

THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME

TRAINING • MOTIVATION • OPPORTUNITY





MFI Programme Overview

The Minority Film Institute (MFI) concentrates on the professional development and empowerment of minority individuals currently engaged in or aspiring to pursue careers within the cinematic and broadcasting industries. MFI is also committed to producing narratives that reflect the diverse experiences of minority communities, providing them with real-world work experiences and opportunities for advancement in these fields.

Drawing inspiration and offering services that mirror entities like the Georgia Film Academy and New York Film Academy, MFI provides opportunities for individuals interested in developing or expanding their filmmaking skills and industry knowledge.

The Minority Film Institute's (MFI) mission integrates traditional academic coursework and vocational training with an unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the art of storytelling. As a production collaborator, the Institute focuses on developing innovative content that foregrounds and enriches the representation of minority community narratives.





MFI Tracks offers a comprehensive suite of educational workshops, lectures, seminars, and training sessions, complemented by hands-on, real-world work experiences and opportunities designed to equip participants with a robust network and essential resources, enabling them to adeptly maneuver through the complexities of a dynamic and ever-changing industry.




MFI Tracks and Concentrations

The Minority Film Institute (MFI) offers diverse programmatic options encompassing both innovative and traditional educational formats, including workshops, classes, lectures, and seminars, among other learning opportunities.

-  **Screenwriting:** Focused on the essentials of screenwriting, encompassing the intricacies of character creation, narrative structure, script formatting, and the craft of conveying stories through visual means. Participants gain insights into creating compelling dialogue, understanding genre-specific writing techniques, and mastering the ability to translate written scripts into engaging visual narratives.
-  **Directing:** Delves into the multifaceted role of the director, emphasizing aspects such as scene blocking, effective collaboration with actors, and



the translation of written scripts into cinematic visuals. Participants are also introduced to the subtleties of directing, including interpreting the cinematographer's language, understanding the nuances of actor direction, and developing a distinctive directorial vision.

-  **Cinematography:** Focused on the dualistic nature of motion picture photography, which merges artistic expression with technical precision, covering a range of topics to include the principles of lighting, the strategic choice of lenses, the intricacies of framing and composition, as well as the application of color theory to create visual mood and storytelling impact. Additionally, participants are introduced to the latest industry-standard equipment and software, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in creating professional-quality imagery.
-  **Editing:** Centers on the post-production phase, instructing participants in the methodologies and technological instru-



MFI Tracks and Concentrations

ments necessary for editing digital film footage, providing a deep dive into editing theory, the psychology of shot selection, narrative pacing, and continuity. Participants gain practical experience with cutting-edge editing software, explore the integration of visual effects, and learn how sound design complements the visual elements to shape the final film product.

Sound Design: Focuses on the vital aspect of sound in filmmaking, encompassing the comprehensive spectrum of audio in film production techniques for capturing high-quality sound on set, understanding equipment and acoustics, and the intricate post-production pro-



cess, including creating and layering sound effects, designing ambient soundscapes, the art of scoring music to enhance the emotional resonance of the film, and the importance of synchronization of audio with visual elements to ensure a seamless and immersive cinematic experience.

Documentary Filmmaking: Delves into the distinctive challenges and gratifications associated with non-fiction storytelling, guiding students through the process of crafting compelling documentaries and other reality-based narratives, highlighting techniques for researching real-life events, conducting compelling interviews, and constructing a factual yet engaging narrative., with an emphasis on ethical considerations, the importance of maintaining the authenticity of the subject matter, and the creative use of truthful narrative elements to engage audiences.



MFI Tracks and Concentrations

- Acting:** Focuses on critical acting techniques and methods, fostering a deeper understanding of the collaborative dynamic essential between actors and directors for cinematic storytelling by delving into character development, exploring diverse acting styles, script analysis, and scene work, and engaging in practical exercises to hone the skills and techniques which creates characters authentically and brings compelling narratives to life on screen.
- Producing:** Focuses on the comprehensive understanding of the logistical intricacies involved in overseeing a production from its conceptualization to its successful completion through the vital

processes of budgeting, project scheduling, and project management, as well as exploring the key roles within a production team, which include producers and production managers, and assistant directors, all focused on providing real-world scenarios and industry-standard practices, to prepare participants for the demands of the film production environment.





