall story structure and specific topic areas such as writing dialogue and developing characters. Students complete their screenplay during the fourth quarter. As part of the screenwriting program, students also deal with the business of screenwriting from

pitching scripts to finding agents. In addition, it is during this class that students write the short scripts that are produced in the production phase of the program.

### TOOLS OF PRODUCTION

Tools of Production focuses on developing both the creative and technical hands-on skills that are at the core of the filmmaking process. The groundwork in lighting, composition, story boarding, and editing is set out in the first and second quarters of the program. In the third and fourth quarters of the program, as projects become larger and more complex, students build on their basic skills and develop their craft in all aspects of production with a particular emphasis on cinematography, camera operation, editing and sound design. Over the 40 week program, students are involved in every aspect of pre-production, production, and post-production. In addition to individual projects, each student rotates through all the major crew positions including director, director of photography, camera operator, sound and editing.

### FILM HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Film History and Analysis provides an intensive grounding in film history and introduces students to the core theories of film criticism and analysis. The first quarter traces the history of film from its very beginnings to the end of the silent era. The second and third quarters focus on the 1930's and 1940's and the development of the Hollywood studio system with a particular emphasis on genres such as film noir, musicals, and gangster films. The fourth quarter is devoted to international cinema and alternatives to Hollywood from the 1940's to the present. During the class, students concentrate on the elements of film language that make film a unique medium—editing, cinematography, color, and sound. At the core of the film history program is the fundamental concentration on both the individual film and the underlying structure of film and filmmaking.



### LAB DAY

Lab Day takes place for four hours each week. During the second and third trimesters, students use this time to complete projects using the school's facilities. The lab time also provides a scheduled period of time when students can meet with each other to work on group projects. Students may also use this time for individual tutorials and faculty may also schedule additional classes during this time when appropriate.

If you have additional questions or would like an even more detailed description of the curriculum, please contact the Seattle Film Institute.

# FACULTY

**Garrett Bennett** produced, directed and wrote "Farewell to Harry" which won the Hollywood foreign press award for Best Director, Best First Feature from Worldfest Houston, and Best Picture shooting in Seattle from Seattle International Film Festival among many, many awards. Garrett has an MFA in directing from the American Film Institute, was an original founding member of Seattle's Annex Theatre and is the founder and director of Hat Factory Film Studios.

**Virginia Bogert** has directed, written, and produced award-winning films and videos for over 20 years, from commercials and corporate to documentaries and feature films. Her project "Pike Place Market: Soul of a City" garnered three Emmys. She is vice president of Women in Film/Seattle. She launched her company Laughing Dog Pictures ([www.laughingdogpictures.com](http://www.laughingdogpictures.com)) in 1993.

**Alec Carlin** recently wrote and directed "Outpatient" which has won awards including Best Picture and Best Director at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival as well as Best Picture awards at the Keywest IndieFest, the No Dance Film Festival and the International Festival of Festivals in Palm Springs. Alec was a finalist in the Nicholls Foundation Screenwriting Fellowship and his script, "Darkdrive," was produced in 1997.

**David Culp** has extensive experience as an animator, director, and producer of commercials, documentaries, corporate and educational films and television programs. David has worked as a film educator for 16 years and has worked in the Seattle film community for over 20 years.

**James Eaton**, founder and president of James Eaton Associates, has over 20 years of practical experience in all aspects of filmmaking including ads, documentaries, and features with an emphasis on creative development, execution and packaging of visual, audio and graphic information. His expertise extends to computer animation, visual effects, high-end post-production, digital compositing, special effects and CGI platforms.

**Christopher Mosio** graduated from the USC School of Cinema/Television. In addition to commercials and documentaries, he has worked on nearly two dozen feature films-- both the micro-budgeted independent film and the Hollywood studio production. His work has appeared in theaters and television. Christopher also has filmed many live concerts and music videos, including those of Celine Dion, Reba McEntire, and K.D. Lang, and is a regular for VH-1's "Behind the Music."

