

The *OnScreen* Course Guide

Filmmaking & Screen Studies



VCA Film and TV School Masters by Research student Simon Myers (right) with Masters by Coursework student Julius Avery (left)

If you're thinking of training in filmmaking or getting an education in screen culture, OnScreen offers a helping hand, a quick time-saving read through the essentials we've gleaned about available courses across Australia.

The web has fast become the first place prospective students visit to explore the range of institutions, courses, certificates and degrees currently available from universities and commercial schools. We decided to do the same, looking at just what kind of advertisement each website represents for its institution. The quality of sites varies enormously in terms of design, navigability and the quantity and calibre of information. Some major schools have execrable sites, minor schools excellent ones; some sites are fine on courses but weak on who's teaching; some are vague on facilities and most are thin when it comes to tracking the careers of their graduates.

Increasingly these sites (and downloadable PDF-formatted handbooks) are everything you're going to get about a course, although some schools will provide brochures and booklets with a little more information. Here and there we've sought additional material where we thought a site lacking, and occasionally we've received it.

As we develop this guide, we'll add information and further commentary, including more about fees. A one-year postgraduate course in filmmaking can cost \$20,000. You'd want to be convinced about staff expertise, facilities and graduate success before committing.

In our next edition we'll likewise survey courses in new media arts around Australia.
The Editors

NEW SOUTH WALES

Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS)

Location: Cnr Epping and Balaclava Rds, North Ryde, NSW, 2113

PO Box 126, North Ryde, NSW 1670

Phone: 02 9805 6611

Email: infonsw@aftrs.edu.au

Website: www.aftrs.edu.au

Subject areas: Offers specialisation in cinematography, design (production and costume), digital media, directing, editing (film or television), producing, screenwriting, sound design, screen composition, documentary directing, documentary editing, documentary producing.

Qualifications: Graduate Diploma (1 year); Master of Arts: Film and Television (1-2 years depending on specialisation); Master of Arts Honours: Film and Television (1 year)

Fees: Just under \$5,000 per year

Facilities: The website contains a detailed descriptions of facilities and equipment by department. AFTRS is fully equipped with production and postproduction equipment and facilities for 16mm, 35mm and digital video projects (including studio facilities).

Teachers: Full listings with some biographies on the website. All the AFTRS staff have extensive experience in Australia's film and television industries and there is an impressive list of professional associates who contribute to the school.

Graduates: AFTRS alumni include many prominent members of the Australian film industry. Well-known

recent graduates include Ivan Sen, Sejong Park (*Birthday Boy*) and Cate Shortland.

Comments: Established in 1973, AFTRS is the oldest and best known film school in Australia. The school's website is informative and fairly easy to navigate, although complicated by the great number of courses offered by each department. There are detailed subject breakdowns and descriptions for all courses, a facilities and equipment page, staff biographies and a graduates page noting alumni activities. As well there are full web versions of a selection of graduate short films. In addition, AFTRS runs a vast array of short courses around the country: full details appear on the site, complete with fees.

Charles Sturt University, School of Visual and Performing Arts

Location: Boorooma St, Wagga Wagga Campus, NSW, 2678

Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678

Phone: 02 6933 2589

Email: vkendall@csu.edu.au (Vicki Kendall)

Website: www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/vpa/

Subject areas: Television Production: scriptwriting, single camera video production, multi-camera television production, multi-track sound recording, linear and non-linear editing, online post production, multi camera studio, outside broadcast television production.

Design for Theatre and Television: design aspects of television and theatre (sets, lighting, sound, costumes and properties); design implementation (rigging and plotting lights, sound installation, set and costume construction); lighting and sound operating skills; production management; stage management; television studio floor management.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (Television Production); Bachelor of Arts (Design for Theatre and Television)

Fees: HECS places available for Australian students.

Facilities: General information about the school's television studio on the website, but no specific details.

Teachers: Website includes full staff list, with biographies for most staff members.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: The school offers a number of Bachelor of Arts degrees, including specialisations in Television Production, and Design for Theatre and Television. The School stresses creative application of theoretical and practical skills rather than just technical training. Students must attend an interview and present examples of creative work to be considered for admission. The school also offers a range of post-graduate degrees by course work and research. Postgraduates involved in creative arts practice can present research by means other than a written thesis. The website has a clean design and is easy to use, though not greatly detailed. There are subject breakdowns for each course, with a very brief subject descriptor. There are no detailed equipment or facilities lists.

Macquarie University Media Department

Location: Cnr Epping and Balaclava Rds, North Ryde, NSW, 2113

Post: Macquarie University, NSW, 2109

Phone: 02 9850 8786

Email: media@mq.edu.au

Website: www.media.mq.edu.au

Subject areas: Media theory, screen studies, screen production using high-end digital production equipment, multimedia production

Qualifications: Bachelor of Media (Screen Production); Bachelor of Media (Multimedia); Post-graduate degrees by research including 'creative' theses.

Fees: HECS places available for Australian students.

Facilities: Fully listed and easily found on the website. The department is well equipped with multimedia facilities and for digital production and postproduction.

Teachers: Fully listed with links to biographical details for each staff member. Staff have extensive experience in media industries, and include feature film director Kathryn Millard, sound artist John Potts, novelist Peter Doyle and *Southern Review* editor and film commentator Noel King.

Graduates: No information.

Comments: This is a large department in which students can complete a Bachelor of Media specialising in screen production or do a joint Media-Law degree, Media (Honours) or a Bachelor in Media and Cultural Studies. The website is reasonably detailed and very easy to use, although the links to the 'academic programs' of each degree don't work. However you can get to these through the online handbook where there are very good course descriptions. There are equipment listings and full staff member details. Although the staff are well known, there is no information about graduates or examples of student work, making it difficult to get a feel of what the school is like. The website stresses that the Screen Production strand has a strong theoretical component.

