

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Script to Screen
2	Module Code:	MCLT25412
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Second Half Year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2013

8 Pre, post and co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	MCLT12211	Approaches to Media Practice

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
		FT	MCLT101	BA (H) Media
		PT	MCLT102	BA (H) Media

10 Overview and aims

Screenwriting is the foundation for almost all forms of media production, from feature films to TV series; corporate and 3rd sector work, documentary production, commercials, music video and recently developed forms of interactive narrative in games production.

This module is a continuation and development of the work you did in Approaches to Media Practice, Screenwriting and Photography Blocks. It will introduce you to the key elements all screenwriters are required to understand and address in all forms of narrative writing; story and structure, character, setting and dialogue. In addition in

it will prepare you for the exacting aspects of professional practice, required by industry, commercial and independent alike. The module will look at, and consider, all forms of screenwriting, although the main project will focus on writing fiction. For many writers, a screenplay, while a fundamental blueprint for most film or TV projects, is just that, and it marks the end of their work, and contribution to the final artefact. This is seen as a time-based audio-visual exercise using still images (only) and sound, and will be a valuable addition to any graduation showreel or portfolio; particularly as this form is increasingly being used online for news, training and education, and storytelling.

The aims of the module are:

- To develop skills in screenwriting
- To produce a narrative in audio-visual essay form.
- To explore the way elements of narrative might be realised, and illustrate the complications and solutions in transferring screenplay to screen.
- To create content that will contribute to a graduate showreel or portfolio

11 Module content

The module will address the demand for screenplays in both the commercial, independent sectors, looking at a wide variety of forms and formats. It will address the growing changes in content and dissemination, and how this impacts on writers. On a practical (craft skills) level, the module will examine:

- The concept of the screenplay as a way delivering sound, image and story on the page.

The elements of screenwriting:

- Story: choosing the appropriate story for the form, conventional and alternative narratives, the new narratives (for web streaming, 3G, interactivity and experimental platforms)
- Structuring the short screenplay: key moments of dramatic action – physical and psychological – and the way they are linked to create pace, suspense

and surprise.

- Visual writing and the creation of compelling and engaging narrative through sound and image. The process of shifting exposition from dialogue.
- Developing characters: an introduction to characters; character function, deep character background, goal, motive, agenda etc.
- The Arena: the importance of where and when a piece is set in the development of narrative, mood and tone.
- Dialogue: the character's voice, the facsimile of natural speech, dialogue as character insight and revelation.
- The writer's voice: the function of scene descriptions and directions, mood, tone, and atmosphere.
- Through the Photo Essay, the module will further develop the use of still images and sound in the construction of narratives.
- The aesthetics of composition.
- The relationship between image and time (continuity editing).
- The use of sound as an extra-diegetic device.
- How and where the photo essay might be employed in both commercial and independent practice.

12 Indicative reading

Garrand T. (2006) *Writing for Multimedia and the Web*. Focal Press.

Block, Bruce A. (2001) *The visual story: seeing the structure of film, TV, and new media*. Oxford: Focal Press.

Dancyger, Ken; Rush, Jeff (1995) *Alternative Scriptwriting: Writing Beyond the*

Rules, Oxford, Focal Press.

Fabe, Marilyn. (2004) *Closely watched films [electronic resource]: an introduction to the art of narrative film technique*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Field, Syd. (2003) *The Definitive Guide to Screenwriting*. Ebury Press.

Hart, John. (1999) *Storyboarding for Film, TV and Animation*. Oxford: Focal Press

McKee, Robert (2000) *Story*. London: Methuen.

Naremore, James, ed. (2000) *Film Adaptation*, London: Athlone Press.

Proferes, Nicholas. (2001) *Film Directing Fundamentals: From Script to Screen*. Oxford: Focal Press.

Rabiger, Michael. (2000) *Developing Story Ideas*. Oxford: Focal Press.

Simon, Mark. (2000) *Storyboards: Motion in Art*. Oxford: Focal Press.

Vogler, Christopher (1992) *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers & Screenwriters*. Studio City: Michael Wiese Productions.

Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/> (lots of information + free downloadable software for layout)

<http://www.script-o-rama.com/table.shtml>

<http://dmoz.org/Arts/Movies/Filmmaking/Screenwriting/Scripts/>

Journals

Sight and Sound

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/audioslideshows>

<http://inmotion.magnumphotos.com/>

13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

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Demonstrate an understanding of the key elements of screenwriting.

- Demonstrate an understanding of research and development methods for screenwriting.
- Reflect upon, and analyse your own work and that of other writers.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of professional practice.
- Reflect upon the exploration and development of ideas and creative concepts for screenplays.
- Engage in a critical discourse about screenwriting forms and formats in the commercial and independent established and emerging sectors.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of how screenplays are made into time-based artefacts
- Reflect on the issues arising from the development of scripts to screen

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Research and develop ideas for appropriate screenwriting forms and formats.
- Research, develop and write short screenplays.
- Exercise critical judgement in the development of story, character and structure.

14 **Teaching and learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

There will be a wide range of teaching and learning methods on this module: lectures, screenings, readings, workshops, tutorials, group based learning, individual project work, and independent learning sessions.	
Total contact hours:	39
<i>Range of other learning methods</i> This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Workshops are designed to facilitate your practical work and it is expected that much of the development of screenwriting projects will be through independent study: research, reading and practice. The module will make use of e-learning and much use is made of the University's Virtual Learning Portal for the delivery of directed learning.	
Total non-contact hours:	148

15 Assessment methods			
This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module			
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	100%	Project	Audio-Visual Narrative (Photo Essay with Soundtrack based on screenplay)
Diagnostic/formative assessment This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark			
Assessment criteria will be made explicit at the start of your project and will focus on the following areas: the idea, the form, the content, project management, and research. Individual work will be assessed in terms of critical analysis and reflection of an area of multimedia making links between wider media theory and practice.			
Further information on assessment This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate			

Coursework element 1 'Screenplay and development material' is comprised of a ten-minute piece accompanied by the appropriate development material: outline, scene breakdown, notes on character and setting.

Coursework element 2 'Audio Visual Narrative', is an extract of the screenplay produced in photo essay form with a soundtrack; approximately 3 minutes in length.

Students will receive support and feedback at various stages during the development of practical work.

Document management

16	Module Title:	Script to Screen	
17	Module Code:	MCLT25412	
18	Subject (JACS) Code		
19	Cost Centre		
20	School:		
21	Academic Team		
22	Campus		
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU		
24	Date this version was formally approved by SASQC/DAG:		