

Why am I a filmmaker

'Every journey matters'

For a little over a decade, I have been trying to create my own path into film. Although I didn't study it at University, I made sure I took several short courses and always made space for films. After years of making my own short films, working in production for music videos and ads, I left the industry for theatre and other forms of creative writing (poetry and spoken word).

But filmmaking is in my blood. I got back into making more short films, writing more scripts and taking part in more short courses. The hardest thing for me was suffering with chronic anxiety and also ADHD. not to mention an industry that wasn't funding the types of stories I wanted to write and make.

Now that I am so much more confident in my voice and have had a few wins in the industry, I am applying for this course to learn more from the industry professionals and get the opportunity to write with a whole production crew in mind from the get go.

At the end of the course, I will fill in the knowledge gaps within my self taught journey, develop the ideas that get seen by experienced industry practitioners. I want to set up creative writing workshops for young and working class people around the UK and beyond. Story is for everyone and I want to make people feel confident that they are allowed to tell theirs no matter their background.

I would love to know more about writing for animation and video games. And with the recent proliferation of Ai generated worlds, I want to be a part of the story telling tech evolution.

Experience

Writing for music videos, commercials, websites, and online content has made me a cross platform storyteller. I know how to pull themes and narrative from any creative room.

My knowledge has come from studying story; taking short courses at City Lit, Birkbeck and the Roundhouse, spending good time devouring books such as The Art of Creative Writing and The Art of Dramatic Writing by Lajos Egri, Save the cat by Blake Snyder, Into the Woods by John York, Aristotle's Poetics, and loads and loads of sample scripts.

As a scriptwriter for film, I have made it to the semi-finals of a scriptwriting competition (ScreenCraft) and the finals of a pitch competition (The Pitch UK).

My time making films branches out from the page. I am constantly amongst the post production team as a producer, on set as a camera operator and director and am efficient enough in most of the editing softwares. With these skills I have on many occasions made my own, self funded short films; one of which is being supported by a well known production company, Somesuch.

With a wealth of unique experiences and a fervent on the job knowledge for the craft, I come to this course with an extensive wealth of knowledge on film and ready for the full time intense nature of the course.

Specialisation

Specialising in script writing, my role in the production of a film or television programme mainly starts from the development/pre-production stage.

For a feature film production, I could be tasked with the job of creating the initial idea that drives the production. Creating the characters, dialogue, and plot of the film. The idea could be an original one or an adaptation. In any case a lot of research is required to flesh out the story.

I could also be brought in for rewrites. The initial feature film idea could be strong but the draft might need development by a writer with more knowledge of the genre, or a writer known for their knowledge of structure, or dialogue.

Often working to tight deadlines, the script writer should work in collaboration with the producers and director(s) to come up with the final draft also known as 'the polish'.

When writing for television however, there are extra components to consider. Am I writing a new series or for an existing programme? Is the programme a single or multi camera production? Will there be a studio audience present? It is important to understand these variables when writing for television.

My Future

My current and future career intends to focus on:

script writing for film - I want to spend time developing original feature film ideas to shop around to production companies. The script I have attached to the application, Ijele, is being developed into a feature film heavily inspired by Japanese horror, and folk tales. The film is a mix of Kaneto Shindo's Onibaba's village horror and the supernatural comic books by John Lymington.

I am also developing a Heist movie with a Bafta up and coming director that is a throwback to the heist movies of the 70's where screwball comedy and misfits were more important than expensive set pieces. Hot Rock starring Robert Redford is a big inspiration.

TV - I want to develop original and adapted sci-fi/paranormal drama series ideas for streaming platforms similar to Netflix's Behind Her Eyes and Another Life. I also intend to be part of the writers room for sci-fi, paranormal and drama shows that already exist.

Ai story telling - I want to be at the pulse of Ai story generators. Apps such as Chat GPT, Jasper, StudioWrite, and StoryLab. I want to explore what Ai means for story and for our environment.

My plan is to also spend good time lecturing and running workshops on story development. I want to be in the classroom as much as I can, forming strong collaborations with like minded writers to develop their new ideas and adaptations.