



Make A Short Film Documentary



WELCOME

My name is Olaf. I am a do-it-yourself filmmaker with over two-decade experience. In this class, I'll share all the tools that I've learned by completing seven feature documentary films. In this step-by-step guide to Documentary Indie Filmmaking, you'll teach yourself how to complete a short documentary film independently through manageable action steps.

STARTING THIS CLASS

This class is for anyone who is **starting out** or has done a couple of **documentary** projects; in either case, this class will deepen your understanding of documentary filmmaking.

Your **Class Project** is doing a 1-3 minute documentary short film.

I'll share the fundamentals of what I've learned - for you to discover your unique style. **All you need** for this class is a camera, something to write on, and a computer to edit your film.

Here are some of the things you'll learn in this class:

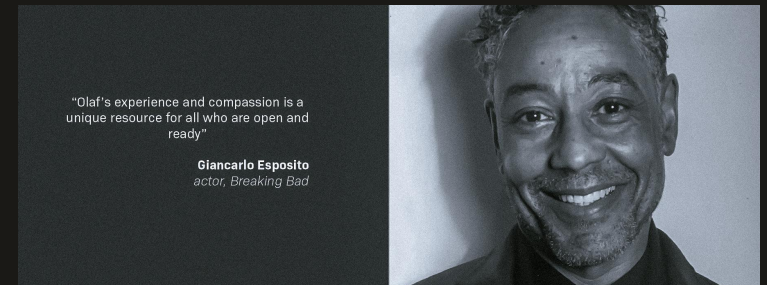
- Experience hands-on a complete documentary film process
- The fundamentals of documentary filmmaking
- Develop your style as a visual storyteller
- Receive documentary production tips that can save you from unnecessary agony
- Complete a documentary film on a micro-budget

We'll start

with your documentary **Idea**, talk about my favorite starting tools **Theme, Genre** and the **Fairy Tale** tool. We'll discuss **Production, Cinematography,** and **Directing** before hitting the post-production phase. Inviting you to do tasks and challenges along the way.

This course will not only demystify the documentary process, but it'll also illuminate your creative strengths and help you identify areas of improvement and opportunities.

This class comes with a certificate. When you've completed your short documentary, you can send it to me for review and you'll receive a confirmation of completion.



- "Olaf's experience and compassion is a unique resource for all who are open and ready" **Giancarlo Esposito, actor, Breaking Bad**
- "Olaf's coaching helped me realize I was ready to write my first film. What for many years seemed daunting, became possible because of his expertise and warrior spirit." **Suilma Rodriguez, actress**
- "Olaf's ability to see beyond the surface is like conjuring. I am forever grateful for his pragmatic, and expansive guidance." **Jesse Megan Eidsness, CEO of Wild Love Apothecary**
- "I mentored Olaf and I'm happy he's spreading his wisdom" **Dr. Jeff Spencer, The Cornerman Coach**

The first part of this class is to talk about your IDEA and provide you with tools so you can develop it.

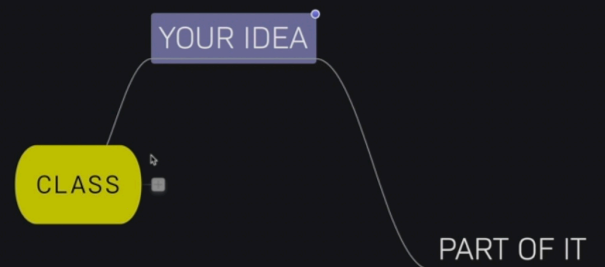
A KEY part of developing your idea is mapping out the world of your subject, to provide you with a way into it. Documentary concepts are vast, and it can be challenging to find a way in. The Map Tool is a great way to do that, and, as explained in the lesson, using keywords with **The Map Tool** helps you chunk down and understand the world.



YOUR
IDEA



THE MAP
TOOL



STORY TOOLS

After setting the parameters for your idea (a short documentary of 1-3 minutes) we jump into STORY TOOLS, we'll discuss **GENRE** and **THEME** - and invite you to check your story off with the **FAIRY TALE TOOL**.

POSTER

A bonus tool is - If your documentary had a poster, all to itself, how would it look like?



01. **FAIRY TALE**

02. **GENRE**

03. **THEME**

THE FILM TEST

The Film Test section is about testing if you can do something simple. You'd be surprised how hard this test is. **It's easy to think about it, and very easy to fail it.**

The Test is: Can you film three shots and put them together?

If you can't do this test - that is a red flag and it suggests that you're (ready) thinking too big at a time - which can stop you from actually completing your film.

