

Pick up a camera. Shoot something. No matter how small, no matter how cheesy, no matter whether your friends and your sister star in it. Put your name on it as director. Now you're a director. Everything after that you're just negotiating your budget and your fee.

—James Cameron

Career Services

M A C O M B C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9 V O L U M E 1 5 N U M B E R 2

In the SPOTLIGHT: Film Careers

Art Director

Sources: www.careercruising.com • www.acinet.org

Are you creative, with a strong sense of design, vision and style? The film industry is a good place to put these skills into action. Maybe you should consider a career as an art director, and there's never been a better time to do just that in Michigan!

What Do Art Directors Do?

Basically, art directors create a product that is visually appealing and conveys the intended message to the audience. This can be done through print media where art directors find suitable images to enhance the text of stories or articles; advertising where art directors design and create ads for magazines, newspapers, billboards, or TV; multimedia where art directors create visual concepts for websites and video game design; and film, television and theater where art directors are responsible for the overall look of the productions.

Art directors for film, TV, and theater begin by reading the script and, if needed, they research the time period of the production. They design and oversee the construction of the set and are also responsible for finding and managing costume

and prop designers. Working in film, TV, or theater can require long and often irregular hours.

How Much Do They Make?

Since there is such a wide variety of work for art directors, and because some of them are self-employed and may work contractually, while others are employed full-time, the salary range varies greatly. Typically, art directors earn between \$35,000 and \$135,000 annually. The salary range in Michigan is \$48,370–\$93,630 per year.

How's The Outlook?

According to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth through the year 2016 there will be 69 annual openings for art directors. That is a six and a half percent increase in the number of art director jobs in Michigan!

What Type of Education is Required?

Most art directors have at least a bachelor's degree in a visual communications area such as graphic design, visual arts, commercial art, or photography, along with work experience. In addition, art directors should be able to think visu-



ally, have computer skills, and keep up-to-date on the latest design trends. Those who wish to be self-employed should also develop business and management skills.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Art Directors Guild
www.artdirectors.org

American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA)
www.aiga.org

Art Directors Club (ADC)
www.adcglobal.org

Career Services

LOCATIONS: Center Campus: G-102

South Campus: S-147

HOURS: Monday and Tuesday • 8am – 7pm
Wednesday – Friday • 8am – 4:30pm

PHONE: 586.445.7321

EMAIL: careerservices@macomb.edu

WEB: www.macomb.edu



Film Editor

Source: www.careercruising.com • www.acinet.org



Do you enjoy watching movies and television shows? Do you pay attention to the way films and shows are put together, and have ideas for how you could do it better? Are you creative, patient, and focused with an eye for detail and a vision for the bigger picture? If so, you may enjoy being a film editor.

What Do They Do?

Film Editors take all of the film that has been shot for a movie and choose the most effective scenes and best shots and piece them together to create the finished film. Editors can change the look and

feel of a movie with the scenes they choose and the way they put them together. They must pay close attention to details and continuity in the scenes to ensure the integrity of the movie. They may use editing machines or computers to do their work. Television editors work on videotapes,

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Film Editor

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as opposed to film, and have special editing equipment.

Assistant Editors may do the actual splicing of the film, following the markings the editor has made. They also maintain schedules and arrange screenings for directors and producers.

The hours are long for editors and there is a great deal of pressure. They work with directors, producers, technicians, and production assistants, as well as music and sound editors.

What Type of Education Is Required?

A bachelor's degree in filmmaking, along with experience, is recommended. Training at a film school is also valuable. There are some graduate programs for filmmaking, which may give an editor an upper hand over those with a bachelor's degree.

It's very important in the film industry to make connections and any type of job on a film set can be an opportunity to network. A demo reel (samples of their work) is an editor's portfolio and is vital for this career.

What Do They Make?

Film Editors often work freelance on a project, while Television Editors more often work full-time, salaried positions for as long as a show runs. The earnings for editors vary widely, depending on the industry they work in, their experience, and the ability to find consistent work. Most editors earn between \$20,000 and \$100,000 per year. Film Editors who belong to the Motion Picture Editors Guild (MPEG) are guaranteed a minimum weekly wage based on their position and location.