Metro Screen

Location: Sydney Film Centre, Cnr of Oatley Rd & Oxford St, Paddington, NSW, 2021

P.O. Box 299, Paddington, NSW, 2021

Phone: 02 9361 5318

Email: metro@metroscreen.org.au

Website: www.metroscreen.com.au

Subject areas: Producing, production management, first assistant director training, scriptwriting, digital video production, camera operation, lighting, directing, documentary, continuity, After Effects, Photoshop for title design, cinema projection.

Qualifications: Certificate IV in Screen (5.5 months); Certificate III in Cinema Projection (76 hours).

Fees: Short courses range from \$200 to \$1,100; Certificate IV in Screen: \$6,100

Certificate III in Cinema Projection: \$970 (members), \$1,150 (non-members)

Facilities: A detailed inventory complete with hire rates is on the website. Metro Screen has a full range of video and Super 8 film equipment, as well as a small studio.

Teachers: No details on the website.

Graduates: No details on the website.

Comments: Metro is the Sydney member of Screen Development Australia (SDA) network, which provides technical training in film and video production and post production, as well as equipment and facilities hire at reasonably cheap rates. The other SDA members are OPENChannel (Melbourne), QPIX (Brisbane), the Film and Television Institute (Fremantle, WA) and the Media Resource Centre (Adelaide). The SDA organisations are subsidised by a range of government funding bodies. Metro Screen also runs other services for members, such as a production group, a script editing service and a production subsidy scheme. They also have Indigenous, multicultural and youth initiatives. The website design is very cluttered and the font small, but not too difficult to navigate.

Sydney Film School

Location: 82 Cope St, Waterloo, NSW, 2017

PO Box 602, Alexandria, NSW, 2015

Phone: 02 9698 2244

Email: info@sydneyfilmschool.com

Website: www.sydneyfilmschool.com

Subject areas: Production management, cinematography, film editing, After Effects, Audio mixing, scriptwriting, directing, storyboarding, production design, music for film, experimental film.

Qualifications: Certificate IV in Screen (6 mths); Diploma of Screen (1 yr)

Fees: Certificate IV: \$6,000 up front or \$6,600 in 4 monthly instalments.

Diploma: \$9,000 up front or \$11,000 paid over 8 monthly instalments. Short courses range from \$500 to \$2,500.

Facilities: Detailed inventory on the website. Full range of 16mm and video production and postproduction facilities and equipment, and a large production space.

Teachers: Most of the staff come with experience in the industry, and include film commentator Peter Galvin and filmmakers John Buckmaster and Tom Cowan. Mandy King and Fabio Caradino are the documentary course coordinators. The website contains a full list of staff film and publishing credits, teaching experience and academic qualifications.

Graduates: No information on graduates, except for mention of 2 films produced at the school and that

"Sydney Film School student films have been screened internationally at both festivals and film schools."

Comments: This is a new private school established in 2004 by some of the staff instrumental in the establishment of Sydney University's Union Broadcast Service (UBS). According to the website, "the school has a personalised outlook with an emphasis upon collaboration and excellence in film education." Easy to use and well designed, the website has less of a corporate feel than most private film school sites. Detailed information on courses, staff, facilities and the school's philosophy is provided. The school stresses that students work with 16mm film as well as video, that the school is housed in an old warehouse large enough to facilitate the building of sets, and the institution's status as a place where "the cultures of Eastern film and cinematography can fuse with Western cultures." How the school is positioned to facilitate this fusion is not indicated.

UBS Media School

Location: 5th floor, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney

Phone: 02 9563 6032

Email: ubs@usu.usyd.edu.au

Website: www.ubsmediaschool.com

Subject areas: Camera (film, video, lighting, cinematography), sound, editing, production management

Qualifications: Certificate IV in Screen

Fees: Available in the school brochure. These range from several hundred dollars for short course to \$5,000 for Certificate IV.

Facilities: Editing suites, cameras and access to non-UBS studios. No details on website or brochure.

Teachers: Among the staff are documentary filmmakers James Rickertson and Julia Kalytis and dance filmmakers Karen Pearlman and Richard Allen, as well as technical and production specialists. Brief biographies are provided.

Graduates: No information.

Comments: Operated by the University of Sydney Union, UBS has been "delivering industry-focused and industry-relevant film and video courses for more than 10 years." Courses are constantly revised and are delivered by current film and television practitioners. The certificate course is delivered as a full-time program with selected units available to part-timers. The school claims to offer a far greater choice of units than most other schools. Students work with 16mm film and videotape and complete individual and group projects during the course, including a major project. The final short movie project is made with video equipment. The school claims that its course in video journalism is the only one of its kind. A "full-time, full-year" course, it is focused on developing video production and journalistic skills. The school's spare website is simply designed; just a little more information is offered in their brochure.

University of New South Wales, School of Media, Film and Theatre

Location: Level 3, Webster Building, Anzac Parade, Kensington, Sydney, NSW, 2052.

Phone: 02 9385 4856

Email: mfi@unsw.edu.au

Website: media.arts.unsw.edu.au/index.html

Subject areas: Film theory, film history, Australian cinema, national cinemas, the Hollywood system, film genres, new media technologies, media studies, media production, television, video production, web technologies.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Film Studies); Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications). Joint degree options with Law and Science also available. Postgraduate degrees by coursework and research.

Fees: HECS places available for Australian students.

Facilities: The site has a link to the UNSW Technical Resources Centre website which has comprehensive listings of facilities and equipment. The range of equipment is not huge and includes video equipment only.

Teachers: The school features many well-known senior academics, although the staff strength on the film side is in academic research and publishing, as in the case of George Kouvaros, rather than industry experience.

Graduates: No mention of alumni activities on the website.

