

Felicity Arts Dance Film Schools Info-pack

Here is a summary of hints and tips from Felicity Arts *Digital Moves* who created a tool-box for the classroom to specifically develop screen content through Dance and Film as specified in The Australian Curriculum to prepare for projects that are screen based and on message for the Youth Dance Festival and beyond. Amanda Phillips and Alex Waite Mitchell oversaw 110 dance films made by schools in SA.

Dance Film supports:

1. Participation
2. Reflection
3. Imagination
4. Identity

Film is a medium to host the other learning areas of The Arts and is an outlet for:

- Building empathy & understanding through collaboration
- Allowing us to see & view the world differently
- Increasing student-led experience through making/doing and participating

Considerations for a starting point: Dance + Film - now what?

- What is your message, theme, purpose?
- Dance film isn't just about filming a piece of theatre – which is documentation.
- What is the most important element for 'storytelling': script, acting, character, timing, sound, visuals?
- Like your dance piece – your film should have a beginning, middle and end: make a story board
- Think beyond the stage, for dance film you can use any setting - outdoor or indoor to tell your story or express your mood.

Dance Film and the Viewer:

As a visual language that reaches across cultures, dance film can be narrative or non-narrative. A viewer is drawn in, or distanced through choices in imagery, tempo and audio-visual design: motion & emotion.

Dance Film and the Maker:

Film leads and focuses the viewer's eye to specific content or areas through choices in framing and closeness of the subject. This is the main point of difference to staging a Dance or Theatre work, where the audience (like in real life) makes their own choices about where to look and what to look at – here the film maker tells you where to look. Film is a visual language – storytelling through pictures.

Stages in Filmmaking:

- Pre-production
- Production
- Post-production

Tips for Success 101 Film making

Whether an experimental (fluid) approach is taken to film making or a strategic approach is undertaken, the following phases either overlap or are consecutive, in:

1. *Pre-production*: **plan/storyboard** across the "who, what, where, when, how?" for effective communication.
2. *Production*: choose camera position camera framing (distance and lenses), lighting, on-set sound.
3. *Post-production*: Editing flow, music/sound, other elements.