What's The Outlook?

In Michigan there is expected to be a 13.4% increase in the number of film editors needed through the year 2016. That breaks down to twelve openings per year, although, with the expected growth of the film industry in Michigan this number may increase significantly.

Other Resources

Motion Pictures Editors Guild (MPEG)
www.editorsguild.com

American Cinema Editors (ACE)
www.ace-filmeditors.org

Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE)
www.mpse.org

American Film Institute (AFI)
www.afi.com



Film Industry Careers Summary

Have you ever watched the credits roll by at the end of a movie and wondered, "Who are all these people and what do they do?" Here is a brief overview of many of the behind-the-scenes jobs in filmmaking:

| | |
|---|---|
| Producer | Runs the business end of a film project, from finding a script to hiring to finances. |
| Associate Producer | Assists the producer and communicates with both the production and postproduction crew. |
| Production Manager | Manages the many business aspects of a production, from getting the right equipment to arranging housing for the cast and crew. |
| Production Assistant | Handles a variety of small tasks necessary for daily operations on the set. |
| Line Producer | Handles the budget for a film project. |
| Director | Directs all creative elements of a film, from hiring actors to choosing locations, and makes sure that his/her vision is successfully communicated to the crew. |
| Assistant Director/First Assistant Director | Helps the director by planning the filming timeline and managing the set, the extras and more. |
| Location manager | Scouts locations and obtains permits for filming in those locations. |
| Casting director | Finds, auditions, and negotiates for the services of actors. Compiles a list of potential candidates, checks availability, contacts agents, and schedules auditions and call backs. |
| Cinematographer | Carries out the director's vision for the look of a film. Also plans and supervises others to achieve the right camera shots, lighting, set design, etc. |
| Art Director | Designs and oversees the constructions of sets. |
| Set Designer | Responsible for executing the construction of the set according to the art director's instructions. |
| Construction Coordinator | Responsible for managing the crew that builds the sets. |
| Set Decorator | Creates the visual look of the set by decorating with furniture, drapes, textures, etc. |
| Costume Designer | Responsible for researching and designing the costumes and accompanying accessories for all the actors and actresses. Oversees the making, fitting, acquisition and rental of all wardrobe items. |
| Make-up Artist | In charge of the application of makeup on the actors, actresses and extras. Also coordinates with other members of the makeup department to set schedules. |
| Hair Stylist | Styles and if required, cuts, colors, and washes the hair and wigs of all actors and actresses. |
| Camera Operator | Follows the action with the camera, according to instructions from the director and cinematographer. |
| Gaffer | Sets up the lighting on set. |
| Key Grip | The head grip in charge of setting up equipment to enable the camera crew to capture the right shots. This can involve setting up and operating cranes, dollies and platforms. |
| Dolly Grip | Sets up the dolly track and operates the dolly, allowing the camera and camera crew to move smoothly as they capture the action. |
| Best Boy | The primary assistant to either the gaffer or the key grip. |
| Boom Operator | Holds the microphone boom near the action to capture the dialogue. |
| Postproduction Supervisor | Coordinates the processes and workers involved in finishing the movie after filming has wrapped. |
| Editor | Works with the director to produce the final cut of a film that both flows and captures the director's vision for the project. |
| Negative Cutter | Cuts the actual negative of film as directed by the editor, director and others. |
| Production and Sound Mixer | Records sounds and blends in musical selections to create the final soundtrack for the film. |
| Foley Artist | Creates sound effects that can't be captured during filming. |
| Publicist | Responsible to the producers and production company for publicizing the film in various media. |

Information sources: www.filmmaking-careers.com and www.allartchoools.com

Hollywood Comes to Michigan

Train for a career in the newly emerging Michigan film industry through The Center for Continuing Education.