Comments: In 2005, the long-established School of Theatre, Film and Dance merged with the School of Media and Communications at UNSW, becoming the School of Media, Film and Theatre. This has allowed the school to bring together the strong theoretical leanings of the film department and the more practically orientated training of the media department, although the new website still stresses the school's theoretical approach to media and film rather than links to industry and vocational training. This is particularly the case in the film-related courses. The school's website is reasonably easy to navigate and has complete subject listings and brief subject description. There are complete staff listing, most with biographies.

University of Sydney, Department of Art History (Film Studies),

Location: A26, RC Mills Building, Department of Art History, City Rd entry, Sydney, NSW 2006

Phone: 02 9351 3566

Email: Email enquiry form included on the website.

Website: www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departments/filmstudies/index.php

Subject areas: Ethnographic film, art and archaeology of South East Asia, national and transnational cinemas, literature and cinema, Asian film studies, contemporary Hollywood, Australian stage and screen, Australian film and national identity, filming fiction: the Italian experience.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Film Studies); Postgraduate degrees by research

Fees: HECS places available for Australian students.

Facilities: No information on the website.

Teachers: The 2 permanent staff members are well known film theorists: Laleen Jayamanne and Richard Smith. The website has a biography for each. As most of the film subjects are taught across the arts faculty, the other teachers come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: The department offers a major in Film Studies drawing on subjects from across the Faculty of Arts. There is only one core compulsory subject offered by the Department itself so there is an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies. The website is very basic and does not give much indication of what students can expect in a Film Studies major.

University of Technology Sydney, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Location: Level 2, Building 3 (Bon Marche Building) 1 Broadway, Ultimo, NSW, 2007

PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007

Phone: 02 9514 2300

Email: Norie.Neumark@uts.edu.au (Program Co-ordinator)

Website: www.hss.uts.edu.au/

Subject areas: Cultural studies, media arts and production, music, writing, television, popular culture, cinematic cultures, documentary, film and video drama, net cultures, producing, contemporary cinema.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts); Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Production); Master of Animation

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: Only very general details are available on the website.

Teachers: There are several well-known practitioners on the staff, generally from the more independent end of the production sector, including Gillian Leahy.

Graduates: No details on site.

Comments: UTS offers a Bachelor of Arts in Communication which offers a number of specialisations including Media Arts and Production. The website states: "Students study the history, contemporary issues and theory of media and culture while developing advanced technical and conceptual skills in film, video, new media and sound." The site also claims students can work with 16mm. The site is quite difficult to navigate and doesn't provide much detail. There are subject breakdowns but they are not easy to find. There are also no details about facilities or staff (they can be searched by name only), although there are a couple of graduate profiles. The school offers a broad range of postgraduate options, including a Masters of Animation, which is a cross-faculty course run by the Faculties of Design, Architecture and Building, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Information Technology. The site claims that this is the only Master of Animation on offer in Australia. Applicants must have qualifications in a related field and submit a portfolio containing 5 to 10 pieces of work. This is a full-fee paying course (although the course cost is not given), so predictably the website entry is considerably more detailed than the pages relating to undergraduate courses. There is a detailed course breakdown and some information about facilities.

VICTORIA

Deakin University, School of Communication and Creative Media

Location: Melbourne Campus, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, VIC 3125

Phone: 03 9251 7353

Email: arts-head-scca@deakin.edu.au/arts/scca/index/php

Website: www.deakin.edu.au

Subject areas: media theory, animation, digital media and culture, film and video production, photography, multimedia design

Qualifications: Bachelor of Contemporary Arts-Media Arts

Fees: HECS places available for Australian students.

Facilities: Some general details on the website, but no specific lists.

Teachers: There is an alphabetical list of the school's staff on the website, plus a list of the interests and publications of each staff member.

Graduates: The Faculty of Arts website has a testimonial from a dance/writing student from the School of Communications and Creative Media, but there is no specific information on Media Arts graduates.

Comments: Deakin's School of Communications and Creative Media offers a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts-Media Arts in which students can major in Film and Video, Animation and Digital Culture. The course seems to emphasise theory, as well as some practical subjects, and aims to give students the skills to enter a range of fields such as TV and film production, journalism, and media research. The site offers a breakdown of courses, which includes detailed descriptions of each subject. There is also a page outlining the school's general facilities, but nothing specific about equipment, such as what cameras are available and whether the school works with film as well as video. The site is quite informative but not particularly dynamic.

Filmmaking Summer School

Location: Kismet Film Productions, 605 Rathdowne St, North Carlton, VIC, 3054. (Courses take place at The University of Melbourne, Parkville, and St. Mary's College, Parkville.)

Phone: 03 9347 5035

Email: speers@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

Website: www.summerfilmschool.com

Subject areas: Scriptwriting, directing actors, production management, production/sound design, camera and lighting, editing, film business and marketing, visual effects, film music, shooting stunts, writing children's film and television, documentary filmmaking, Steadicam operation, 35mm cinematography, sound recording.

Qualifications: None of the short courses offer accredited qualifications.

Fees: Various short courses \$195 to \$2,975

From Script to Screen: 10 days \$935/\$835; 13 days \$1,235/\$1,075, 17 days \$1,565/\$1,395

Facilities: Full list on website. Includes 35mm, 16mm and video gear.

Teachers: Full list of staff on the website under specific courses, including credits. All teachers have considerable experience.

Graduates: No details on the website or the school's brochures, but in response to an enquiry from *OnScreen*, the school stated: "Many people go straight into features—one is working on *Charlotte's Web*, one on *Ghost Rider*, some are doing attachments; the Steadicam trainee can go on to work on films such as *Farscape*."

