

Supermom- Kick-Off



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IMPORTANT ISSUES

- All teams from Italy, Germany, Poland, France and Northern Ireland are working on their films.
- Single parents promoting their film in Northern Ireland
- Single parents sharing their opinions

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We are always moving forward!

Edited by Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik

All the teams are working hard on the Supermom-Kick-Off project. Single parents from five European countries are involved in different stages of the film-making process.

In Poland from January to March, film workshops



Photo by Żaneta Golec.
During the camera workshops.

During these exercises the group filmed different sets and also filmed a scene called "Entering". After that, the group learned about set design and set lighting. They had a chance to experiment with different kinds of light and lamps. During other workshops, the film script and storyboard were finished.

The participants first had the tasks of finding actors, choosing props and scouting film locations. The film shooting started on 7th of May 2012 in Łodz and Ksawerow, nearby the city. The work was challenging because of the necessity of making small corrections in the scenario, and due

to changes in the weather, but everybody in the film crew was committed to find the best creative solution. The film has now been edited.

In Germany in the beginning of 2012 the main theme was the technical preparation of sound,

light and camera settings according to the script. The learners discussed the different possibilities and received regular technical assistance to facilitate correct transposition. The learners met in their leisure time in self-



Photo by Ariane Jedlitscha.
During the workshops, moms attending with their children.

organised working groups. They were very interested in the different private stories of the other learners and organised different cultural and social activities for the group on their own. We are pleased to welcome two new 'members' to the course, the newborns Noa and Pépe!

In Italy, during the winter 2011-2012, the Italian team organized a film awareness course led by the director Leandro Giribaldi, coordinated by Sabrina Emilio for Associazione NET and C.A.T. Coop-



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We are always moving forward!

erativa Sociale.

The students on the course brought their life experience and their personal stories that, together with other elements, converged into a



During the film shooting in Italy.

screenplay for a short film, "Kaleidoskop". The film was shot in Florence city center and outskirts in March 2012, and has now been completed. The film shows the story of Sabrina, a desperately poor mother who looks for help from the Social Services. She's separated from her partner, she has a precarious job and she has been given an eviction notice. She doesn't get on well with her parents. Her son Thomas always plays with a small telescope...

In France, the team has finished all the shooting and the editing of the movie. The film consists of three parts showing different aspects of a single parent's life. Now they are subtitling the movie in English.



A still shot from French film.

In Northern Ireland, the team is now at the stage of disseminating the short film that resulted from the pilot course. Working with experienced filmmakers and with local production firm Media Zoo, the Supermom trainees in Northern Ireland produced the 5-minute short film 'Ribbons', which reflects their experiences as lone parents by charting the life story of a woman over a period of 5 decades.

The trainees collaboratively wrote the script, built their own set, and were also responsible for locating all the props and costumes that the film required. Several trainees took on the role of scene Directors and Directors' assistants, while others handled the scenery, props and costumes throughout the shoot.

The public premiere of 'Ribbons' was held at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast on 27 April 2012. The premiere was an exciting event for the trainees and for everyone involved in the project! It featured both 'Ribbons' and the behind-the-scenes footage that showed the making of the short film. The audience included the trainees' family and friends; representatives of local women's, arts, and youth organisations; journalists; the Equality Commission NI; lone parent members of Gingerbread NI; the European Unit of Belfast City Council; and staff from Gingerbread NI and Possibilities NI—a total of approximately 80 people. Anne Hailes, a highly respected journalist and writer from Northern Ireland, compered the premiere, and Ben Bland spoke about the work of Media Zoo and shared his thoughts on potential opportunities within the creative industry locally. Five of the trainees talked about their experience of the course and the process of making the short film, and all of the trainees had an opportunity to speak about their plans for the future and the positive effect the Supermom Project has had on their lives. 'Ribbons' was extremely well received, and the audience gave the trainees a standing ovation! Trainees were presented with certificates of achievement and congratulated on their success, and they had an opportunity to network with the members of audience over lunch.

Copies of the film and project materials were distributed during the event. After the premiere, Possibilities NI placed the behind-the-scenes documentary online, and these links have now been disseminated to a mailing list of approximately 200 people. Going forward, the trainees are



Northern Irish trainees during „Ribbons” premiere interested in submitting 'Ribbons' to film festivals in the UK. Also, several of the trainees are pursuing further courses in media or are considering starting a new career based on the talents they discovered in themselves during the

How to become... a film



Edited by Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik

A film or video editor is responsible for assembling raw material into a finished product suitable for broadcasting. The material they work with may consist of raw camera footage, dialogue, sound effects, graphics and special effects. This is a key role in the post-production process and the editor's skill can determine the quality and delivery of the final product.

The editor may be part of a team and they will usually work closely with the director to achieve the desired end result. The majority of film/video editors are employed on a freelance basis, working on short-term contracts for post-production studios, television companies and corporate employers. Editors may work on a variety of productions including feature films, television programmes, music videos, corporate training videos or advertisements.

