

THE WORD OF FILM

When most people think about working in film, they think about being an actor, but there are lots of other important roles in the film industry! Here are a few of them you might find interesting.

I've been a production assistant for six month now. It's not a glamorous job, but I love it because it's so varied - I do all sort of things in the office, on the set and on location. Yesterday I had to clean the set and tomorrow I might be in the office booking hotels. I started as a runner after I finished school, which was a great opportunity to learn all about production (even if I spent most of my time making cups of tea!). For my job, you have to be organised and good at rapid problem-solving under pressure. My salary is around \$15,000, but a senior production assistant can earn \$30,000. One day I hope to be a producer - Hollywood here I come!

Jamie



People don't expect to see a woman behind the camera, but that's where you'll find me. I've been a camera operator for four years, which means I prepare and operate the camera and work with the director of photography to achieve the correct visual style for the film. For this job, you should be patient, have artistic ability and be strong (you have to move heavy equipment). No specific qualifications are necessary for the job, but I'd recommend doing a course first - I took a two-year HND (Higher National Diploma) in filmmaking and it helped me enormously. I usually work on a daily rate, which can be anything from \$254, on things like news broadcast, to \$620 on big feature films.

Marina

I did a three-year fashion degree and I've worked in my field for over 10 years. I started my current job as a costume designer in 2013 and because I've got a fair bit of experience, my salary is now about \$28,000. I'm responsible for designing, creating and getting costumes for all the actors and extras. On my last film, the budget was \$20,000, which might sound like a lot, but it's soon used up! I manage a team of people and I work with the actors too, so communication skills are really important. You must be good at research too, to make sure the clothes are historically accurate, and you have to have excellent design skills, as well as knowing about fashion and fabrics.

Katie



I've worked freelance as a screenwriter - that's the person who writes the screenplay for films - since 2014. It's a tough field to get into, and I find my work quite tiring as I work part-time in an office too. I've always loved films and writing, so it seemed like the perfect career for me! I did an online writing course, which cost me \$349. That gave me a good understanding of how to tell stories, use my imagination and work to tight deadlines - all the things you need for my job. At the moment, I'm working on a sci-fi screenplay, which I hope to sell soon. My hero Michael Arndt sold his screenplay *Little Miss Sunshine* for \$250,000 - perhaps I'll make that kind of money one day!

Stefan



EXERCISES

1 Scan the article above and write down what these numbers represent.

1. 2 _____

5. 2014 _____

2. 6 _____

6. 15,000 _____

3. 10 _____

7. 20,000 _____

4. 620 _____

8. 250,000 _____

2 Read the article again. For each question, choose from the people A-D. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person ...

1. has to be able to talk to other people in their job? _____

2. studied for their job using a computer and the internet? _____

3. has to find information about things in the past? _____

4. talks about more than one job in film that they have had? _____

5. gets paid for each day they work? _____

6. says it's important to be able to find solutions quickly for difficulties?

7. also has another job not related to film? _____

8. enjoys the fact he/she does many different things as part of the job?

3 Find words and phrases in the article which match these definitions.

1. attractive and interesting in an exciting way [speaker 1] _____

2. the scenery and furniture used in a film to make it look like a particular place [speaker 1]

3. subjected to physical or mental stress [speaker 1] _____

4. a talent for any form of art [speaker 2] _____

5. the amount of money that is paid for a certain job [speaker 2]

6. type of work [speaker 3] _____

7. the amount of money a person or organisation has to spend on something [speaker 3]

8. hard, difficult [speaker 4] _____