Comments: This is a summer school held each year at the University of Melbourne and run by Kismet Productions in association with the University of Melbourne's Cinema Studies program. The "From Script to Screen" course includes units on all aspects of film production, including production, postpro-

duction, scripting and the business side of filmmaking. There are also short courses that include: a 5-day intensive Steadicam workshop, a 4-day 35mm cinematography intensive/shoot, and a 4-day sound recording intensive. The site is easy to use and has a reasonably detailed breakdown of the subjects and equipment used for each course. The school's courses also do not appear to be officially accredited, apart from a full-fee Master of Arts (Cinema Management) which is part of Cinema Studies at the University of Melbourne (see p28). The website makes the rather substantial claim that the school's 17-day "From Script to Screen" course is designed to give students "knowledge that would normally require years of experience to acquire."

Footscray City College

Location: Kinnear St, Footscray, VIC 3011

Phone: 03 8387 1511

Email: film@footscray.vic.edu.au

Website: www.footscray.vic.edu.au

Subject areas: Preparing proposals, script writing, directing actors, operation of digital, Super 8 and 16mm cameras, lighting, editing, special effects, titling, location shooting.

Qualifications: Certificate IV in Screen (1 yr); Diploma of Screen (1 yr); Advanced Diploma of Screen (1 yr)

Fees: No information on the website.

Facilities: Only very minimal information on the website, with no lists of specific items.

Teachers: No information on the website.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: The college offers standard, industry-oriented one year Certificate and Diploma courses. One notable aspect of the course is that students work with Super 8 and 16mm film, as well as digital video formats. The website is fairly basic, offering minimal information on the courses, although there are lists of the tasks students are expected to complete. There are numerous references to graduates winning awards, but no specific titles or awards are mentioned.

OPENChannel

Location: Victoria Dock, Shed 4 Dock 4, Docklands, VIC, 3008

Phone: 03 9419 5111

Email: info@openchannel.org.au

Website: www.openchannel.org.au

Subject areas: Digital filmmaking, documentary filmmaking, camera operating, lighting, scriptwriting (short film and documentary), editing, sound, producing, funding, legal issues, film marketing, and a specialist course on directing.

Qualifications: Certificate III in Screen (12 weeks); Advanced Diploma of Screen

Fees: Short courses range from \$5 to \$618; Certificate III in Screen, \$3,900; Advanced Diploma in Screen, \$4,900.

Facilities: Full list on website, plus a downloadable hire rate card. OPENChannel has digital video equipment only—no film gear is available.

Teachers: Limited information.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: OPENChannel is the Victoria partner of Screen Development Australia. They offer a range of short courses, a Certificate III in Screen and an Advanced Diploma in Screen, as well as equipment and facilities hire. The accredited courses are considerably cheaper than those offered by most private colleges. OPENChannel is equipped for training in video production. The new Advanced Diploma course is designed for those wishing to specialise in directing screen drama. OPENChannel also runs a number of production and training subsidy programs, mentoring, a night each month exploring the history and theory of cinema and screening nights. The website is informative, very easy to navigate and down-to-earth in tone. It provides considerable detail on courses, facilities and OPENChannel staff, although there are no details about the actual course teachers.

RMIT University, School of Applied Communication

Location: 124 La Trobe St, Melbourne VIC 3000

GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne, VIC, 3001

Phone: 03 9925 2828

Email: merle.walter@mit.edu.au

Website: www.mit.edu.au/appliedcommunication

Subject areas: film history, national cinemas (including America, China, Japan, France and Australia), production systems (eg Hollywood, alternative, state-financed), documentary, genres, Asian cinemas, history of film theory.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Communication (Media)

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: General information is provided with references to video and 16mm film equipment and links with Channel 31, a community television channel.

Teachers: Full list complete with biographies. The Cinema Studies staff is small but includes the well-known academics Dr Adrian Danks (co-curator of the Melbourne Cinematheque) and Dr Lisa French (editor of the recent book *Womenvision: Women and the Moving Image in Australia*).

Graduates: The website has a series of QuickTime movies featuring comments from alumni such as Clare Stewart (ACMI) and Kate McCarthy (Visual Effects Co-ordinator, *Matrix Reloaded* and *Matrix Revolutions*).

Comments: The school offers a Bachelor of Communication (Media) in which students can major in Cinema Studies or Television Production. The Cinema Studies course is strictly theoretical, offering a range of subjects covering cinema from around the world. The website has a detailed breakdown of course subjects. The Television Production course is more practical, aiming to "prepare students for employment in the film and television industry." The Television Production page has a lot less detail about the course contents, but has some descriptions of the equipment and facilities available to students, including lists of software packages in which students will become proficient. Students have the option of working with 16mm film during their degree. Generally the RMIT site is informative and quite detailed, but badly laid out and difficult to navigate—the menus are very small and it's hard to locate particular information.

