FORMATION STUDIOS

Digital Storytelling Course : From Idea to Product

Course Outline
March 2008

Participant: _____

Presenters:

Welcome!

The Workshop

Background

Digital Storytelling techniques can be a powerful set of communication tools for teachers and students alike, useful for variety of purposes both inside the classroom and out. This workshop is an initiative aimed at developing skills and techniques in digital storytelling at an intermediate level.

The workshop will focus on different aspects of pre-production, production and post-production and will explore the process of short purposeful storytelling and development, filming and capturing and editing exercises.

Part 1 - Workshop Objectives:

This workshop is designed to be an integrated experience into the world of producing digital stories. Building on participants' existing skills, the workshop will provide a development, shooting, production and editing framework for seeing ideas through to product..

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the steps involved in producing a digital story; through the stages of planning, shooting and editing.
2. Be familiar with the concept of story development.
3. Analyse and deconstruct existing stories for technique and style
4. Identify and utilise the features of a digital video camera, including sound recording.
5. Brainstorm and organise story ideas into plan for a story and begin to work with a team in actioning a project
6. Demonstrate the basic skills required to successfully plan, shoot and prepare to edit digital footage.
7. Identify some features of the non-linear editing system Windows Movie Maker (and/or possibly Premiere or equivalent)
8. Capture video footage onto a computer.
9. Demonstrate a simple editing process and utilise an editing system to an improved level.
10. Export a digital video to tape, file and DVD.
11. Explore how the above skills could be used in an educational context, with individual students and/or a group.
12. Identify areas to focus on for further learning.

Timeline and Program

Workshop Sessions: Wednesday, 9th April / Thursday 10th April 2008

                         Venue: Sanderson High School
                                            Conference Room
                                            Mathews Rd
                                            Wulagi

Times:

                Session 1:   **8:00am – 10:00am**
                Morning Tea

                Session 2:   **10:30am – 12:30pm**
                Lunch Break

                Session 3:   **1:30pm – 4:00pm**

* Please Note: Participants are expected to attend all sessions on the 2 days. *

Pre-Workshop

1. **Ideas -** Before arriving at the workshop, participants are recommended to think about <u>at least one idea</u>, or proposal suitable for the DEET Connecting Through Film Student Film Festival . If you have notes on your idea, bring them along.

    Participants are encouraged to prepare:
    *   Thoughts on the main people to be involved in your film
    *   An outline of your story idea
    *   Digital photos to help tell your story

We will aim to give you feedback and time to develop your idea during the workshop.

2. **Equipment –** Participants should bring <u>whatever production equipment possible</u> that they have access to, including:
    *   digital video camera
    *   software and cords that were supplied with your video camera
    *   tripod
    *   sound equipment: microphones, headphones
    *   editing-capable laptop

Workshop Sessions

Participants will be split into appropriate groups that suit their particular needs for small group sessions on particular topic areas.

The following workshop plan is intended as a guide only, with particular sessions offered as suggestions as to what individual presenters and participant group might cover. Depending upon skill levels and individual requirements, sessions may be negotiated to cover additional or varied content, or be aimed at different skill levels. It is expected that participants will be able to access presenters for individual guidance where time permits.

Day 1	
Session 1 **8:00am – 10:00am**	**Welcome & Icebreakers** Warm-up Game: Film Words – Forming a group Intro Game: Meet your partner – Personal introductions **Participants initial presentation of their own ideas and experiences** Group questions & needs Workshop objectives, plans & logistics **Discussion: Filmmaking in an Educational Context** Ideas for the Classroom, using what you've got **Activity: Group Story Process Brainstorm – Workshop Facilitators** Intro Overview of the Production Processes for Digital Stories: Development, Pre-production, Production, Post-production or "Plan, Shoot, Edit"
	Morning tea
Session 2 **10:30am – 12:30pm**	**Story planning tools – Scripts and Storyboards** Examples A Photo Story Planning your Story **Practical small group exercise: Storyboarding a short script** Developing a shot list and/or storyboard for a short scene **Identifying functions of the camera and sound gear** Worksheet – Wills Camera Tips **Getting it right: Lighting, Sound and Steady shots** Short Filming Exercises – "Standby, Rolling, Action" Composition & framing exercises Interviewing Techniques and Practice
	Lunch
Session 3 **1:30pm – 4:00pm**	**Viewing and Analysis of Footage** Feedback **Shooting your Story** Getting it right with sound Cutaways & Coverage 15 minute regroup & debrief

Day 2	
Session 1 8:00am – 10:00am	**Recap of previous day - 15 minutes** Group questions & needs **Reviewing footage from Day 1** **Editing Intro** How do we prepare for an edit? Overview of the Editing Process **Editing process** Capturing Basic Edit
Morning tea	

Session 2
10:30am –
12:30pm
	Editing process continued -
	Transitions & Effects
	Encorporating Sound & Music
	Titles
	
	Editing process continued –
	Saving and Outputting
	Codecs
	DVD, Archiving and Backups
	
	Resources:
	    - 'The Individual Filmmakers Checklist'
	    - 'Guide to designing great projects'
	    - Editing Techniques
	    - Types of Shots

Lunch	
Session 3 1:30pm – 4:00pm	**Viewing and Analysis of Films** Feedback Regroup & debrief Evaluation Where to from here? – 15 minutes

Post-Workshop

We hope that you have enjoyed this workshop, and have found the sessions useful in developing your skills in telling stories through the digital video medium.

Participants are encouraged to continue the development of their filmmaking skills and ideas, and to continue to develop their relationship with fellow participants in seeking support and assistance.