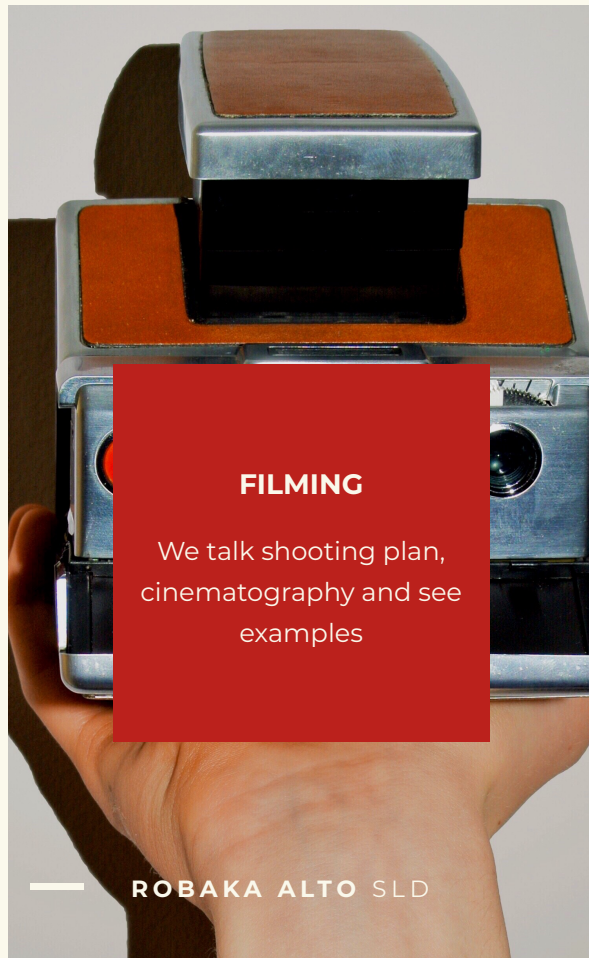


FILM 3 SHOTS

10 SECONDS EACH

EDIT TOGETHER

*After The Film Test we push GO
And Start Working on our
Documentary for this class >*



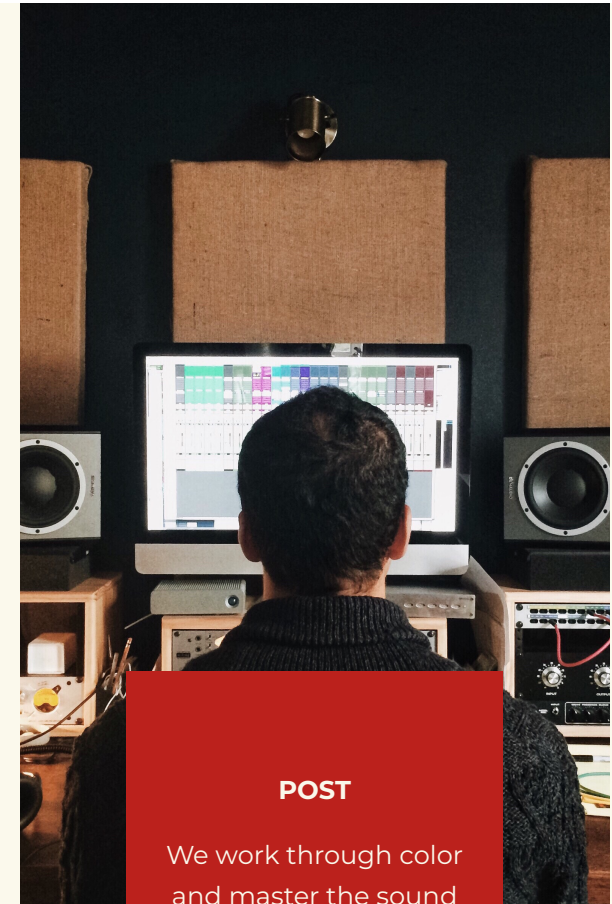
FILMING

We talk shooting plan,
cinematography and see
examples



EDIT

A complete edit
session in Final Cut Pro
X with downloadable
material



POST

We work through color
and master the sound
to wrap the project!

CLASS RESOURCES

EDIT MATERIAL

(Color Correction | Edit)

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F0YSVDDOKHF79lkLqfnypKTn91zkq30z?usp=sharing>

bitly: <https://bit.ly/3gZ1CZt>

SOUND SFX (Sound Edit)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qKqLmaQkOTJzETPzTvJ8Zti6B0kHIAp?usp=sharing>

bitly: <https://bit.ly/3AapfWS>

CINEMA STYLE COLOR CORRECTION with LUT's: <https://bit.ly/3w37Z28>

A FREE DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
OLAF DE FLEUR

Act Normal | **link:** <https://vimeo.com/27590176>



+ **THANK YOU!**
FOR TAKING THIS CLASS

Congratulations on completing this class. I hope that this class will help you in your creative endeavors.

Olaf de Fleur
writer, director

