

FILMMAKING ESSENTIALS: WRITING ENGAGING STORIES

Rehab Maqsood

LUMSx is the center for online learning and professional development at LUMS. We extend LUMS' excellence in teaching and research beyond its borders by leveraging technology and innovative pedagogy. Our courses aim to bridge critical knowledge & skill gaps for Pakistani learners and to meet their diverse learning needs, we offer **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**, **Hybrid Courses**, **Synchronous (Live) Courses**, and **Free Open Online Courses (OpenCourseWare)**. We intend to harness technology for enhancing access, improving educational quality, and amplifying education's impact.



Course Format: Live-Online

Language: English

Starting Date: 01 Jun 2024

Registration Deadline: 26 May 2024

Duration: 4 days (2 Weekends) (13 hours)

Price: PKR. 25,000

Early Bird Discount: **PKR. 21,250 (15% Off)**

ABOUT THIS COURSE



The task of producing an effective video or film without a solid story is an arduous one. Serving as the cornerstone of any visual project, a screenplay acts as a blueprint that guides the entire production process, from producers and directors to set designers and cinematographers.

As the inaugural installment in a series focusing on the fundamental techniques of filmmaking, this dynamic workshop is designed to equip students with the essential principles and techniques necessary for crafting compelling narratives tailored for the screen. Through engaging exercises and lively discussions, participants will master the art of character development, plot construction, and dialogue crafting, all while aligning with their unique creative vision.

By delving into theoretical frameworks, the workshop empowers students with a deep understanding of narrative structure, enabling them to convey both literal meaning and subtext. Questions such as establishing mood and stylizing action are dissected, allowing students to refine their storytelling skills and infuse their work with rich drama, conflict, and dynamic action sequences.

Live sessions offer opportunities for table reads and collaborative group activities, fostering a culture of effective feedback exchange and creative collaboration. Additionally, curated video content and reading materials introduce students to industry best practices, while personalized one-on-one sessions provide tailored feedback to further hone their craft.

By the end of this workshop, the students should be able to:

1. Identify the key components of a well-structured screenplay, including plot, character development, and dialogue.
2. Apply screenwriting techniques to craft engaging scenes that effectively advance the plot and develop character relationships.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of different narrative structures and storytelling techniques employed in screenplays.
4. Create a cohesive and engaging screenplay, applying learned techniques to showcase individual storytelling voice and style.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Course Instructor

Rehab Maqsood

*MFA in Film & TV Production,
Savannah College of Art and Design*

Rehab is an experienced writer, director, and editor, with a portfolio comprising narrative and experimental projects focusing on urban memory, modern relationships and psychological loss. Versed in cinema history, theory and criticism, Rehab has previously taught screenwriting sessions for a short-film course at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). His professional background is in journalism, having worked at Pakistan Today as a sub-editor and published stories for DAWN. Recently, he has freelanced as a video editor, offering services to various digital productions in color grading and motion graphics.

Rehab has an MFA in Film and TV Production from SCAD, and a BSc (Hons.) in Political Science and English from the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

COURSE OUTLINE



Saturday, 1st June, 10:00am - 1:15pm

Understanding the Basics

In addition to being familiarized with formatting basics and screenwriting tools, students will learn about elements in a scene, writing in beats, and timing. By the end of the module, students will be able to describe and write visual action.

Sunday, 2nd June, 10:00am - 1:15pm

Developing Complex Characters

Students will develop strong characters and express their complications (both internal and external) through action. They will learn to write scenes that convey character motivations, flaws, and arcs, grounding them in an authentic setting and conflict.

Saturday, 8th June, 10:00am - 1:15pm

Structuring an Effective Story

Students will explore different narrative frameworks and their impact on audiences. By first outlining their story, students will organize their plot points into a coherent whole, workshopping their ideas for feedback. By the end of the module, they will be able to write short-form screenplays.

Sunday, 9th June, 10:00am - 1:15pm

Creating Compelling Drama

The final module will delve into the intricacies of crafting compelling drama, from tension building to producing plausible conflict. Students will learn to imply subtext by writing effective dialogues and learn about the dramatic approaches used across various genres.



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