

Pete Jacelone, Independent film maker, writer, producer, director, and editor specializing mostly in low budget horror films.

DISCLAIMER: There are many formal ways to make a film. There are many great articles and books available on the subject. There are also many excellent YouTube videos available on film making techniques. A simple Internet search will get you some great info.

I have learned film making mostly by watching others, and by simply doing it, with a certain amount of trial and error, however the following basic methods have proven successful to me.

SCRIPTWRITING FROM CONCEPT TO FILM

- **IDEA – (Concept) - the reason why you are making your film.**
- **TREATMENT – Your idea, WRITTEN from beginning to end written in paragraph form. You don't need a lot of detail for this. But it should have a beginning, middle and end. Write it as if you are telling a story to someone.**
- **SCRIPT – Must be WRITTEN with details such as locations, day or night, names and descriptions of characters. There are many examples of scripts available on line. There are also programs you can get to help write formal scripts.**
- **SHOT SHEET (or story board) – A visual breakdown of the script either written or drawn. Include details such as establishing shots, wide, medium and close-ups and special shots. A shot sheet may also list any special effects or props needed.**
- **SCHEDULE – Based on the script and shot sheet, this will detail what cast and crew are needed to accomplish the story. It will also take into consideration time of day. Try to shoot all the scenes that take place in specific locations at the same time, regardless of their order in the script. The schedule should be broken down into days and times.**
- **CAST AND CREW – These will most likely be your friends, or fellow students, but could also be professionals. Make sure you hire or use people you are comfortable with, and be willing to listen to their ideas and suggestions. And make sure you feed them, or at least give them some water.**
- **DIRECTING – Decide what kind of director you want to be. Is your project collaborative, or yours alone. Do you have a specific, unwavering vision of your film? Or are you open to suggestions from your cast and crew. Ultimately if you are directing, the final decision is yours, and be firm, without being a jerk.**
- **MOST IMPORTANT... HAVE FUN!... also don't forget to ... HAVE FUN!**

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions: pete.jacelone@gmail.com