Filmmaking Industry Training FILM-8000

This program brought to you by Macomb College Center for Continuing Education and "etc" – Education & Training Connection - will prepare students for a variety of roles in the motion picture industry. Instructors, led by award-winning producer and Midland native Jennifer Schaefer, are Subject-Matter Experts (SME) currently in the motion picture industry. All training is hands-on and applicable to what is currently happening in the motion picture industry. Participants receive a certificate demonstrating their proficiency in the specific skills required to be employed in the fast expanding Michigan film industry.

Course work includes:

- Introduction to Filmmaking Past, Present and Future
- Film Set Etiquette
- Filmmaking Terminology
- Production Assistant (P.A.) Essentials
- Introduction to Cinematography
- Specializations within the Film Industry
- Resume Building for Film Industry Positions
- Locating, and Applying for Film Industry Positions
- Union Relations in the Film Industry
- Filmmaking Business Fundamentals
- Filmmaking Practicum: Students will create, produce and edit their own short film



DID YOU KNOW?

Macomb Community College offers the following film related courses:

- Theater Arts—HUMN-1300
- The Film As Art—HUMN-1460
- Selected Studies in Film: the Western—HUMN-1472
- Selected Studies in Film: Gangsters—HUMN-1473
- Selected Studies in Film: Vietnam on Film—HUMN-1474
- Selected Studies in Film: Science Fiction—HUMN-1476
- Selected Studies in Film: Shakespeare Through Film—HUMN-1479

For more information on the Film Industry in Michigan visit these sites:

Michigan Film Office
www.michigan.gov/filmoffice

Detroit Film Office
<http://www.ci.detroit.mi.us/Departments/DetroitFilmOffice/tabid/582/Default.aspx>

Job Postings/Information/Advice:
www.backstage.com
www.artsearch.us

Michigan Production Alliance
<http://www.mpami.org>

Real Style, LLC Talent Agency
<http://realstyleonline.com>

Actors Unions: Screen Actors Guild (SAG)
www.sag.org

Actors Equity Association (AEA)
www.actorsequity.org

Macomb County Film Office
www.filmmacomb.org



Coming Spring 2009 and beyond!

Specialization courses
(40–60 hours each) Prerequisite:

Filmmaking Industry Training:

- Directing
- Grip and Lighting Technician
- Production Design/Art Department
- Post Production
- Producing
- Production and Assistant Director
- Script Writing
- Script Supervision
- Hair and Make-up
- Costume Design and Wardrobe

For more information on these programs please contact the Center for Continuing Education at 498.4000 or continuinged@macomb.edu

Macomb Community College • South Campus

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION ARTS

The Media & Communication Arts program is designed to develop the creative, traditional, digital and multimedia skills required for job entry into a variety of media related industries.

The program core consists of both traditional and digital courses. Students then select from one of six specialty options. The options are Art For Advertising, Photographic Technologies, Digital Design & Layout, Web Page Design, Digital Video Production, and Digital Art & Animation.

Program advisors Professors Matt Busch, Mike Crumb, Ron Hood, Brian Sauriol, Kris Small, and Bill Soule can be contacted at 586.445.7435 for program information.

Come Learn More About Career Services at Macomb!

Are you new to Macomb this semester? Having trouble finding a job and want to find out what help is available? Do you need to update your resume for the changing job market? Then come to one of Career Services Information Sessions to learn about the resources available to you!

To register for workshops, contact Career Services at: 586.445.7321 or careerservices@macomb.edu

Center Campus

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|----------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 05/18/09 | Monday | 5:30-6:30pm | G-102 |
| 06/17/09 | Wednesday | 11am-12pm | G-102 |
| 07/20/09 | Monday | 5:30-6:30pm | G-102 |
| 08/19/09 | Wednesday | 11am-12pm | G-102 |
| 09/14/09 | Monday | 5:30-6:30pm | G-102 |

South Campus

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
| 05/21/09 | Thursday | 11am-12pm | S-147 |
| 06/16/09 | Tuesday | 5:30-6:30pm | S-147 |
| 07/23/09 | Thursday | 11am-12pm | S-147 |
| 08/18/09 | Tuesday | 5:30-6:30pm | S-147 |
| 09/17/09 | Thursday | 11am-12pm | S-147 |

