

Autumn 2020 film degree updates



Lockdown #2 news



Where has this year gone?! Whilst we still operate as normal on campus with the required additional safety measures, our opportunities to film off-site have been diminished. Luckily our TV Studio and other on-campus locations have offered opportunities for our year 2 students to create some great practice films in preparation for their submission in their Digital Film Production module. This saw a number of slo-mo music videos being created along with some great timelapse and hyperlapse videos. Our regular filming slots in the TV studio have proved invaluable in developing these technical skills and helped familiarising students with new creative filmmaking techniques.

Guest Speakers

In these first couple of months we have already had guest speakers Nick Woolgar and Henry Keep join our students (virtually) to provide further insights into their professional practice.



Nick is an editing and post production professional working for financial broadcaster RealVision, as well as being a freelance editor for corporate and drama productions in the UK and abroad. He also worked as Producer on FILM Suffolk's recent feature *The Haunted Hotel* and was instrumental in securing work experience positions for some of our students.



Henry Keep worked as a DoP and camera assistant on numerous UK and international features, such as *King of Thieves* with Sir Michael Cain. Henry talked about his past and current work such as a new feature film project in Essex filming in early 2021, which is also going to be crewed with some of our students.

Work placements:

Students have recently been offered the opportunity to participate in a film shoot at a local prison in conjunction with local production company Offset Films in December/January. Laurence Scott and Nathan Maskey talked last week to our second year students about the opportunity and provided a briefing about rules about filming in secure locations such as prisons. Last year, students from the course also provided camera services for the production of a music video for this company.

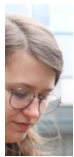
OFFSET FILMS
LET US TELL YOUR STORY

Alumni news:

Our recent graduates have hit the ground running with many reporting being in employment.

Imogen Simon: Imogen Simon has now started working as a freelance filmmaker and colourist. Having earned her first commission with a local health provider to

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create instructional films to be deployed on their website. Further, Imogen has started working with the local production company **WeBelieve Media** in her capacity as an experienced colourist. Last year's visit to their facilities helped forge early links between this great local employer and our students. In her position as colourist, Imogen was also able to lend her expertise last year in FILM Suffolk's recent feature *The Haunted Hotel*, which is due to be released soon. Imogen will return soon to UCC to lead specialist seminars on editing and colour grading.



Thomas Anderson: After graduating, Tom applied for a variety of positions within the TV and Film industry with national broadcasters and film production companies. As a result, Tom gained the highly-coveted mentorship with BBC's Head of Factual Programming Tom McDonald.



Joseph Alison: Alongside his work at the local Curzon cinema, Joe has established his own company and has worked in the art department of one feature and a music video since finishing his degree. He is also slated to work on another feature early next year as an Art Director.



Georgie Peck: Georgie graduated with us in 2019 and has since secured a position as technician at Colchester Institute, responsible for maintaining and the audio-visual equipment on the Colchester and Braintree campus.

New Production Management Software

After speaking to the CEO of the startup tech company Dramatify at the BVE expo a couple of years back, we have now been able to deploy this innovative production management platform across to all our students. This platform allows students to organise the workflow of their productions fully online, which includes casting, location recess, script breakdowns and call sheet creation. In line with current industry workflows, we can now operate largely paperless workflows on set as well as in pre and post-production.



How we adjusted to the Lockdown:

Face-to-face lectures with additional great online content

Our lecture room has now been fitted out with two webcams as well as OBS streaming of screen content and in-camera footage, meaning that we can offer great interactive online sessions, should the need arise. HOWEVER (!) We haven't needed to schedule a single lecture this semester due to COVID yet. All lectures are currently face-to-face (with the provision of mask-wearing and additional precautions, where needed), but whenever students are not able to attend a lecture in-person, they are invited to log in remotely to engage with the lecture and teaching content from home. No lectures needed to be cancelled to date and students have reported high satisfaction on how seamlessly we switched over to our online delivery during the first lockdown.



New year 1 cohort:



Our new students started this year with a range of interesting mini-projects which luckily were not affected by the current pandemic.

The first theory-based assignments are now being handed in for this semester, and we are expecting the practical assignments to be completed around January. We are very happy that the lockdown has not affected the delivery of these important pieces of work and even the practical assignments will not be affected by current restrictions.

If you are interested in joining the degree, or would like to talk directly to our lecturers, join our next Virtual Open Event on the 8th December. You can book your place on colchester.ac.uk/ucc-virtual-open-event/. Of course, you can also email julien.mery@colchester.ac.uk directly for any questions about the course.



Plans for this winter:

We are starting a new monthly film club, bringing in students from the film degree together with other students from across UCC to watch selected films using the service Kast.com, which allows for live interaction during the screening and thus replicating parts of the cinema experience that many of us are missing.

In anticipation of a busy filming schedule in the next year, we are preparing together with FILM Suffolk for the possibility of getting students to working film sets during that time. In the last 12 months FILM Suffolk helped students to gain work experience on 4 feature films and professional drama shoots. We can't wait to get stuck in again!



In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

Julien Mery - Programme Leader, BA(Hons) Digital Film Production

Film term of the season:

Tour-de-force: literally "forceful turn" (French); usually refers to a lead actor's performance that was incredibly skillful, brilliant, notable, masterful, reflecting a very high standard, and perfectly displaying the actor's ability; compare to 'stealing a scene' - the equivalent for a supporting actor role

