

“Beijing Stories”
10 day-documentary workshop
Storytelling with reality

Schedule

DAY 1: What makes an idea a good story? (this is a seminar and can be open to non-participants to the workshop)

You think you've got a great idea for a documentary, but will it really make a film? It's not enough to just find a subject / topic that interests you. A documentary is much more than that. Through looking and analysing different examples we will explore the beauty and challenges to work with reality as well as how to structure a short documentary and help you to develop your idea into a visual narrative.

DAY 2: Research, camera, sound! (workshop participants only)

Everyone will get a chance to pitch one idea and tutors will select the best 5 ideas and set up teams of 3: director, camera operator/sound, editor. Each group will further develop the idea and go to location to do have an initial contact with the character(s) and work out how best to shoot the film. And then report back to the tutors.

DAYS 3 & 4: The shoot

Each group will spend all day filming partly supervised by one tutor. Then we will have a meeting in order to review the material and plan the editing.

DAY 5: Logging & transcribing interviews

Each group will transcribe and digitise with an editor the material they shot. They will start structuring their short film under the supervision of the tutors.

DAYS 6, 7, 8: Editing & subtitles

Each group will edit the film under the supervision of the tutors. We will explore on:

- How to use a dramatic arc in storytelling
- How to create/ exploit emotions
- Identify the dramatic moments and build on it

DAYS 9: Editing Sound

- Discovering how to create layers in a film through sound design
- How best to use sound to create rhythm
- How not to use music

DAYS 10: International market & labs (this is a seminar and can be open to non-participants to the workshop)

- How to go from short to feature
- Discover about international markets & labs
- International co-production
- Documentary forum & screening

We like to exhibit the films on last evening to an invited audience for filmmakers to present their work.