RMIT University, School of Creative Media**Location:** Level 2, Building 94, 23-27 Cardigan St, Carlton South, VIC, 3053**Phone:** 03 9925 4815 (Stephen Skok, Film and TV Production Program Leader)**Email:** stephensk@mit.edu.au**Website:** www.mit.edu.au/creativemedia**Subject areas:** Camera, lighting, editing, scripting, sound skills.**Qualifications:** Certificate IV in Screen (Film and Television Production) (1 yr); Diploma of Screen (Film and Television Production; 2 yrs); Advanced Diploma of Screen (Film and Television Production; 3yrs); Advanced Diploma in Professional Screenwriting (Film, Television and Digital Media; 2 yrs)**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses. Fees for the TAFE courses do not appear to be listed on the website.**Facilities:** There are 3D images of resource rooms but no listing of actual resources.**Teachers:** There is a staff list with contact details for the Film and Television courses, but no biographies. In reply to our enquiry, the school replied: "Our staff are made up of leading industry professionals and practitioners and educators." The scriptwriting course has no staff details.**Graduates:** There are no graduate details on the website for the Film and Television production courses. In response to my enquiry, the school provided a list of recent student achievements, which included: Scott Ryan's feature *The Magician* which won Best Film, Director and Actor at the Melbourne Underground Film Festival 2003, and is due for commercial release in 2005; Cassandra Bakic won Best Tertiary documentary at the 2003 ATOM Awards; and Dylan Smith's *Minestrone Fats* was selected for the 2005 New York Film Festival. The scriptwriting course lists only one graduate on the website, Robert Sutherland (*The Inside Story*).**Comments:** The school also offers a range of arts degrees mainly specialising in new media related areas, a TAFE Advanced Diploma in Professional Screenwriting and an Advanced Diploma of Screen (Film and Television Production). In an email to *OnScreen* the school stated that the second half of each year in Film and Television Production courses is devoted to students productions. All students get to make at least one short film of their own each year. The website claims the screenwriting program is unique in Australia, although it doesn't explain what differentiates it from other screenwriting programs. The site states: "The program provides specialist training in writing for film, television and digital media, across all genres." The information on the TAFE courses in Film and Television production is quite detailed, with course breakdowns and some general information on facilities. These courses are vocationally orientated and stress digital video practice; there is no reference to students having the option of working with film.**Swinburne University of Technology, School of Film and Television****Location:** Building PA, 144 High St, Prahran, VIC 3181**Phone:** 03 9214 6755**Email:** nidenquiry@swin.edu.au**Website:** www.hed.swin.edu.au/design**Subject areas:** Broadcast film and video, post-production, computer/video game development and mobile network telecommunications, film and television language and technology, cinema studies, electronic media design, new media, communication and multimedia design.**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Film and Television; Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Design); Graduate Certificate of Design (Multimedia); Graduate Diploma of Design (Multimedia); Masters of Design (Multimedia); Masters and PhD by research**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.**Facilities:** No information on the website.**Teachers:** The website contains a full staff list, however not by discipline, with short biographies. The Film and Television staff includes several notables such as director-screenwriter Richard Franklin and documentary maker Emma Crimmings (co-editor of *Short Site*, published by ACMI).**Graduates:** The course was only introduced in 2004.**Comments:** In 2004 Swinburne's Faculty of Design reintroduced a Bachelor of Film and Television aiming to engage students "in the creative, practical and critical processes that define film and television production now." The course is very practically-orientated and features some units on digital media. The website states that the course's theoretical elements are designed to complement production training. The site is fairly basic, but contains a fair amount of detail about the course. It is not clear if students work on film as well as video and there is no information on facilities or equipment. The site states that the Swinburne School of Film and Television aims to "complement Australia's existing film schools", but doesn't expand on what that means.**University of Melbourne, School of Arts History, Cinema, Classics and Archeology****Location:** Elisabeth Murdoch Building, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010**Phone:** 03 8344 5565**Email:** finearts-info@unimelb.edu.au**Website:** www.ahcca.unimelb.edu.au/studyarea/cinema.html**Subject areas:** Cinema history and interpretation (including silent, art, national and Hollywood cinemas), film and new media theories, feminist and postcolonial studies, genre studies (film noir, western, horror, science fiction), television and commodity culture.**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Arts (Cinema Studies); Graduate Certificate in Arts (Cinema Studies); Graduate Diploma in Arts (Cinema Studies); Postgraduate Certificate in Arts (Cinema Studies); Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Cinema Studies); Masters of Arts (Cinema Management); Masters and PhD by research**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.**Facilities:** The website states, "The Cinema Studios Resource Centre for postgraduate students houses video, DVD, computer and game station technology."**Teachers:** The Cinema Studies staff is small (5), but has several well known writer/researchers. Staff who have recently published books include Barbara Creed, Angela Ndaliansi (*Neo-Baroque Aesthetics and Contemporary Entertainment Media*, see p20) and Mark Nicholls (*Scorsese's Men*).**Graduates:** The extensive list of graduates includes prominent academics.**Comments:** The course is entirely theoretical and also encompasses new media studies. Like the title of the school itself, the totality can appear fragmentary, although there is a broad range of subjects from which students can construct their degrees. The site is pretty basic, but does provide subject breakdowns and brief staff biographies with areas of interest.**Victorian College of the Arts, The School of Film and Television****Location:** 234 St Kilda Road, Southbank, VIC, 3006**Phone:** 03 9685 9000**Email:** fiv.info@vca.unimelb.edu.au**Website:** www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/fiv**Subject areas:** Screenwriting, screen studies, actor directing, animation, documentary, narrative, visuals effects.**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Film and Television; Graduate Diplomas in Film and Television (streams in Animation, Documentary, Narrative, Visual Effects); Postgraduate Diploma in Producing; Masters in Film and Television by Coursework (streams in Animation, Documentary, Narrative and Visual Effects); Masters in Film and Television by Research; Masters in Film and Television Producing by Research**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.**Facilities:** The very general entry on facilities states that the school is equipped to produce broadcast quality videos and 16mm films. No further details were available from the school.**Teachers:** There is a complete list with contact details on the website, but no biographical details are provided. The handbook similarly has no biographical details. No details were available from the school.**Graduates:** There is an alumni page on the website featuring an impressive list of well known filmmakers, including Adam Elliot, Gillian Armstrong, Geoffrey Wright and Andrew Dominik.**Comments:** The school offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses covering all aspects of film and television production, with streams in animation, documentary, narrative, visual effects and producing. The language on the webpage is noticeably less industry-orientated than the sites for many other contemporary courses, retaining an auteurist flavour focusing on the artistic and innovative skills students will develop in order to produce screen art. The introductory page states that the school aims to train students in making "motion picture programs of a high artistic and technical standard...Students are encouraged to be innovative, to experiment, to explore ideas and develop the expertise to express their ideas in motion pictures for an audience." The description of the Bachelor's degree reads in part: "The school's focus is on film as a creative medium and uses its tools primarily as a vehicle to discover and express the students distinctive creative 'voice'." Narrative students use 16mm as well as digital video formats. The site is attractive, clean and easy to navigate, if slender on detail. There is a staff list but no biographies or production/publishing histories and only general information on the facilities and equipment available. The course descriptions are quite broad, with no subject breakdowns, but there are links to VCA Handbooks, which feature more detailed subject descriptions for each degree. There are also non-award courses available with initiatives for Indigenous and community access.**QUEENSLAND****Bond University, Centre for Film and TV****Location:** Cnr Cottesloe and University Drives, Robina, QLD 4229**Phone:** 07 5595 4092**Email:** FITVcontact@bond.edu.au**Website:** www.bond.edu.au/hss/film/index.htm**Subject areas:** Film and video production, scriptwriting, interactive media, the film industry, directing, cinematography and lighting, TV commercial production, music video production, TV news production and post-production, corporate video production, screen studies including Australian cinema, avant garde and experimental cinema, style and genre.**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Film and Television; Bachelor of Arts (Film and Television); Bachelor of Arts (Interactive Media); Bachelor of Communication (Film and Television); Bachelor of Communication (Interactive Media); Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Television; Masters of Film and Television**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.**Facilities:** There is a fairly detailed list of equipment and facilities on the website, but it's hard to find. The list is under the "Prospective Students" tab on the centre's home page.**Teachers:** A complete list of academics and their biographies.**Graduates:** No information on the website.**Comments:** The centre offers a range of degrees focused on film and television. The courses are industry and business-oriented. The description of the Bachelor of Film and Television reads in part: "This program offers training in a mix of the technical, artistic and business skills needed by anyone seeking a career in the film, television or related media industries...it provides a balance of theory and practice, with particular emphasis on the practical competencies required in the workplace." The website is fairly basic and has a 'business' air about it-the school's links to the Gold Coast-based commercial industry are heavily stressed. There are subject breakdowns for each course, but the subject descriptors are fairly brief.**Griffith University, Griffith Film School****Location:** Nathan Campus, Kessels Rd, Nathan, QLD, 4111**Phone:** 07 3875 3112**Email:** enquiry@griffith.edu.au**Website:** www.gu.edu.au/faculty/qca/**Subject areas:** Film and Television: directing, scriptwriting, camera, sound and editing. Animation: character animation, conceptual development, editing, freelance illustration, photography, post-production, sound recording, storyboarding, traditional and computer animation. Postgraduate Subject areas: script writing, budgeting, production documentation, studio and location camera, lighting and sound procedures, audio and video editing, audience identification, and product distribution and exhibition.**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Film and Screen Media; Bachelor of Animation; Bachelor of Digital Media Production; Graduate Certificate in Media Production; Graduate Diploma in Media Production; Master of Arts in Media Production**Fees:** HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.**Facilities:** No details on the website.



