

Low Budget or Outsider Filmmaking

Terry Cronin, 3Boys Productions
1399 South Harbor City Blvd
Melbourne Florida 32901
TCRonin2@aol.com

“Film will only become an art when its materials are as inexpensive as pencil and paper.”
--Jean Cocteau

Philosophy: 1) Learning in itself is good.
2) I am not a professional but an enthusiast.

1. **Why:** Why do you want to do this?

Everything begins with an idea. Aim the story at your strengths and your budget. Location and talent.(i.e. The Melbourne causeway)
Every project is a learning experience.

2. **Writing:** write it down.

“Ask everybody, they will all tell you they’ve got ideas for movies, but if they don’t have it written down it ain’t shit.” Better Duck

HOLLYWOOD SECRET #11: Kids don't like English and Foreigners don't speak English.
So keep the film visual. Thus, T&A and Action-Adventure.

Remember one page equals one minute in standard format.

Font Courier

12 point 10 pitch

12 point is the height

pitch is the number of letters in an inch.

In the USA, you should register your script with the Writer's Guild of America. Registration costs approximately \$US 25 and the Guild takes a copy of your script for storage and gives you a registration number. This number should be displayed prominently on the cover page of your script.

See Example: Original Script for “*Under the Bridge*”

3. **Teamwork & Talent-** develop an entourage.

(i.e. Formation of 3Boys Productions with Bob Lizek and Pat Martin).

Casting non-actors: use a video camera and try them out. Rehearse with the video camera.

4. **Format** Video vs. Film.

Video: VHS, 8mm, Hi-8, U-matic, Beta

Film: Super 8, 16mm, Super 16, 35mm

Digital: Digital 8, Mini-DV, DV and Digital Beta

Film Stock: Studio Film and Tape 1(800)824-3130 <http://www.sftweb.com>

Fuji 500T 2 100' rolls

Fuji 250 Daylight 200' roll

Fuji 250 Daylight 400' roll

total: \$196.65

5. **Lights and equipment** Lighting package

6. **Sound**

Microphone(s) and recorder (DAT, 4-track, cassette, videocassette)

CRYSTAL SYNC is where the camera and the tape recording device have been modified so that their internal drive motors reference their speed to a crystal

oscillation and thus maintain a highly accurate running speed. The camera and recording device are not physically connected in any way, but all other double-system sound procedures apply; slating, etc

7. Shooting tips

- A. The Long shot then cutaways. Shooting ratio 1:1 or 2:1("normal"6:1)
- B. Dolly shot Vs. Zoom- "Many filmmakers already know that a wheelchair works splendidly for dolly shots" Rick Schmidt, Feature Filmmaking at Used Car Prices
- C. Crane shot- Bucket truck
- D. Stills and slides (behind-the-scenes video)
- E. Food!

8. Developing and Transfer: Telecine or Rank transfer. Video is 30 fps. Film is 24 fps (Super8 18 fps)

Processing Labs

Yale Labs 1(800) 955-9253

10555 Victory Blvd

North Hollywood, CA 91606

color negative .14/foot

prep for video .02/foot

transfer to video \$87.50/30 min.

Beta Tape \$33.00

Monaco 1(415) 626-1100

234 9th street

San Francisco, CA 94103

Color negative .18/foot

Western Cine 1(303) 783-1020

312 South Pearl Street

Denver, Colorado 80209

Color negative .16/foot

Film Process and Transfer-Nashville

1(800) 844-1675

color negative .18/foot

Cine Atlanta 1(800) 633-1448

color negative .13-.15/foot

transfer to video \$225/hour

Beta tape \$45.00

9. Editing: Linear vs. Non-linear

Deck to Deck

Media 100 at the Alliance.

Desktop Editing.

Capture cards and FireWire

10. Budget

Budget for "Under the Bridge" 1998

1. Film stock 1000' 16mm Fuji stock	203.18
Studio film and tape 1(800) 824-3130	
2. Processing Yale Labs	375.85
800'	
3. Lights and equipment	30.00
Alliance	
4. DAT recorder	50.00
5. Cameraman: Julian Martin	200.00
6. Production asst, stills and sound:	150.00
Abel Klainbaum	
7. Editing: Abel Klainbaum	150.00
8. Media 100 Alliance	300.00
9. Set construction supplies	71.56
10. Bucket truck	50.00
11. Stills: film and processing	72.01
12. Dolly construction	55.00
13. 4 track rental Florida discount music	40.00
14. Gas for Julian's car	15.00
15. Microphone	31.80
16. Beta tape	28.62
17. DAT tape	8.50
Total	\$1681.52

11. Premiere, Press, Critics and Festivals.

Hype! Old Hollywood Proverb: "There is no such thing as bad press."

"Send out invitations, invite the press, invite the people that turned you down, then watch what happens when you see them, they will know now that you make movies, and that you DO what NOBODY, but Spielberg, you, Lucas, Tarentino, you, Scorsese, you, do...and that's make movies!" ---Better Duck

"Although the story concept was solid, I think the urination scene was too strong to show to an all- ages audience."-- Kris Kemp, FLO Film Fest, West Palm Beach

12. Accumulate information

A. *Experience*--Be an extra in as many movies as you can.

B. *Film School/classes*

C. *Contacts*- Alliance/IFP-South -<http://www.alliance-cinema.org>

IFP website - <http://www.ifp.org>

210 2nd Street Miami Beach FL 33139 (305)-538-8242

E-mail: bsherer@bigfoot.com (Barron Sherer)

The Florida Blue Sheet

7238 Hiawassee Oak Drive Orlando, FL 32818-8360 (407) 292-7458

E-mail: Bluesheet@aol.com

D. *Books that I found helpful*

Lee R. Bobker with Louise Marinis, Making Movies From Script to Screen, Harcourt

Brace Jovanovich 1973
Edward Pincus and Steven Ascher, The Filmmaker's Handbook, Plume/Penguin 1984
David W. Samuelson, Motion Picture Techniques, Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd 1984
Rick Schmidt, Feature Filmmaking at Used-Car Prices, Penguin Books 1993

E. Helpful Internet Sites

Super8 Sound

2805 West Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505
phone: 818-848-5522 fax: 818-848-5956 e-mail s8s@worldnet.att.net
<http://www.super8sound.com/>

Betterduck Productions

<http://members.aol.com/bettrduck/index.html>

Rick Schmidt's Feature Filmmaking At Used Car Prices

<http://arcadiaweb.com/lightvideo/>

Alex's Guide To No-Budget Filmmaking

<http://www.cybergecko.com/guide.htm>

Cyber Film School

<http://www.cyberfilmschool.com/>

Scriptwriting Secrets

<http://www.scriptwritingsecrets.com/>

Ben Model's homepage (OIFFS)—How Ben was ousted from film school and still made a hugely successful (2 thumbs up!) no-budget feature.

<http://www.users.interport.net/~manaben/OIFFSmain.html>

Kevin Smith (CLERKS) and crew

<http://www.viewaskew.com>

A Screenwriter's World O' Links

This is the place for all your screenwriting questions.

<http://www.angelfire.com/ga/irishboy/links.html>

Screenwriters & Playwrights Home Page

<http://www.teleport.com/~cdeemer/scrwriter.html>

Drew's Scripts-O-Rama which contains archives and pointers to a large number of scripts on the Net.

<http://www.script-o-rama.com>

Newsgroups

rec.arts.movies.production
alt.movies.cinematography
alt.movies.cinematography.super8
alt.movies.independent