

How to... a quick guide to mobile filmmaking

First decide to do it and then go for it! Thinking about a film is great, but shooting it is a bit more difficult. However, with a little planning and a little knowledge, shooting a mobile film can be much easier than expected. Here's a quick guide to everything you need to know about making an epic film on your mobile.

IDENTIFY THE THEME AND PURPOSE OF YOUR FILM

Always keep these ideas in your mind and ensure that you stick to them (The Plan!).

1. Who is your Audience? **THE WORLD.**
2. What's your film's purpose? **TELLING YOUR STORY**
3. How will you show it? **ON WWW.OVI.COM**

PLANNING YOUR MOBILE FILM

We all have a good idea of how to make films from watching TV and movies. You can use some of these ideas and everyday experiences and brainstorm with friends to help turn your idea into the basis for a film. Use post-it notes and a storyboard to help arrange your thoughts and don't reject the crazy or wild ideas – they sometimes lead to the most engaging and inspiring films.

You can use a variety of techniques – use the "Pause" button to capture one continuous story, or, alternatively...

You can use scripting, storyboarding or just a shot list of what you plan on filming, but remember to identify the beginning, middle and end of your film to complete the idea for your story.

What are these three methods that we speak of?

- A "script" is a written story of your film, with written ideas for shots, voiceovers, or dialogue between characters.
- A "storyboard" consists of annotated sketches that describe how the film could be turned into a more detailed script.
- A "shot" list is the simplest option – a list of all the shots to cover the general idea of what you want your film to be.

To help out, you also need to think about:

WHERE? (The location of your film)

WHEN? (The schedule of your filming sessions)

WHO? (The cast of your film) – More than one person can make a film, so enlist your friends and family as crew, presenters, or actors.

WHAT? (The props that will make up the sets of your film)



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SHOOTING YOUR MOBILE FILM

Production/Location

What style are you shooting your film in? Your method of shooting, such as the light at the location and the background noises in each shot will add a distinct feeling and tone to the overall film – and thus your own “style” is born. You must also think about some practical issues regarding your location. Are there any risks to you or your crew associated with the location? Do you have permission to shoot at the location? These questions need to be answered before you begin filming.

Shooting (See “Top 5 Tips for Filming with your Mobile”)

Plan – try to stick to your plan, but realize that you will need to be flexible, because light and other circumstances often change during shooting. Be prepared to take advantage of the “opportunity” shots – lucky shots where a random occurrence can give your shot added depth or dimension.

Continuity

The devil is in the detail! When shooting, if you pause between shots and a clock on the wall leaps forward ten minutes, you’ll ruin the filming illusion. Make sure that all measures are taken to ensure that the film appears to be happening in real time – unless otherwise desired.

EDITING YOUR MOBILE FILM

Editing (See “Top 5 tips for editing”)

Are you using your Nokia mobile phone or a personal computer? Your film will ultimately be made during the editing process, but no amount of editing can correct poor camera work. Be ruthless! Is it necessary to advance the plot? Do a rough cut or an assembly edit and try it out on an audience to make sure. Is the sound right? Are you using music? All music is subject to copyright laws, though there are sources on the web where you can download copyright-free themes or use others with proper credit and permissions. When in doubt don’t use it – respect others’ creative talent and they will respect yours.

SHARING YOUR MOBILE FILM

Premiere

When you have finished your edit and saved your finished mobile film, upload it and share with your friends at www.ovi.com/share.



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TOP 5 TIPS FOR FILMING WITH YOUR MOBILE

1. Make each shot visually exciting – think angles, background, location, composition, and lighting.
2. Avoid noisy locations (unless that is what you are looking for).
3. Keep your mobile still – use a bean bag, blu-tac or brace your arm (again unless you are going for a shaky “hand-held” effect).
4. Avoid filming people in front of bright light sources, such as sunny windows or lights.
5. When shooting your film, allow 3 seconds of footage before and after your desired scene, in order to facilitate good editing and allow the use of transitions.

TOP 5 TIPS FOR EDITING WITH YOUR MOBILE

1. Remember that you can use the “Run, Pause, Run” edit technique by planning your story and editing on the mobile device. This is a great way of capturing a spontaneous film.
2. Familiarize yourself with the edit software, try a test edit, and know its capabilities before starting your blockbuster. Plan your film with editing in mind.
3. You can use your supplied A/V cable to connect to any TV and edit in real-time on a big screen.
4. Trim and save individual shots before adding them to your movie.
5. When you save your clips, give them names that will help you identify the shots to make the editing process easier.

TOP 5 TIPS FOR EDITING WITH YOUR PC OR MAC

1. You can import and edit your mobile films on Moviemaker for Vista (not XP) or iMovie for Mac.
2. Do a rough edit first – place your selected clips in order on the timeline and save the finer adjustments for later.
3. You can control your sound levels and add in additional soundtracks or effects.
4. Save often!
5. Remember to export your work as a finished movie – in Vista or on a Mac, a project is not a movie.

