

What Can I Do with a Major in Cinema/ Film Studies



OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

At the undergraduate level, Concordia University's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema offers a BFA Major and BFA Specialization in Film Production, a BFA Major in Film Animation, a BFA Major and BFA Specialization in Film Studies and a BFA Major in Art History and Film Studies. It offers Minors in Cinema, Film Animation, Film Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality. At the graduate level, the School offers an MA in Film Studies, an MFA in Studio Arts (Film Production Option) and a PhD in Film and Moving Image Studies. For the latest information on programs, faculty and their research interests go to the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema's website at <http://cinema.concordia.ca>.

Cinema/Film Studies prepares students for a wide range of careers related to the business of film including occupations in the following sectors: communications, advertising, public relations, technical writing, educational media and filmmaking. Learning as much as one can about these diverse opportunities will help students be realistic on the road to career satisfaction.

CELEBRATED CONCORDIA CINEMA/FILM STUDIES MAJORS

Lynne Stopkewich. Director. *Kissed*

Patrice Sauvé. Producer. *La vie, La vie*

Yung Chang. Director. *Up the Yangtze*

Gary Burns. Film Director/Writer. *A Problem with Fear*

Louise Archambault. Claude Jutra Winner for Direction of *Familia*

Jeff Abugov. Director of *The Mating Habits of the Earthbound Human*

Manon Briand. **Quebec** Director/Screenwriter. *La turbulence des fluids*

Rob Coleman. Nominated for Academy Awards for special effects for *Star Wars I&II*

EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY RECENT CONCORDIA GRADUATES

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified for upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Animation Instructor (4131, 4121)
- Assistant Photographer (5221)
- Assistant to Director (5131)
- Broadcast Assistant (5227)
- Camera Operator (5222)
- Director (5131)
- Film Distribution Coordinator
- Film Editor (5131)
- Location Scout (5226)
- Personal Assistant to Director (5131)
- Photographer (5221)
- Production Assistant (5227)
- Production Co-ordinator (5226)
- Screen Writer (5121)
- Script Writer (5121)
- Sound and Light Technician (5225, 5226)
- Talent Coordinator (5124)
- Video & Design Instructor (4131, 4121)
- Video Editor (5225)
- Video Technician (5225)

MORE JOB TITLES

Concordia graduates often pursue careers such as filmmaker, critic, art administrator, animator, educator, archivist, curator, actor, producer and director. Freelance work and independent contracting is common. Graduates also pursue a multitude of other occupations such as production designer, cinematographer, set designer, script writer and illustrator. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which Cinema/Film Studies majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, and diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Advertising Designer (5241)
- Announcer (5231)
- Art Director (5131)
- Cartoonist (5241)
- Casting Agent (5124)
- Casting Director (5131)
- Censor
- Colorizing Technician (9472)
- Commercial Artist (5241)
- Digital Animator (5241)
- Director of Photography (5131)
- Documentary Producer (5131)
- Drama Coach (5135)
- Event Planner (1226)
- Fashion Designer (5243)
- Film Animator (5241)
- Film Archivist (5113)
- Film Editor (5131)

- Film Director (5131)
- Film Grip (5227, 5226)
- Film Production Instructor (4121)
- Gaffer (5226)
- Graphic Designer (5241)
- Independent Filmmaker (5131)
- Industrial Filmmaker (5131)
- Journalist (5123)
- Layout Designer (5241)
- Lighting Technician (5226)
- Location Manager (5226)
- Make-up Artist (5226)
- Marketing Assistant (4163)
- Press Agent (5124)
- Playwright (5121)
- Production Assistant (5227)
- Program Coordinator (5226, 4167)
- Prop Maker (5227)
- Publicist (5124)
- Puppeteer (5232)
- Re-recording Mixer (5225)
- Screenwriter (5121)
- Script Supervisor (5226)
- Sound & Special Effects Specialist (5225, 5226, 5227)
- Sound Editor (5225)
- Stage Manager (5226)
- Story Editor (5122)
- Studio Merchandising Agent (5124)
- Stunt Co-coordinator (5226, 5232)
- Talent Representative (5124)
- Television Producer (5131)
- Title Designer (5241)
- Theater Director (0512)
- University Professor (4121)
- Visual Artist (5136)
- Wardrobe Supervisor (5226)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

A degree in Cinema/Film Studies leads to work worldwide in the following industries: film, television, interactive media, video, animation, the facilities sector, music and other entertainment sectors. Those pursuing work in the production industry often find themselves working for specialized suppliers and services. To research specific employers who hire graduates, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, Webster Library, Vanier Library and Internet.

- Advertising Agencies
- Animation Studios
- Arts Councils
- Beauty Industry
- Broadway Theatres
- Casting Houses
- Commercial Houses
- Community Centers
- Digital Studios
- Dinner Theatres
- Entertainment Companies
- Fashion Industry
- Film Labs
- Film Schools
- Lighting and Grip Equipment Firms
- Locations Services
- Magazines/ Newspapers
- Media Firms
- Motion Picture Studios
- Multimedia Studios
- Music Recording Studios
- Music/Video Stores
- Not-for-profit Sector

- Opera Companies
- Performing Arts Centres
- Photo Studios
- Production Houses
- Prop and Wardrobe Houses
- Publishing Firms
- Radio Stations
- Regional Theatres
- Set Construction Firms
- Special Effects Studios
- Stage Rental Facilities
- Theatre Companies
- Videotape Duplicating Services

SKILLS and CHARACTERISTICS

Those pursuing a career related to film/cinema should have imagination, creativity, attention to detail, intuition and strong observation skills. This is a demanding, competitive field that often requires working under stress, adhering to strict time deadlines and long and irregular work hours. A knowledge of business skills (e.g., submitting bids, maintaining financial records, writing contracts) is useful for those pursuing freelance work or film production management. Moreover, excellent networking skills are key to finding work in the film industry. Because of the wide variety of occupations in the field it is impossible to specify skills that apply to all occupations. Nevertheless, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in related occupations.

