



PREPPER

SKILL-UP DOCUMENT | FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION INTERNSHIP

A practical route into filmmaking for young people aged 13-18

THE CORE PROMISE

Participants do not just learn about filmmaking. They join a supported production culture, build real skills, take real responsibility, and leave with portfolio evidence, credits, confidence and proof that they can create something that matters.

DB MORGAN'S RESOURCES FILMMAKING METHOD

WRITE TO WHAT YOU HAVE. BUILD AROUND WHO YOU HAVE. TURN LIMITATIONS INTO STYLE.

DB Morgan's Resources Filmmaking Method is the Underdog Crew way of making ambitious work without waiting for perfect conditions. Instead of starting with what we cannot afford, we start with what is already in our hands: our locations, young people, props, vehicles, workshops, cameras, costumes, local talent, community support and lived experience.

This method has been tried, tested and proven through award-winning youth projects and commercial screen work, including two mainstream movies available on major platforms including Apple TV and Prime Video. The lesson for participants is simple: a filmmaker is not someone who waits for permission. A filmmaker notices what is possible and turns it into story.

WHAT YOU WILL SKILL UP IN

A PROPER PRODUCTION PATHWAY, NOT A PRETEND WORKSHOP

Story & Script Logline, premise, Save the Cat style beats, character journeys, genre promises, rewrite discipline.	Directing & Performance Blocking, rehearsal, character intention, working with actors, confidence on set, feedback and trust.	Camera & Composition Shot sizes, lenses, movement, coverage, framing, handheld style, visual storytelling.
Lighting & Atmosphere Motivated light, shadows, practical sources, horror/suspense mood, safe set lighting.	Sound & Radio Drama Dialogue, wild tracks, foley, atmosphere, radio broadcasts, silence, tension and sound design.	Production Design Sets, props, costume distressing, world-building, survival detail and visual continuity.
SFX Make-up Bruises, cuts, infection stages, prosthetic logic, camera tests, safe application and removal.	Stunts & Action Safety Working with stunt coordinators, movement, falls, reactions, safe fight language and controlled risk.	Editing & Post Story in the edit, pacing, colour, music, titles, trailer cuts and finishing discipline.
Producing Call sheets, roles, set etiquette, schedules, problem solving, teamwork and responsibility.	Marketing & Filmtrepreneurship Posters, trailers, audience, launch strategy, festival thinking and building a project around a niche.	Portfolio & Progression Credits, behind-the-scenes evidence, showreel clips, CV skills and confidence for future pathways.

INDUSTRY METHODS WE WILL DRAW FROM

PROFESSIONAL THINKING MADE PRACTICAL FOR YOUNG MAKERS

Blake Snyder - Save the Cat: Clear story promise, strong turning points, audience engagement and emotional structure.

Chris Jones - Guerilla Filmmakers Handbook: Practical low-budget production thinking: planning, problem solving, crew discipline and making the most of limited resources.

Alex Ferrari - Filmtrepreneur model: Understanding audience, niche, packaging, promotion and how a film becomes more than a file on a hard drive.

Rodriguez / Meadows / Smith / Slade / Peli / Sanchez: Heart, courage, character, atmosphere, DIY craft, local voice and zero-budget creative ingenuity.

THE ZERO-BUDGET COURAGE HALL OF FAME

PROOF THAT RESOURCEFUL FILMMAKERS CAN PUNCH FAR ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT

PREPPER will use famous micro-budget breakout films as creative case studies - not to copy them, but to learn the mindset behind them. These films became cultural reference points because their teams used limitations as creative fuel.

The Evil Dead	A wild, resourceful horror made with friends, commitment and sheer physical invention. Lesson: commitment and craft can make tiny resources feel huge.
The Blair Witch Project	A mythology-driven, found-footage phenomenon built on atmosphere, ambiguity and audience imagination. Lesson: what you do not show can be terrifying.
Clerks	A personal, dialogue-led film made around a real location and a specific voice. Lesson: write what you can access and make it unmistakably yours.
Paranormal Activity	A contained home-based supernatural film that turned minimal spaces, timing and audience anticipation into power. Lesson: precision and restraint can outperform spectacle.

THE PREPPER MINDSET

LESS WAITING. MORE MAKING.

Participants will be encouraged to think like producers from day one. What location do we have? What props do we already own? Who can act? Who can build? What can the studio, the lorry yard, the shutters, the roof, the radio, the masks and the darkness give us for free?

That is the power of resources filmmaking: the story grows from the real world around us. The limitation becomes the style. The restriction becomes the rule. The rule becomes the film.

SPECIALIST SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP STRANDS

THE SKILLS-UP PROGRAMME INSIDE THE PRODUCTION

INDUSTRY EXPERT SEMINARS

Guest talks and Q&A sessions on how real sets work, how people enter the industry, how to build resilience, and how to turn skills into future opportunities.

GUEST ACTING TUTORS

Screen acting, listening, reactions, physical truth, emotional control, audition confidence, monologues and working under direction.

SFX PRACTITIONERS

Prosthetic effects, bruising, infection progression, safe materials, continuity photos, make-up under lenses and demystifying horror as craft.

STUNT COORDINATORS

Set safety, physical storytelling, movement, reactions, falls, spacing, consent, controlled action and why professional discipline matters.

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT ROTATIONS

Participants try multiple roles before discovering their strongest contribution: camera, sound, art department, performance, make-up, editing, production or marketing.

PREMIERE AND PROGRESSION

A completed production, public sharing, portfolio evidence, credits, celebration and future pathways into UCS projects, training and creative work.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOURS PARTICIPANTS PRACTISE

THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM THAT MAKES PEOPLE EMPLOYABLE

Reliability Turning up, preparing, completing tasks and being trusted by a team.	Communication Listening, asking clearly, giving feedback respectfully and speaking up when support is needed.
Set etiquette Understanding quiet on set, roles, safety, timing, patience and respect for other departments.	Problem solving Adapting when weather, space, time, props or technology do not behave.
Creative confidence Seeing your ideas taken seriously and learning how to make them practical.	Resilience Working through nerves, setbacks, retakes, mistakes and pressure without giving up.
Belonging Finding a role that fits the young person, rather than forcing the young person to fit one narrow role.	Leadership Supporting others, taking responsibility and learning when to guide, ask, step forward or step back.

THE REAL OUTCOME

A young person leaves knowing: I can contribute. I can learn. I can be relied upon. I can create something that matters.