

## **Career Profile: Film and Video Producer**

The credits of any film or video always list the name of the producer alongside that of the director and you may be wondering what work this person actually does. The producer plays a crucial role in the television film and video industry and is responsible for managing all the business and practical aspects required to manage the film or video production from start to finish. The producer works together with the director and takes care of all the logistics and day to day operations so that the director and the rest of the crew can concentrate on their tasks.

The producer oversees each project from the initial concept to completion including work in the studio and on location. S/he may often come up with the initial idea for a film and has to research the project to find out whether it is worth producing. Once the decision is made to go ahead, s/he has to do the preliminary work such as securing copyrights for screenplays and books, working with writers to develop or adapt screenplays, draw up budgets and find adequate financial backing for the project.

A producer works closely with the director and the other production staff. S/he is essentially a team leader supported by production assistants, coordinators and managers. The size of the team will depend on the size and budget of a project. Producers have to find and hire technical crew and support services, while the casting director selects actors. The production of a film or video requires the input of many different people and hence good planning is essential. Producers have to develop and implement planning schedules and take the necessary actions to ensure that the project remains within budget and is completed within the specified time frame.

Typical work activities a producer may be expected to carry out are:

- reading, researching and assessing ideas and finished scripts
- commissioning writers or securing the rights to novels, plays or screenplays
- liaising and discussing projects with financial backers
- hiring key staff
- building a team that makes full use of the creative and practical talent involved in the project
- organising shooting schedules
- troubleshooting to sort out the hassles that invariably arise
- supervising the progress of the project from production to post-production
- meeting regularly with the director to discuss characters and scenes.

## Education Requirements

### National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in film and video production students are advised to select English, and to add to this a selection from the *designated* subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

### National Diploma / BTech

#### **National Diploma (3 years) and Bachelor of Technology (1 further year)**

A three year programme that focuses on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in the field of film production

#### **Offered at:**

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#)<sup>1</sup> (NDip Motion Picture Production) and (BTech Motion Picture Production)

## Possible Employers

- Television channels and studios
- Film production companies
- Video production houses
- The [National Film and Video Foundation](#) (NFVF) has a database of companies involved in various aspects of film and video production.
- Self-employment, with enough experience, initiative and capital, can set up own film production company

## Find out more

Find out more about film and video production:

- A useful site for [job descriptions](#)<sup>2</sup> including a number linked to film and video production.
- The article provides some fascinating glimpses of a number of [creative South Africans](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tut.ac.za/Students/facultiesdepartments/arts/departments/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.prospects.ac.uk/p/types\\_of\\_job/television\\_film\\_video\\_producer\\_job\\_description.jsp](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/p/types_of_job/television_film_video_producer_job_description.jsp)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-06-08-300-young-south-africans>

## Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this career.

Quiz	YES	NO
Are you passionate about getting involved in film making?		
Are you a good organiser?		
Are you creative and resourceful?		
Are you interested in solving problems?		
Do your friends think you have artistic sense?		
Are you able to get on very well with people?		
Are you persuasive?		
Do you have a sense of what the viewing public wants?		
Do you attend to detail without losing sight of the big picture?		
Do you have stamina to withstand high pressure and long hours?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is a career to consider.