



Young Filmmakers Academy – Fall 2019

A collaboration between the Virginia Film Festival, Light House Studio, and local elementary schools

Goals

- Engage youth in authentic film production study
- Cultivate critical and creative thinking
- Utilize language arts and visual thinking knowledge
- Establish best practices for filmmaking
- Develop skills in screenwriting, storyboarding, filming, and editing
- Inspire a life-long love of the art of film

Brief Description

Students work under the guidance of their teachers to write, produce, and edit an original film. Guided by the common structure of “*Invention*” student teams collaborate to produce a short film, no longer than two minutes. The final films are reviewed by the school and submitted to the VAFF, who hosts a red carpet premiere for students and their families.

The fall premiere will be at Light House Studio’s Vinegar Hill Theatre on **Saturday, November 16.**

Responsibilities of Participating Schools

- Appoint a single teacher or group of teachers to be the primary liaison between the VAFF and the school
- Select students to participate in YFA
- Provide equipment and software needed to produce films (students will need access to filming devices, computers, and editing software)
- Guide student teams through the development of films
- Optional: Schedule workshops directly with Light House Studio and help students brainstorm ideas prior to the workshops
- Provide VAFF with student names, t-shirts sizes, and film details by deadline
- Review and submit completed films to VAFF by deadline
- Share information about the premiere with students and parents

Responsibilities of Virginia Film Festival

- Manage the administration and communication needs of YFA
- Recruit and register participating schools
- Provide an outline of the YFA program, the annual filmmaking challenge, and an overall schedule of due dates to all participating schools
- Provide all reporting forms for school entries
- Provide promotional materials to schools about the YFA program and the culminating public screening for dissemination to families
- Recognize student participants with t-shirts and certificates
- Create commemorative programs for all schools
- Manage the front of house operations for the public screening

Responsibilities of Light House Studio

- Offer a pre-designed selection of lecture-based workshops on different components of filmmaking to all participating schools
- Work with teachers to schedule times and days for workshops
- Prepare and lead requested workshops in-person, at participating schools
- Offer support during filming days (pending availability, advance notice required)
- Host public screening of all completed student films at the culmination of the program for student filmmakers and their families, providing projectionist and technical support throughout the screening day and allowing VAFF access to lobby/library for welcome tables & activities

YOUNG FILMMAKERS ACADEMY PROGRAM SCHEDULE – Fall 2019	
Light House Studio in classroom workshops run (schedule determined by LHS and Educators)	Tuesday, September 3- Tuesday, October 22
Names and T-shirt sizes due to VAFF	Wednesday, October 2
Films and Screening Information due to VAFF	Monday, October 28
Red Carpet Premiere of YFA Films at Light House Studio's Vinegar Hill Theatre	Saturday, November 16, approximately 9 AM – 4 PM



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“Invention”

An invention is something that has never been made before that fills a need, makes something better, or solves a problem. Inventions often make the world a better place. Collaborate with your classmates to create a short film about an invention, what it does, and the need it fills or problem it solves. Use your imagination to create your own story about a new invention or choose someone in history whose important invention helped shape the world we live in today. Your film should tell the story the characters go through to create or design their invention, what the invention does, and how that invention makes an impact on the characters or the world in which we live.

Requirements

- Decide who the characters are, what problem they are trying to solve, and the invention they create.
- Determine what the setting is, what the action is, and what dialogue to include.
- Consider how to present the story so your audience will understand your film: will it be in chronological order, will there be a narrator, or will you show flashbacks?
- Get creative with sets, costumes, props, sound, and/or special effects to enhance your film.

Rules

- **Work together** to share your ideas, script your story, film your adventure, and make your edits.
- All films must be **original** works created by you and your team.
- Maximum running time for your film is **2 minutes** including credits– no exceptions, not even a split screen second.