- Ability to Multi-task
- Ability to Synthesize Information
- Ability to Work Independently
- Abstract Thinking
- Artistic Nature
- Assertiveness
- Common Sense
- Confidence
- Critical Thinking
- Decisiveness
- Dependability
- Energetic Nature
- Enjoyment of Variety
- Excellent Negotiation Skills
- Excellent Organizational Skills
- Good Eye for Design
- Impartiality
- Interpersonal/Team working
- Leadership
- Oral Presentation
- Patience
- Persistence
- Problem Solving
- Professional Manner
- Punctual
- Self-motivation
- Stress Handling
- Strong Grasp of Logistics
- Superior Judgment
- Understanding of Music and Motion
- Writing

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites will help you do this. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. Several recommended sites are included below.

Canadian

Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT)

<http://www.academy.ca/Home>

Promotes exceptional achievement in the cinema and television industries. Members benefit from networking opportunities, panel discussions, industry-partnered events etc.

L'Association québécoise de la production médiatique (AQPM)

<http://www.aqpm.ca>

Supports independent film and television production in Quebec. Offers opportunities to participate in the Association, learn about the industry, network with potential employers, and profit from mentoring.

L'Association des réalisateurs et réalisatrices du Québec

<http://www.arrq.qc.ca/>

Represents Quebec directors, primarily those involved with television and cinema. Located in Montreal, helps students keep up in the field and make useful contacts.

Canadian Actors' Equity Association – Equity Online

<http://www.caea.com/>

Advocates for Canadian actors, performers, directors, choreographers, stage managers and fight directors. Includes links and profiles for related organizations. *News* section will help you keep current with the latest events and happenings in the industry.

Media Job Search Canada

<http://www.mediajobsearchcanada.com>

Lists employment opportunities in film, TV, multi-media, magazines and newspapers. One can search by province or type of media.

Ontario Media Development Corporation

<http://www.omdc.on.ca>

Uncover information on Ontario's programs, publications, newsletters, news releases and services for the film/television and media industries.

Qui Fait Quoi

<http://www.qfq.com>

Lists over 5000 companies in the Quebec communications industry and includes access by product and service.

ReelWest Digest

<http://www.reelwest.com>

Indexes companies and individuals providing services and facilities for Western Canada's film, video, internet and digital production industry. Lists over 1400 companies, individuals and organizations.

Telefilm Canada

<http://www.telefilm.ca>

As the Crown corporation devoted to the development of the Canadian audiovisual industry, offers programs, productions, festivals, funds, news and great worldwide links. Peruse the *Site Map* to research what you want to know.

Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T)

<http://wift.com/>

Supports women working in film, television and digital media. Professional development opportunities, a volunteer program, networking, events, media releases, newsletters and industry links aims to help enhance their skills and knowledge.

International

Screen Actors Guild (SAG)

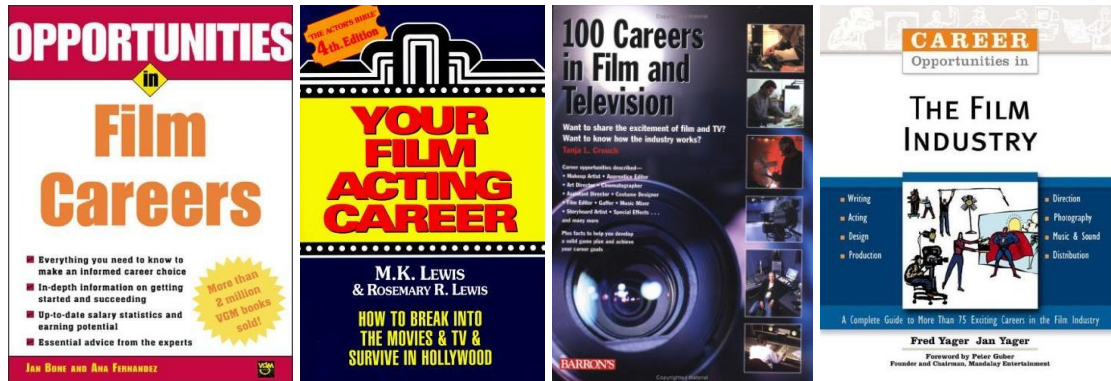
<http://www.sag.org/>

A labour union which protects the interest of working actors. For students and newcomers in the field, the SAG offers numerous resources including the *iActor* an online casting directory where you can send your resume and *Tools for Young Performers*.

Creating Your Amazing Career

CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.*



- The Actor's Survival Kit
- The Art of Voice Acting
- Breaking In: How 20 Film Directors Got Their Start
- Building a Home Movie Studio and Getting Your Films Online
- Career Handbook for TV, Radio, Film, Video, & Interactive Media
- Career Opportunities in Film Industry
- Careers for Film Buffs and Other Hollywood Types
- Careers in Film, Radio and Television Panel Discussion – DVD
- Careers in Media and Film: The Essential Guide
- Film School Confidential: The Insider's Guide to Film Schools
- Great Jobs for Film Majors
- Is There Life After Film School?
- Jumpstart Your Awesome Film Production Company
- 100 Careers in Film and Television
- Opportunities in Film Careers
- Short Films 101: How to Make a Short Film and Launch Your Filmmaking Career
- Your Film Acting Career
- Video Scriptwriting
- What I Really Want to Do Is Direct: Seven Film School Graduates Go to Hollywood
- The Working Actor: A Guide to the Profession

