

THEORY & PRACTICAL BASED WORKSHOP THE ART AND PROCESS OF DOCUMENTARY CREATION

COURSE PROGRAMME

PROFESOR: BELKIS VEGA BELMONTE

Objectives:

One of the principal objectives of this workshop is to define Documentary and differentiate it from other types of audiovisual creation in order to prepare students for the development of their own documentary project.

Through use of concrete examples they will study the characteristics involved in directing a documentary and the process of creating a documentary.

Students will receive training in the search and development of ideas to make a documentary and the fundamental aspects involved in developing a documentary project.

In groups they will experience the whole documentary creation process from searching for the idea to it's projection on the big screen.

Thematic content:

Theme 1: Definition of documentary

- 1.1 Objectivity and subjectivity
- 1.2 Reality and representation
- 1.3 Origins and evolution of documentary

Theme 2: The Idea

- 2.1 The idea – the embryo of a documentary
- 2.2 Idea and theme
- 2.3 Laying the foundations of a documentary project

Theme 3: Essential definitions in documentary

- 3.1 Thesis
- 3.2 Point of view
- 3.3 Objectives
- 3.4 Viewer or audience

Theme 4: Investigation and Immersion

- 4.1 Specialist in “your subject”
- 4.2 Looking for characters
- 4.3 Situations. Locations
- 4.4 Archives, documents, etc

Theme 5: Treatment

- 5.1 Expressive resources
- 5.2 The image as a form of expression
- 5.3 Soundtrack

Theme 6: Documentary narrative & Dramatic structure

- 6.1 The story in documentary
- 6.2 Dramatic structures

Theme 7: Scriptwriting in documentary

- 7.1 Script in documentary? When?
- 7.2 Script. Basic outline. Plan of “attack”
- 7.3 Shoot and production schedule

Theme 8: The Director in documentary

- 7.1 Selection and relationship building with the film team
- 7.2 Characterization and relationship with “your” characters

Theme 9: Filming

- 9.1 Pre-filming
- 9.2 Filming. Foreseeable reality and the possibility of reality to surprise

Theme 10: Post-production

- 10.1 Studying the filmed material
- 10.2 Script for the edit
- 10.3 Elements that take part in the edit
 - Editing images
 - Editing sound
- 10.4 The editing process as a laboratory for creation

The concrete relationship between the content studied and its application in the creation of the students' documentaries is fundamental. Given this, each topic developed is related back to documentary works screened and analysed in class. Some of these works will be set as tasks for the students to study, stimulating debate, active learning and creativity in the process of knowledge acquisition. At the same time, throughout the workshop the students should hand in set-tasks aimed at training them in the elaboration of documentary projects. This process starts with individual proposals and is enriched with the work of collective creation that will end in the making of one documentary per team. Each team will be made up of 3 – 4 students.