Wordsearch:

Film Industry

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| G | S | I | K | D | H | M | O | Z | E | A | J | P | U | T |
| T | Y | E | H | D | M | N | H | W | E | L | P | R | P | C |
| T | E | S | M | G | D | P | J | H | D | R | Y | E | W | E |
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| B | U | K | S | O | T | F | R | D | O | J | W | X | P | F |
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| K | X | S | B | D | Z | T | L | Y | P | Z | C | L | X | Q |

ACTOR
CAMERA
COSTUMES
CREW
DIRECTOR
EDITOR

FILM
PRODUCER
PROPS
SET
SOUND EFFECTS
THEATER

Making It In The Movies

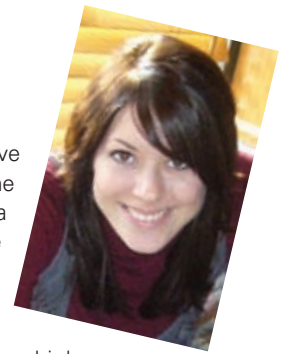
Interview by Liz Gawel

Luck may be what got her in the door, but talent and hard work are keeping her there. Alexa Courtney, daughter of MCC counselor Tina Courtney, has worked in the props department of some of the locally-filmed, made for TV movies. She got her lucky break after answering a job ad on Craig's List and her career has taken off from there.

Alexa graduated in 2008 from Rochester College with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She also attended the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan, located in Troy, and received a certificate in 2007. Alexa said having that educational background prepared her for working on the set. When she arrived she was familiar with film terms and how things ran.

The first film Alexa worked on was the TNT movie "Gifted Hands", starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. That was followed by the Lifetime movie "America", which starred Rosie O'Donnell. She said it was fun to work with the stars, although it was a little surreal at first. She also got to meet and work with the directors and producers of both films.

Working in props for these films was a "great experience" for Alexa. Basically, a prop is anything an actor holds or uses. The props department must gather the props either from the prop masters collections, or by ordering, shopping for, or making them. Then they bring the props to the set and provide them to the actor. Sometimes they have to show the actors how to properly use the items and make sure everything works correctly. Prop handlers must keep track of all the props and have multiples of everything in case things get lost or broken. The props department is also responsible for continuity of props from scene to scene. Often scenes are not shot in the order that they appear in the finished film so



it's important to have the right items for the right scenes. Alexa said some of the hardest scenes to shoot for the props people are those that involve food or drinks, which must be replaced precisely for each shot.

For Alexa, the best part of working on the movie set is working with the people. The hours are very long so the crew becomes like a second family. She also feels it's very rewarding when she sees the finished project of a film she has worked on.

Like most jobs, there is a down side to the movie business. It's a tough industry. The hours are long, sometimes 14-16 hours a day, 6 days a week, which leaves little time to do anything else. The work is also physically demanding and tiring.

Alexa says she "lucked out with her job", but she has some tips for those who want to work in the film industry. The #1 thing Alexa recommends is to network, network, network! Learn the names of everyone on the set, maintain good relationships with other workers, and then keep in touch after the film is complete. The movie industry is a small world with a lot of connections, and most people are friendly and want to help others in the business. The film industry can also be consuming, with long days and weeks on the set, so Alexa recommends trying to keep a balance as best you can.

For now Alexa is happy in the props department and looking forward to her next films. In the future she would like to try her hand at editing and directing.



Career Services offers:

- Online career research
- Career books, magazines, and multimedia resources
- College information and catalogs
- Annual job fair
- Current job listings posted daily by tri-county employers on the MacombCareerLink job database
- Resume and cover letter assistance
- Interview preparation

Visit us on the web! www.macomb.edu
South Campus, S-147 • Center Campus, G-102
Phone: 586.445.7321 • Email: careerservices@macomb.edu

The Summer 2009 edition of the Career Services News was compiled and edited by Liz Gawel.

Counseling & Academic Advising Services offers:

- Career testing and exploration
- Career decision making assistance
- Academic advising
- Transfer information
- Resource referral
- College success consultations

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