Michael Ho, a freelance film editor, says: "The more challenging aspects of the job are that often the working hours can be long, deadlines short, and the environment can be quite stressful. You have to be a skilled politician at times to mediate between strong personalities. Also sitting at a computer all day is not good for you. If you're looking to enter this career be sure that you really want to do it, as it's not an easy path. Have a passion for filmmaking and be a perfectionist. Make all the contacts that you can and maintain them; that's how you'll stay in work."

In Northern Ireland no specific qualifications are required and so this area of work is open to all graduates and diploma holders. However, formal study in film and production adds to your skillset and also allows you to participate in student-led filmmaking, which is an ideal way to gain the experience vital to entering this job field. Such courses are predominately run by universities and colleges within the Creative Skillset Media Academies network, and at the National Film and Television School in England. At the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, Skillset Media Academy offers both a BA in Media Studies and Production, and a BA in Interactive Media Arts, which are good options for an aspiring editor. Further training—either in short stand-alone courses, or to work towards an MA in Editing or Post-Production—is often carried out in conjunction with on-the-job learning as a runner or assistant editor. Courses to improve and expand your skills and understanding may include training in graphic design,

special effects and screenwriting. It is also important to keep up to date with technology and new equipment.

In France, there are many ways for people to become a film editor. The first is to study Cinema in higher education. These schools are accessible after a first academic cycle and often after a competition. The second way is to first become a technician of cinema, and then do internal on-the-job training to work towards becoming an editor. Another new way is to study in 3D-school. It is predicted that in the future, many film-editors will come from these schools. The last way is for a film-maker to create his/her own films and enter competitions, hoping to gain a contract with a company or a producer.

In Italy the profession usually starts from learning from another film editor, but the best is to have an appropriate university training. A course for film editors is included in the training, which offers the Scuola Nazionale del Cinema di Roma (National Film School in Rome), that trains professional profiles such as film editor assistant, film editor, sound engineer for cinema and TV productions and is only addressed to six students. Besides specific topics such as "special effects" and image elaboration, they organize also seminars concerning professions such as editing secretary, film editor assistant and real film editor. Great importance was given to the mix of the sound track during that the students can study and collaborate with the colleagues of the course about sound engineer. They have visits and frequent contacts with development and publication of audiovisual products workshops and the course organizes also many exercises with video and movie films, whose editing is done through Avid and Pro-Tools stations.

In Germany the diploma programs for film cutting and production are offered in the following universities: in HFF Konrad Wolf in Potsdam-Babelsberg - program installation and in Film Academy Baden-Wuerttemberg in Ludwigsburg Academic - editing / production. There is also a way to get a Bachelor's Degree in film editing by taking the course Picture & Sound Editing in the International Film School Cologne gmbh in Cologne. Film editing is also taught in vocational schools, where training usually lasts 3 years.

How to become... a film editor

There are a few places for that route: Munich Chamber of Commerce, Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce, ARD / ZDF media academy, State Vocational School III in Fürth and OSC senior center in Berlin.

In Poland people who want to work as a film editor must have education, either:

A Diploma of artistic high school in the field of film editing or film production;

A Diploma of high technician school in the field of electronics or informatics and appropriate artistic-esthetic training;

A Diploma of a post-secondary school, or of a secondary vocational school, with artistic-esthetic training and suitably lengthy experience and artistic achievements.

There are many courses in film editing, but the most reputable training is offered in two schools: The National High Film, Television and Theater School in Łódź, and The Warsaw Film School (both are 3-year-long studies culminating in a Bachelor's Degree).

Interview with Polish Supermom-Kick-Off crew

By Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik

Two members of the Polish Supermom-Kick-Off team, Elżbieta Andrzejczak and Piotr Żaczek, shared their experiences during the project. Below are some excerpts of their conversation with the tutor.

- What were your expectations connected with a participation in the Supermom-Kick-Off project?

Piotr: Honestly, I didn't have any expectations. I was open to new experiences. I looked forward most to meeting new people and having fun!

Elżbieta: Well, I can say likewise... I had a great appetite for new adventure in my life. I wanted to do something that would change me and my life, and of course I was interested in shooting a film.



Photo by
Ż. Golec.
Elżbieta

- What did you learn during workshops meetings?

Piotr: A few important things about myself... for example if I have the stamina to make it to the end of the program. I learned a lot about writing a screenplay for a film and what is important during making a film.

Elżbieta: The most exciting thing I have learned was the art of film shooting. It was also very important for me to discover my strengths.

- And what are your impressions of the film shoot?

Piotr: What I liked most was the good and familiar atmosphere in our crew during film shooting. I am glad that we were able to shoot the film so efficiently and competently.

Elżbieta: My impressions are also very positive. I liked that there was a very friendly and cooperative atmosphere on the film set. All of us in the crew understood each other very well, even without any words, and besides, we have a lot of fun together!

- Why would you recommend participation in the Supermom-Kick-Off project to other single parents?

Piotr: In my opinion the program is good for gaining new acquaintances, perhaps even new friends, and for developing a higher level of self-confidence. Everybody who dreams about strengthening their sense of self-value by getting new skills should take a chance and join such a group!

Elżbieta: Thanks to my participation in the project I feel reinforced in my belief that it is never too late, and never too difficult, to discover new things and meet good people.



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