MFI Lecturer Series

- 🌐 **The History of Minority in Cinematic and Television History:** Explores and examines the history of minorities in film and television, highlighting the pivotal contributions and progressions made by minority content creators throughout the evolution of the industries.
- 🌐 **Film Industry Dynamics:** Seasoned industry professionals lead discussions on the intricate workings of the film business, shedding light on critical topics, including film financing, distribution channels, marketing strategies, and the legal landscape.
- 🌐 **The Impact of Diversity on Screen:** A professional and expert-led forum that delves into the critical significance of diversity and representation within the media landscape, focusing on accentuating the portrayal of minority narratives and the effects these representations have on broader cultural and societal perspectives.

- 🌐 **Government and Film/Television Intersections:** Examines the vital interaction between governmental policies and the film and television industry, detailing how legislation, funding, and regulations influence the creation and distribution of media, particularly as it pertains to minority representation and storytelling.





Seminars / Speaker Series

- Performance Mastery in Acting:** Acclaimed industry leaders coach in various acting techniques and methods, fostering a deeper comprehension of the dynamic collaboration essential between actors and directors for cinematic storytelling.
- Technical Proficiency in Camera and Lighting:** Proficient industry leaders focus on using professional equipment, including cameras and lighting setups, and the latest techniques and technologies that bring a director's vision and story to life.
- Fundamentals of Film Production:** Experienced industry experts delve into the practicalities of film production, which include budgeting skills, scheduling, project management, and the essentials for steering a production from concept to completion.



- Set Design:** Skilled industry experts, renowned set designers, and creative minds unravel the artistry, techniques, and innovation behind crafting immersive cinematic environments.
- Production Assistant:** Established industry professionals spotlight and share the behind-the-scenes magic and insights into this vital role for bringing cinematic visions to life through offering a front-row seat to the action and invaluable knowledge from those who make it happen.
- The Art of Story:** A masterclass-style exploration of the intricate artistry behind storytelling in film and television through dissecting the nuances of character development, plot structure, and the symbiotic relationship between visual and verbal storytelling. the Collegiate Symposium document.



MFI: SC Experience

Partnerships and collaborations

The Minority Film Institute Programme offers a comprehensive educational journey, merging theoretical knowledge with hands-on skills and insights from the film and television sector. The MFI approach prepares students for fruitful careers and simultaneously aims to widen the scope of the industry in South Carolina by enhancing minority participation, opportunities, and contributions.

Professional Set Experience through Internships

(FilmBassadors): Under the guidance and in collaboration with Perry Moore Entertainment, the FilmBassador Program offers internships that provide students with direct exposure to professional film sets. This hands-on experience allows them to gain practical insights, witness

industry workflows firsthand, and establish valuable professional connections.

Program participants actively contribute to ongoing productions, accruing practical experience and valuable credits for their resumes.

- Exposure at Film Festivals:** Through strategic partnerships with festival sponsors nationwide, MFI participants can participate in events and exhibitions that highlight engaging content, establish connections within the film community, and draw knowledge from the extensive experiences of industry veterans and their artistic peers.





