

Television/film/video producer

Overview

Producers are the main players in the television, film and video industries. A producer will oversee each project from conception to completion and may also be involved in the marketing and distribution processes.

Producers work closely with directors and other production staff. Increasingly, they need to have directing skills themselves as the producer may also be the director and may take care of all project operations. Producers arrange funding for each project and are responsible for keeping the production within the allocated budget.

Work activities may include:

- reading, researching and assessing ideas and finished scripts;
- commissioning writers or securing the rights to novels, plays or screenplays;
- building and developing a network of contacts;
- using computer software packages for screenwriting, budgeting and scheduling;
- controlling the budget and allocating resources;
- pulling together all the strands of creative and practical talent involved in the project to create a team;
- maintaining contemporary technical skills;
- organizing shooting schedules - dependent on the type of producer and availability of support staff;
- troubleshooting;
- supervising the progress of the project from production to post production;
- holding regular meetings with the director to discuss characters and scenes;
- acting as a sounding board for the director;
- bringing the finished production in on budget.

Personal qualities needed:

- confidence in their own ability;
- strong communication and people skills;
- strong time and resource management skills;
- creative ability;
- the ability to cope under pressure;
- a strong head for figures;
- leadership skills.

The following subjects are useful:

- communication and media studies;
- photography/film/television;

- fine art/visual art;
- information technology/multimedia;
- graphic design.