

Documentary Film Maker



Overview

Is film your artistic medium? Are you passionate about sharing stories, documenting the truth, and bringing the untold and forgotten into the light? By being a documentary film maker, you are able to share images and ideas that the average person may not know or think about in their everyday life. Documentary films could potentially cover any movie genre.



Roles and Responsibilities

As a documentary film maker, you either work as an independent artist or for a large studio. You do everything that a regular film maker does, such as filming, story development, editing and other post-production activities. However, you also have the task of finding stories, travelling throughout the field collecting your footage, organizing and conducting interviews, applying for funding from governments/organizations if you are an independent filmmaker, and sometimes putting yourself at risk to political, social, or environmental factors.

Skills: Filming, artistic, critical thinking, interview skills, grant writing, adaptable to changing situations

Personal Interests: Photography, social justice, journalism, environmentalism, human rights, storytelling

Salary: Annual salary of \$70,000, or \$33/hour

Work Environment: lots of field work (outdoors or indoors, depending on project), editing studio, conducting interviews, film festivals

Education and Experience: diploma/degree from a college/university in film, editing, journalism, or a related field. More important than education is a passion for filming and for your cause