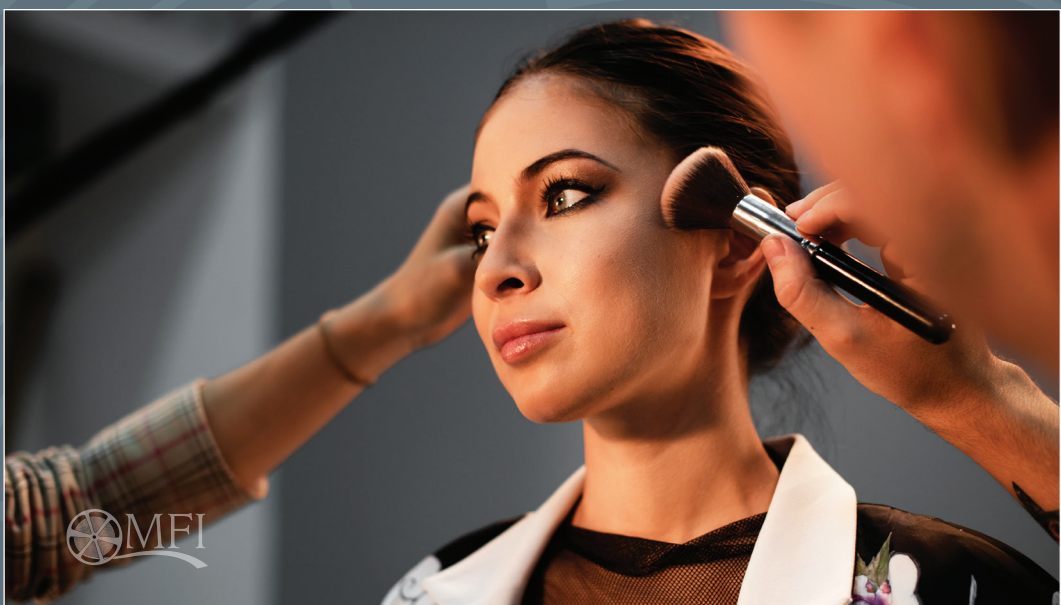
MFI Annual Events & Activities

2024 events and activities are tailored to initiate collaboration and involvement with a broad spectrum of educational institutions, ranging from small colleges and universities to school districts, charter schools, and private schools.

- **South Carolina Spring and Fall Workshops:** Seasonal workshops providing an intensive learning experience in various aspects of filmmaking, designed to accommodate participants across all experience levels, from beginners to advanced practitioners, and offering a platform for aspiring filmmakers to learn, network, and showcase their talents.
- **Summer Film Summit:** An all-encompassing experience immerses participants in film and television production, offering practical hands-on experience, valuable industry insights, and networking opportunities with established professionals. This journey encompasses various filmmaking aspects, including screenwriting, directing, cinematography, and editing.

● **Special Lectures:** A series of special lectures conducted throughout the year, featuring industry professionals and thought leaders covering a wide range of topics, from film history and business to media representation, all with a particular focus on empowering minority filmmakers.

● **Partnership with Educational Institutions:** MFI is actively building partnerships and collaborations with South Carolina's small colleges and universities, including the state's seven historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Through working closely with these institutions, MFI aims to supplement their educational opportunities by providing innovative and unique learning experiences for career pathways related to film and television.



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MFI Endowment

A Foundation for Providing Opportunities

The MFI Endowment fosters new opportunities to inspire transformative change within the cinematic and broadcasting industries. Anchored in the proven success of Public-Private Partnerships and through a multilayered approach, the endowment addresses historical disparities by providing diverse communities, including minorities, rural areas, and nontraditional backgrounds, with opportunities to learn and enhance the skills needed for success in the film and television industry.

Public-Private Partnerships A Proven Catalyst for Transformation

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) have long served as essentials for spurring economic and workforce development, prompting innovation, and offering transformative opportunities. PPPs bridge financial gaps while facilitating synergistic collaborations that amplify impact and results. The MFI model is a commitment to the traditional structure and benefits of PPPs by focusing on building collaborations under four pillars.

- **State and Federal Appropriations Process:** Actively engage in federal, state, and local government advocacy efforts to secure funding resources to empower minorities and disadvantaged communities to pursue excellence within the film and television industries. The MFI process extends beyond financial assistance and embodies a broader societal commitment of government to diversity, inclusivity, and bringing diverse and compelling stories to the forefront.





MFI Endowment

- **Private and Public Grants:** Actively pursue grant opportunities that offer educational and professional development resources and funding support for aspiring filmmakers, producers, actors, technicians, and content creators by minorities and individuals from rural and nontraditional communities.
- **Corporate Underwriting:** Cultivate corporate collaborations and garner backing through philanthropic donations or strategic marketing and advertising initiatives, aligning financial contributions with a more significant commitment to advancing societal well-being.
- **Higher Education Institutions Partnerships:** Engage in partnerships with respected higher education institutions to enhance and facilitate educational pathways, establish supportive networks, and fortify talent pipelines, all to promote increased inclusion and participation from minority, rural, and nontraditional communities within the cinematic and broadcasting industries.

Investors Arm Empowering a Collaborative Community

MFI provides a unique opportunity for investors who wish to support MFI's priority projects within the conventional film and television investment agreements framework. This approach offers investors a direct and concrete means to align their contributions with MFI's mission while enjoying the advantages and benefits typically associated with traditional film and television investments.





Contact information

**Thank you for considering a partnership with
the Minority Film Institute Programme initiative.**

Together, we can educate and empower the minority filmmakers of tomorrow.

**For more information,
email us at info@minorityfilms.org,
or visit us at MinorityFilms.org.**