



# One-Year Accelerated MASTER OF ARTS *in* FILM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

The Academy offers an accelerated one-year schedule for students interested in our Master of Arts degree program by creating an extended academic year that allows students to complete three full-length semesters in one calendar year.

Designed to educate talented and committed students in a hands-on, total immersion, and professional environment, the New York Film Academy's Master of Arts degree program provides a creative setting in which to challenge, inspire, and perfect the production and academic pursuits of its student body.

As film and media production evolve in the twenty-first century, the Masters of Arts degree program provides creative visual storytellers with the grounding in this new arena needed to thrive and succeed. Accordingly, the Film Academy has designed an intensive curriculum that challenges students, develops their skills, and prepares them for the new and evolving production world of today. Students will gain experience shooting their projects on the newest in HD, film, and digital equipment from the Canon 5D to the RED Scarlet MX, as well as classic film cameras like Panavision and Arriflex.



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## LOCATION

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

*Location is subject to change.*

*For start dates and tuition, please visit [nyfa.edu](https://nyfa.edu)*

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## OVERVIEW

Film and media are in a constant state of evolution. Whether this is seen through cinema's embracing of 3D technology, the growing rise of Video on Demand, or the proliferation of new visual content across the internet and devices such as smartphones or tablets, it is clear that changes in film and media production are developing at an ever-increasing pace. However, no matter what the format, film and media are ultimately about visual storytelling. As such, **aspiring filmmakers, producers, writers, and other creatives need to possess a firm grasp on the most up-to-date changes and trends in the field, while holding true to the classic foundations of the medium.**

The Master of Arts (MA) in Film and Media Production provides creative visual storytellers with the foundational education needed to thrive and succeed in this constantly developing arena over the course of an academic year. In this accelerated three-semester, graduate program, students follow an intensive curriculum with multiple learning and production goals that prepare students for media productions, while **classes on media and society provide students with the skills required to create and understand media in the new and evolving formats presented to us today.**

**In a combination of hands-on classroom education, theoretical seminars, and intense film shoots, students acquire a sound understanding and appreciation of visual media production and aesthetics.**

Students gain hands-on experience in working with state-of-the-art cameras, editing equipment, and lighting packages in instructor-supervised workshops that provide students with the chance to apply the lessons learned in the classroom to a series of increasingly challenging projects.

Students begin their immersion in filmmaking through a series of intensive classes in film production, screenwriting, cinematography, and editing. These classes support a number of short film productions that allow their skills to be quickly placed into practice, as well as assist them with developing proficiency in the overall production process.

As the year progresses, students move into more advanced topics of directing, cinematography, screenwriting, and producing, all of which are geared toward the development of their Final Film. Students learn more advanced equipment—including 16mm sync cameras, dollies, 35mm cameras, and more advanced lighting gear. **Through advanced study, students will look at Film and New Media from a fresh perspective with the goal of presenting audiences with new and challenging ideas.**

The capstone of the program is the Thesis Paper and supplementary Final Film Project, a production of up to fifteen minutes in length, which is produced in the first part of Semester Three.

Students study under our professional faculty who are active in the entertainment industry and come from a diverse background—ranging from filmmaking to screenwriting to new media production—and provide wide-ranging insight into the many facets of media and film production, helping students to find the path that is best suited for them.



## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Upon graduation from the MA in Film & Media Production Program, students will demonstrate the following skill sets and know-how:

- Demonstrate a unique vision of visual storytelling skills through the creation of professional level media productions.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of new and evolving media formats and their unique implications for production.
- Demonstrate comprehension of film production techniques and concepts.
- Demonstrate ability to write narrative scripts for media productions.
- Exhibit effective directing skills required to realize convincing performances from actors, as well as manage and collaborate with crew.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the medium and its evolution into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Examine the evolution of cinema and its integral role in shaping societal perceptions and popular opinion.
- Research and produce a compelling thesis paper based on Film and/or New Media concepts explored during the course of study.

## WHAT YOU WILL ACHIEVE

### SEMESTER ONE

- Write, direct and edit five short films.
- Crew as cinematographer, gaffer, and/or assistant camera on up to fifteen additional films.
- Write a short film script with dialogue.
- Shoot digital directing exercises on digital video.
- Write, direct and edit a short dialogue film.

### SEMESTER TWO

- Direct, AD, or DP a sync sound production workshop.
- Develop proficiency with the second semester equipment package.

### SEMESTER THREE

- Direct and edit a sync-sound final film of up to fifteen minutes in length (shot on 16mm film, 35mm film, or High Definition Video).
- Participate as a principle crew- member in four fellow students' films.
- Work with a Thesis Review Board to produce a high-quality thesis paper that meets the highest in academic standards.

*Please Note: curriculum and projects are subject to change and may vary depending on location. Students should consult the most recently published campus catalog for the most up to date course information.*

*NYFA students gain hands-on experience filming on set in the MA in Film & Media Production degree program.*

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### SEMESTER ONE

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#### FILM PRODUCTION I

In this course, students begin to learn the language and craft of film aesthetics from a director's perspective. They learn to integrate several concepts from the arts, the behavioral sciences, and the humanities to achieve maximum psychological impact by studying the director's decisions in camera placement, blocking, staging, and visual image design. This course requires that students challenge themselves not only to become competent directors but also compelling storytellers by utilizing the advanced expressive visual tools to tell their stories. Instructed by directors practiced in the art of visual storytelling, students are exposed to the unique ways that directors stage scenes and choose particular camera angles in creating a sophisticated mise-en-scène.