**Krk Nordenstrom** is a graduate of the Seattle Film Institute's 40 week Total Immersion Program. For the last eight years he has worked as a designer and production artist for print and web projects. Most recently he has produced, directed, and edited two music videos for the Seattle band Kultur Shock. He is also a strong presence in Seattlewood and Nimble Productions and is highly visible on many Seattle independent productions on the set and as an editor.



**Lance Rhoades** is a graduate instructor at the University of Washington Department of Comparative Literature and Cinema Studies Program where he earned the 2003-04 Excellence in Teaching Award. He has taught summer courses on literature and film at MIT and Cal Tech. Lance has written articles on horror films and film music, and is currently editing a book on Federico Fellini.

**David Shulman** has produced, directed, written and edited numerous PBS documentaries. He has worked as a story analyst for Columbia Pictures and worked on a wide range of feature films. He received his MFA in Cinema/Television from USC and taught film/video at the university level prior to founding the Seattle Film Institute in 1994. His screenplay, "World Enough and Time," is due to go into production later this year.

**Kevin Tomlinson** has been a producer, director, and cameraman for 20 years, working with broadcast (NBC News, ABC, CBS, FOX-TV, PBS, etc) and corporate clients to produce news magazines, documentaries, international travel series, marketing, and corporate communications programming. Recent projects include 60 Minutes (CBS), Dateline NBC, 48 Hours (CBS), 20/20 (ABC), National Geographic TV, The Today Show (NBC), Good Morning America (ABC), Entertainment Tonight, The Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, The Discovery channel, The Learning Channel, and The History Channel.

**George Tramountanas** has worked in several Hollywood offices, including those of Michael Phillips and Oliver Stone. He has a Masters in Film and TV Production from USC, where he made the award-winning short "SCREWED: A Hollywood Bedtime Story". In addition, he's worked as a film publicist, written several scripts, and directed a promotional video for Camp Agape NW (an organization for kids with cancer).

**David Trees** graduated with a four year degree in film production and has studied writing at the University of Washington. After scripting film documentaries, he did a two year stint writing for television. He then launched into a newspaper writing career as a reporter, editor and columnist. He left the news business to pursue his own creative writing and was awarded the national Writer's Digest grand prize for his screenplay "Under High Woods."

# HIGHLIGHTS & INTERNSHIPS



At the Seattle Film Institute, we emphasize both the technical and the creative aspects of the filmmaking craft. During the 40 week program, students develop the essential skills to be an independent filmmaker and the hands-on experience to work in the film industry.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **16mm Film Projects**
- **Digital Video Projects**
- **Scriptwriting**
- **Directing**
- **Casting and Working with Actors**
- **Cinematography**
- **Lighting**
- **Production Management**
- **Editing with Final Cut Pro**
- **Internships with Industry Professionals**
- **Portfolio Reel DVD**
- **Crew Specific Resume**

## Certificates and Portfolio Reels

Upon graduation, students receive a Certificate of Completion. Graduates also receive a DVD of their work as both a record of their accomplishments and to demonstrate their ability and knowledge to potential employers.

## Internships

Upon completion of the total immersion program, every graduate is entitled to participate in our industry internship program in either Seattle or Los Angeles. As part of the internship program, students have worked on camera crews in Los Angeles, in post-production facilities in Seattle, as line producers, in film labs, with public tv stations, and on documentary productions.

## OUR MISSION

To provide students with the knowledge, skills, tools, and experience that are needed:

- To pursue a career in the motion picture industry
- To follow their own creative path as independent filmmakers or screenwriters
- To furnish a foundation in filmmaking for work in digital video or on the web.