Jenny Coope's, *Ego and Idiot* (UTS, see p27; for interview see p17)

Teachers: A full list is provided with brief biographies. The Head of School is the well known documentary maker Ian Lang (director *Grandfathers and Revolutions*, producer *Fahimeh's Story*).

Graduates: The "Student Profile" page includes comments from 7 graduates now working in the Australian film industry.

Comments: Griffith Film School at Griffith University's Queensland College of Art was founded in 2004, although the college had been producing films for many years. The school offers a broad range of Bachelor and Masters degrees in areas such as animation, film and media production. The website has an incredibly irritating layout, is heavily over-designed and features menus that frequently don't work. Text appears in a tiny window within the page and the site is difficult to navigate, requiring many 'clicks' to access a particular piece of information. When you do find it, the information on courses is quite general, with no subject breakdowns and no information on the Bachelor of Digital Media Production at all, except for teaching staff. Users are referred back to the Griffith University website for more details! There are brief staff biographies, and the academics have extensive experience in the local industry. There is also nothing about facilities or equipment, although it appears that students have the opportunity to work with film as well as video. The school appears to teach film in an art context—there is none of the vocational rhetoric often now found on university sites.

QPIX Queensland Filmmakers Centre

Location: 33a Logan Rd, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, QLD, 4102

Phone: 07 3392 2633

Email: qpix@qpix.org.au

Website: www.qpix.org.au/

Subject areas: Script writing, camera operation, lighting design and operation, sound recording and design, editing, directing, producing, production management, screen industry.

Qualifications: Certificate IV in Screen (6 mths); Advanced Diploma of Screen (40 weeks)

Fees: Certificate IV in Screen: \$7,000; Advanced Diploma of Screen: \$13,000

Facilities: Web users can download a rate card with a full list of equipment and facilities available for hire, plus rates.

Teachers: No information on the website, but QPIX does produce a brochure with teacher biographies and credits. All have been working in film and television for many years.

Graduates: No information on the website, but their training brochure has several quotations from graduates who have gone on to work in the film and TV industry.

Comments: The Queensland member of Screen Development Australia, QPIX offers a vocationally-orientated Certificate IV in Screen and an Advanced Diploma of Screen, as well as a range of inexpensive one-off masterclasses in basic production skills. The course details are scant on the website, and users have to make a request through the website for an information pack to be sent to get a full course breakdown. The brochure, however, simply reproduces the on-line information. It's also not clear if students work with film as well as video. QPIX also runs a range of production subsidy programs, and has a full range of 16mm and video gear for hire at cheap rates. They also have some Super 8 post-production equipment for hire. The website is easy to navigate, has essential information up front (eg fees), but is designed more as a first port of call rather than a comprehensive information provider.

Queensland School of Film and Television

Location: 22 Gore St, Albion, Brisbane, QLD, 4010 (PO Box 380, Fortitude Valley, QLD, 4006)

Phone: 07 3262 5022

Email: info@qsft.qld.edu.au

Website: www.qsft.qld.edu.au

Subject areas: Film production, lighting, editing, camera, computer skills for production, video production, cinematography, sound, documentary, production design, television production, television production, industry knowledge.