#### FILM PRODUCTION STUDIO I

Film Production Studio I is designed to teach students the tools of the trade. Split up into intensive hands-on sessions exploring Cinematography, Editing, Sound, and Acting, students will learn the essential techniques needed to create professional, high-quality projects.

#### SCREENWRITING

This course introduces students to the nuanced tools and language used in writing a film project. Students take a story from initial idea, treatment, and outline to a rough draft, and finally, a shooting script. The intersection of story structure, theme, character, tension, and conflict is examined through detailed scene analysis. Students intensively workshop their ideas with classmates and instructors, providing constructive criticism while accepting critiques of their own work. The scripts they write become the basis for all projects in the first semester.

#### CINEMA STUDIES

Cinema Studies introduces students to the evolution of the motion picture art form as a visual storytelling medium and the motion picture industry from their inception. Students will be given a thorough creative, technological and industrial view of the filmmaking art and be prepared for more advanced academic and production related studies and practice of filmmaking. The approach is historically developmental. Students will understand why a film creatively works or doesn't work and why. The course considers primarily American film development though the impact of international filmmakers is given due analysis.

#### MEDIA & SOCIETY

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century media is constantly in transition. New narrative formats are emerging almost daily and content producers must not be left behind in this dynamic environment. This course examines these new forms in depth and the unique requirements that they place upon narrative storytellers. Creating content for webisodes, mobile, and alternative viewing platforms, branded entertainment, as well as commercials and music videos are discussed in depth in this class.

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### SEMESTER TWO

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#### FILM PRODUCTION II

This class further explores the aesthetic elements of mise-en-scène: shot choice, composition, setting, point-of-view, action of the picture plane, and movement of the camera. Students also take a comprehensive look at casting from both the directors' and actors' points-of-view. In a series of production exercises, these ideas are practiced in a setting where students shoot scenes on 16mm film and HD with the guidance and critique of their instructor. These practice scenes are fully pre-produced (storyboarded, cast, scouted, rehearsed, and pre-lighted) and treated as actual productions.

## FILM PRODUCTION STUDIO II

This class immerses students in the more advanced technical and creative demands of film and new media production.

**Cinematography:** Students work with more advanced 16mm cameras before transitioning to 35mm and then to the RED SCARLET MX to continue studying HD cinematography.

**Editing:** Students sync and edit with dialogue, as well as learn more advanced techniques in sound mixing.

**Screenwriting:** This class is an intensive workshop aimed at developing, writing, and polishing scripts for the students' Final Films.

## PRODUCING & NEW MEDIA

Producing and New Media leads students through the entire pre-production process, as well as presents them with the possibilities of gaining exposure through the digital realm. Students also learn how to make creative choices from the producer's points-of-view, identify target audiences, explore audience expectations, and craft realistic budgets for their films.

## THESIS DEVELOPMENT

In this course, students begin to formulate ideas and arguments that will serve as a basis for their final thesis paper. Throughout the semester, effective strategies for finding topics, researching, and professional writing techniques will be explored.

## PRINCIPLES OF VISUAL AESTHETICS

This course is an examination of the major philosophical issues raised in connection with visual arts, and contemporary media. What we think about art has a direct impact on how we experience and make art. Visual aesthetics involves the study of art theory and the concept of "beauty" as it specifically relates to the visual arts. Topics include the concept of beauty, critical evaluation, artistic truth, and meaning in the arts.

## SEMESTER THREE

### FINAL FILM PRODUCTION

Students start the third semester with a finished script of up to 15 pages, having fully developed their ideas and prepared the scripts for production. Working with instructors to develop a production schedule, students make final preparations on their film shoots, resulting in a production period that is as intense and demanding as a professional feature film shoot. They continue to meet with instructors in one-on-one advisement sessions to get feedback on their shooting script, casting, storyboards, floor plans, schedules, and budgets.

After the production period, students build their films in the editing room. They screen rough-cuts for their directing and editing instructors and receive feedback from their peers before presenting their finished films to an invited audience at the end of the semester.

### THESIS REVIEW

Students meet with a Thesis Review Board to oversee their progress on their thesis paper. During these sessions the board will review work submitted and make constructive recommendations as to how to proceed with the thesis writing process.

### EMERGING FORMATS

As the tools of production have become more affordable, and the ubiquity of the internet has created more media outlets, standing apart from the field is more important now than ever before. This class examines how to use these tools to create one's own specific "brand," and ultimately how to create a market for one's projects, or intellectual property.

### PSYCHOLOGY OF FILM

This course examines various facets of film narrative and filmmaking from a psychological perspective. Through case studies, students learn about the psychology of the filmmaker, and study their own approaches and recurring themes. The psychology of the audience is also explored, in relation to audience expectations and viewer responses. Finally, by studying the psychology of the film character, students can enhance the depth of their own developing thesis films.