# PROGRAM SPECIFICS

## THE 40 WEEK TOTAL IMMERSION FILMMAKING PROGRAM

September 19, 2005-July 21, 2006

February 27, 2006-December 15, 2006

Monday - Friday: Classroom instruction and labs – 4 hour sessions

### TUITION AND PAYMENT

Tuition: \$16,900

Within four weeks of acceptance, a 20 percent deposit (\$3,400) is due to hold enrollment. The balance of tuition (\$13,500) is due one month prior to the start of the program.

Tuition includes film stock, processing, workprint, and access to all basic equipment needed to complete the assigned projects. Students also receive a copy of work completed during the program. Students are responsible for discretionary production costs, books, and supplies.

The Seattle Film Institute reserves the right to change, add, or delete courses as well as to substitute or change faculty. If any program or class is cancelled by the Seattle Film Institute, all fees and deposits for that class or program, including the application fee, will be returned to the applicant.



### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To request further information or individual appointments, please contact:

The Seattle Film Institute

1709 23rd Avenue

Seattle, WA 98122

206-568-4387 • 1-800-882-4734

FAX: 206-568-8377

info@seattlefilmstitute.com

## FINANCIAL AID

### KEY FEATURES—SALLIE MAE CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM

- Educational loans for students of the Seattle Film Institute are provided through the Sallie Mae Career Loan Program.
- Repayment can be up to 15 years.
- No penalty for early repayment.
- Quick notification (often within 24-48 hours of receipt of application).
- For assistance, please call the Sallie Mae Customer Service line at 877-834-9851.

To Apply by mail or fax:

Download and print the Sallie Mae financial aid application on our website, [www.seattlefilmstitute.com](http://www.seattlefilmstitute.com). After completing the form please mail it to The Seattle Film Institute, 1709 23rd Ave., Seattle WA 98122, or fax it to 206-568-8377. You may also contact us here at SFI and we will mail you a financial application form.

### OTHER FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

A monthly tuition payment plan is available to all students. Please contact the Seattle Film Institute for further details.

### VETERAN'S BENEFITS

Veteran's benefits are available. Please call for more information.

# APPLICATION CHECKLIST

## THE 40 WEEK TOTAL IMMERSION FILMMAKING PROGRAM



*The essential skills to be  
an independent filmmaker...  
...the hands-on experience to  
work in the film industry.*

### **All applicants must submit the following with their application:**

- \$100.00 application fee
- A two to three page application essay consisting of an autobiography and your plans and hopes for the future
- Two letters of Recommendation
- Resume detailing work history and education

### **Optional:**

- Portfolio of relevant creative work (script, sample reel, photographs, etc). *Note: Submitted work will not be returned. Do not send originals.*

### **International Students:**

- The Seattle Film Institute is authorized to enroll foreign students. To facilitate this process, international students should complete the *International Student Information Form* and submit it with their application for admission. This form can also be submitted after acceptance to the Seattle Film Institute.

### **Submit application & letters of recommendation to:**

Seattle Film Institute  
1709 23rd Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122  
(206) 568-4387 • 1-800-882-4734

Admission to the Seattle Film Institute is based on the material requested in this application.

To further assist us in determining the student's potential for success in our program, we also recommend that all applicants, if possible, visit the school or arrange a phone interview with our staff.

Applicants must have graduated from high school with a minimum 2.0 GPA or have passed the GED.

# APPLICATION

## 40 WEEK TOTAL IMMERSION FILMMAKING PROGRAM

Start Date:

September 19, 2005

February 27, 2006

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Country of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Country of citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

**HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION** *(if you have attended college, fill out college information only)*

Choose one:  High School  GED

Name of high school \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation or GED completion: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

#### COLLEGE INFORMATION

Most recent college attended \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate highest degree earned \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

The following optional information will be separated from your application materials upon receipt and used for demographic statistical purposes only.

Check one:

Asian/Pacific Islander

Black, Non-Hispanic

Hispanic

Native American/Alaskan Native

White, Non-Hispanic

Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

1.  Included with application  Under separate cover  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

2.  Included with application  Under separate cover  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT OR PARENT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_