Qualifications: Certificate II in Screen (2yrs, 1 x 2-3hr session per week); Certificate III in Screen 2yrs 1 x 2-3hr session per week; Diploma of Screen (2 yrs)

Fees: Not stated on website.

Facilities: No details on the website. The school's Information Booklet states that the school has fully equipped sound and non-linear editing studios, and video and film cameras for student use, including the opportunity to work with 35mm film.

Teachers: No details on the website, though there is a list of highly commercial, generally American productions that staff have been involved in, such as *The Crocodile Hunter* (TV series and feature film), *Beastmaster* (TV series) and *American Ninja III* (feature film).

Graduates: No details on the website. The school's Information Booklet cites graduates who have worked on *Peter Pan*, *Big Brother*, *Flipper* and *Lost World*.

Comments: This is a private school offering Certificates II and III in Screen which are recommended for secondary school age students. They also offer a 2-year Diploma of Screen and tailored short courses, although with no further information on the latter on the website. The courses are oriented towards industry-based technical training, with the website stating: "All subjects in our courses are directly relevant to the film and television industry." The school's website is easy to use but quite basic—it's designed as a first port of call rather than a provider of comprehensive information. There are no detailed course breakdowns and users have to contact the school for key information such as course fees.

Queensland University of Technology, Creative Industries Faculty

Location: Musk Ave, Kelvin Grove, QLD, 4059

Phone: 07 3864 5998

Email: creativeindustries@qut.com

Website: www.creativeindustries.qut.com

Subject areas: Producing, directing, scriptwriting, cinematography, editing, sound, multimedia production, new media technologies, virtual cultures, international cinema, film history, Australian film and television, multi-camera television studio production, inter-facing media and 3D animation.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Fine Arts (Film and Television) (specialisations: Production, Writing for the Screen, Multimedia); Bachelor of Creative Industries (Television), Bachelor of Creative Industries (Interdisciplinary) (with a sub-major in Screen Studies or Digital Media); Graduate Certificate in Film and Television (1 yr part-time); Graduate Diploma in Film and Television (1 yr part-time)

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: No details on the website.

Teachers: There is a full list on the website by department with links to biographies, however many entries are blank.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: QUT's Faculty of Creative Industries offers a range of degrees providing training in film and television, primarily for the television industry. The tone is industry-orientated—the university's motto is "A university for the real world"—although the website says that the faculty "stresses individual creativity." The website is very functional and informative. Links take readers to details for particular degrees and courses list rationale, aims and objectives, details of lectures, tutorials and assessments, reading lists and course contacts. Creative Industries Open Electives offers specialist courses in areas of cinema studies and the Media and Communication department offers courses in the theory of new media technologies and virtual cultures. There is no information about alumni or equipment and facilities, although the site states that students "work with digital equipment", implying that there is no option for working with film. Creative Industries is also home to a new research centre, Creative Industries Research and Application Centre (CIRAC), which is particularly supportive of research as practice, and there is a list of current research being undertaken in film and television.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Australian National University, Faculty of Arts, School of Humanities

Location: AD Hope Building, Ellery Crescent, ANU, Acton, ACT 0200

Phone: 02 6125 3708

Email: schoolofhumanities@anu.edu.au

Website: arts.anu.edu.au/humanities/index.htm

Subject areas: Film theory and history, European cinema, film directing and documentary filmmaking.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (Film Studies); Masters and PhD by research

Fees: HECS places available for Australian undergraduates.

Facilities: No details on website. This course is purely theoretical but has connections with the Centre for New Media Arts.

Teachers: The staff members in the Film Studies Program are Dr Roger Hillman and Dr Gino Moliterno but only email addresses are listed.

Graduates: No details on website.

Comments: With only 2 staff members, the Film Studies Program at ANU in the Faculty of Arts, School of Humanities, depends on students working across the faculty to make up a film theory major. The website states that the program "brings together different perspectives offered by a variety of courses in a range of disciplines and programs throughout the university. Film Studies courses also feed well into other majors such as Theatre Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Culture. They complement courses offered by the Centre for New Media Arts." The core course is taught over 2 semesters while other courses are available on European Cinema, documentary film and directing for film.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Curtin University of Technology, Department of Media and Information

Location: Building 209, 3rd Floor, Room 324, Bentley Campus off Kent St, Perth 6102 (GPO Box U1987, Perth 6845)

Phone: 08 9266 7211

Email: msc.enquiries@curtin.edu.au

Website: smi.curtin.edu.au/index.cfm

Subject areas: Film and video broadcast production, film and video corporate production, scriptwriting, screen history, cultural narratives, animation, Asian cinema, media studies, multimedia, motion graphics.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (Media Studies); Bachelor of Arts (Film and Television); Bachelor of Arts (Mass Communication); Masters and PhD by research

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: No information on the website.

Teachers: Full list on website with links to biographies and publications. The staff are mostly ex-television professionals.

Graduates: No information on the website.

Comments: The department offers a Bachelor of Arts in which students can major in Internet, Media Studies or Film and Television. There is then further specialisation offered in areas such as scriptwriting and corporate video production. Alternatively, students can undertake a Bachelor of Mass Communication, which offers more breadth but no specialisation. The Film and Television course is industry-oriented, providing practical training as well as courses in areas such as Media Law and cross-cultural media production. The Media major also covers some of the same ground as Film and Television. There are also links to course breakdowns with subject descriptors.

Edith Cowan University, School of Communications and Multimedia

Location: 2 Bradford St Mount Lawley, 6050

Phone: 08 9370 6212 (Dr Leon Marvell)

Email: l.marvell@ecu.edu.au (Course co-ordinator, film and video)

Website: www.scam.ecu.edu.au/index.php

Subject areas: Media studies, cyberculture studies, digital technology, film theory, documentary, video production, scriptwriting.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Communications (majoring in Film and Video); Graduate Certificate of Communication; Graduate Diploma of Communication; Graduate Diploma in Broadcasting; Master of Professional Communication; Masters and PhD by research

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: Only very general information on website.

Teachers: No list on the school's website, though it is possible to obtain a list through the university staff directory but few have biographies attached.

Graduates: No details on the website.

Comments: The school offers a Bachelor of Communications with a major in Film and Video. The degree offers a mixture of critical theory and practical training, although it appears that students only work with video. There is a breakdown of course subjects but no subject descriptors. The school also offers a range of vocationally oriented postgraduate courses. Again, there are no detailed subject breakdowns for these courses. Users are directed to the Admissions Office for further details. The School's website is pretty basic, with only very general course descriptors, no staff or alumni details, and only a broad overview of the facilities. It's very hard to get a sense of what the school or the courses are like from the website.

Film and Television Institute of Western Australia

Location: 92 Adelaide St, Fremantle, WA, 6959 (PO Box 579, Fremantle, WA, 6959)

Phone: 08 9431 6700

Email: fti@fti.asn.au

Website: www.fti.asn.au

Subject areas: Directing crews and performers, developing narrative, scriptwriting, design, preparing proposals, camera operations, lighting, editing, sound design, producing, animation.

Qualifications: Diploma of Animation (6 mths); Diploma of Screen Writing (6 mths); Diploma of Screen Producing (6 mths); Advanced Diploma in Screen (Video Production; 30 wks full-time)

Fees: Diploma in Animation: \$5,500; Diploma of Screen Writing: \$3,000; Diploma of Screen Producing: \$4,500; Advanced Diploma in Screen: \$6,000

Facilities: Full list on the website of equipment and facilities for hire, including rates. The FTI has a full range of video equipment, but no film gear.

Teachers: Tutors for each course are listed on the website, but without biographies. However, brief biographical details are provided on the brochures for each course.

Graduates: No information on the website, although the news section lists student works that have been nominated and/or won awards.

Comments: Incorporated in 1971, FTI is the WA member of Screen Development Australia, and the "premier professional development centre for independent screen production and events in Western Australia." It plays a similar role to SDA members in other states, but is much more heavily involved in funding projects and running initiatives like the Making Movies Roadshow, which travels to disadvantaged communities in rural WA and teaches video making skills (RT64, p20). The FTI also offers inexpensive video equipment and facilities hire, runs a cinema, a bookshop and forums. Their courses are focused on vocational training. There is a fairly detailed breakdown of each course. The FTI is one of the few places outside of a university where it is possible to study animation in Australia—it is home to the Centre for Advanced Digital Screen Animation. The website is a little cluttered, but given the FTI's impressive range of activities, it is reasonably easy to navigate and quite comprehensive.

TAFE WA Central, School of Art, Design and Media,

Location: 19 Aberdeen St, Perth, WA, 6000

Phone: 1300 300 822

Email: enquiry@central.wa.edu.au

Website: central.tafe.wa.edu.au

Subject areas: Camera operating, directing, editing, producing, production design, sound.

Qualifications: Certificate III In Screen; Certificate IV In Screen; Diploma Of Screen; Advanced Diploma Of Screen; Advanced Diploma Of Screen (Camera); Advanced Diploma Of Screen (available in the following: Directing, Editing, Producer, Production Design, Sound)

Fees: Vary from course to course: see website.

Facilities: General details provided on the website.

Teachers: No information on the website.

Graduates: No information provided on the website.

Comments: TAFE WA Central offers a broad range of vocational Certificates and Diplomas in all aspects of film and video production. The length of the courses is given in hours with little indication of the actual schedule of study. The courses appear to be directed towards careers in television, although it seems that students get the chance to work with 16mm film in at least some of the courses. The website is very functional and difficult to navigate—there are two different sets of menus on the home page (across the top and down the side), which makes it difficult to quickly locate the information you're after. Information is not set out clearly eg on tuition fees: "\$1.32 per nominal curriculum hour (to a maximum of \$481.80 per semester) or \$0.69 per nominal curriculum hour concession (to a maximum of \$251.85 per semester)."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Flinders University, Department of Screen Studies

Location: Room 252, Humanities Building, Humanities Rd, Flinders University, Bedford Park, Adelaide, 5042

GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001

Phone: 08 8201 2578

Email: screensecretary@flinders.edu.au

Website: ehlt.flinders.edu.au/screen/

Subject areas: Film theory, Hollywood cinema, television history and theory, national cinemas, sex and gender, counter cinema, documentary, multimedia design, interactive media, screen production (film and video).

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts (Screen Studies); Bachelor of Creative Arts (Screen Production); Master of Creative Arts (coursework); Master and PhD by research

Fees: HECS places available to Australian students for undergraduate courses.

Facilities: The department has a full range of video, Super 8 and 16mm film equipment and facilities.

Teachers: Full list of staff complete with biographies on the website. Mike Walsh and Ruth Vasey have both published extensively on film.

Graduates: A page describes the achievements of graduates, many of whom have attracted funding for short projects under various government schemes and their works shown in international film festivals.

Comments: The department offers Bachelor degrees and a full range of post-graduate options. The Bachelor of Creative Arts (Screen Production) provides a mix of screen theory and practice, as well as subjects on industry issues. Students work with digital video, Super 8 and 16mm film. The website entry stresses that graduates will be "industry ready." It goes on to say: "Equipped with the basic professional skills of screen production and a broad knowledge of screen media, they will be highly desirable candidates for entry into the film, television and digital media industries." The Screen Studies Department website is simple but impressive, and is undoubtedly one of the best university film school sites. It's very easy to navigate and has a clear outline of degree subjects, each with a brief descriptor. There is a staff page with links to detailed biographies of each staff member, many of whom have published widely and are heavily involved in screen culture. There is also a page with a selection of excerpts from student shorts in either Windows Media or Flash versions, although the excerpts are extremely short.

