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UFVA 2021 HANDOUT

10 Storytelling Jobs and How to Get Them

Be ready to tell your story

Have your Personal Branding and Positioning “Kit” Ready

- Elevator Pitch – 2-3 floors (30 seconds) What’s your “why”?
- Resume – 1 page!
- Recommendations – at least 3!
- Professional-looking headshot – for your LinkedIn Page and job application portals
- LinkedIn profile (video links are great)
- Facebook (you’ll understand why if you read below)
- Instagram (video stories)
- Youtube Channel (if your content is good)

Where are the jobs these days? How do you find them?

Two Trends Affecting Jobs in the Industry Today

1. Massive Amounts of Data/Multi-Platform Workflow
2. Decentralized Workflow

➤ What does this mean for jobs?

1. People with organizational skills RULE.
2. Getting project management experience is critical, even if it isn’t in the film industry. (Many people running departments at studios, streaming media companies and other industry companies are getting PMP degrees to advance.)
3. Lots of new jobs have been created in the DIT/workflow management space. See [Netflix’s new document outlining the roles and responsibilities of these jobs.](#)



Believe it or not, many production jobs are posted every day on Facebook:

Facebook has dozens of groups specific to our industry. Most are the “I Need a...” in categories such as...

- I Need a Production Assistant (50K members)
- I Need a Producer (50K members)
- I Need an Assistant Editor NYC (3500 members)
- I Need an Editor DC-MD-VA (1200 members)
- I Need an Editor NY CT NJ (1500 members)
- I Need an Editor UK (15K members)
- I Need a Photographer/Videographer (31K members)

There are also several highly active job forums based on where people used to work (Discovery and Nat Geo being the two busiest). Get to know people in these groups. They have diligent Admins who work to keep out non-relevant posters. Entry level PA/AE jobs are frequently posted. *You cannot simply post your availability or need for a job* (except a few forums that have certain times of year when reels and resumes can be posted). ***These are purely job posting forums, so don't abuse them.*** Some jobs offered are better than others. Knowing people who are in these groups and can give you a personal thumbs up recommendation is helpful.

7 key traits you need no matter what the job:

1. BE ORGANIZED. Know how to find it, or find it out, quickly.
2. BE ON TIME. In our business, “early is on time and on time is late.”
3. KNOW HOW TO ASK FOR HELP. Timing is everything, so be situationally aware of when is a good time to ask. But you can't know everything so keep learning by asking questions!
4. BECOME INVALUABLE. Find that annoying new app/piece of gear/workflow software that everyone needs and become an expert in it.
5. BE A CONNECTOR. When you learn something useful, share it with others. If you know someone that can be helpful to another person, introduce them.
6. LOSE THE ATTITUDE. 'Nuff said.
7. NETWORK. Get to know everyone, regardless of your job position. Be generous and helpful to all. You never know where your next job will come from!

PA jobs can help you network, learn the real-world lingo and tools, and connect to the department you're interested in:

1. Location PA (scouting, research, permits, on set)
2. Art Department PA (research, script, sometimes on set)
3. Assistant at a grip/lighting rental co. (organizing gear and learning G&E packages, learn what you need to do to get into IATSE and have people recommend you, these companies also hire out G&E crews)
4. Camera rental house (camera gear, lenses, gimbals, etc.)
5. Production company assistant (script-to-screen)
6. Post House (editing, motion graphics)



7. Visual Effects House (animation, FX, previs)
8. Director/Producer's PA (preproduction, meetings, on set)
9. Casting Agent PA (organizing and running casting sessions)
10. Cinematographer's gopher (not a camera assistant—yet—but learning the cameras, rigs and lenses, and how this particular DP likes her gear packed, will lead to that first AC job)

Connect to Industry Leaders:

Another way to get your foot in the door is through an Industry Association –these are the people who *know people* in the industry—the very people who can hire recent grads like you. Work for them. Volunteer for their events. Just as an example, AMPAS—the folks who bring us the Oscars--has 450 employees.

1. [AMPAS](#)
2. [SMPTE](#)
3. [NAB](#)
4. [WGA](#)
5. [SAG](#)
6. [AIS](#)
7. [VES](#)
8. [WIF-LA](#)
9. [RIAA](#)

Connect to the industry through one of the thousands of manufacturers and software companies who support our industry.

- From name-brands like Canon, Sony, Dolby and Adobe to smaller suppliers like Fox Fury Lighting and software plugin designers such as Digital Anarchy, the industry has literally tens of thousands of businesses that are involved in the creation of screen media.

Thousands of organizations need good storytellers, and have in-house video departments (as well as contractors). Look for jobs with “video” “editing” “camera” and “storytelling” in the keywords from organizations such as:

1. Nonprofits
2. Consulting Firms
3. Houses of Worship
4. Ad Agencies
5. Live and Hybrid Events Companies
6. Government Agencies
7. International NGO's
8. Corporations



LEARN FROM OTHER CAREER PATHS

[Kye Peña](#), Manager, Creative Technologies Program Management at Netflix; Note: Kylee does periodic “office hours” Zooms with newbies to help them get started. She generally advertises them on Twitter and LinkedIn.

[Katie Hinsen](#), Director of Technology, Marvel Studios

[David Ryu](#), Visual Effects Supervisor for Luca (and here’s a recent [panel he was on about Luca](#) at VES)

Cheryl Ottenritter, CEO/Sound Designer/Mixer, Otthouse Audio ([here’s a quick interview by Premiere Gal of Cheryl on her role](#))

Dennis Boni, Cinematographer & Steadicam Operator – [here’s an interview with Dennis on “How to Make it in Film”](#)

MORE RESOURCES:

<http://www.bluecollarpostcollective.com/>

[Student Filmmakers Magazine and Website](#)

[Filmmaker Resources from American Documentary/POV](#)

[Netflix Digital Imaging and Data Management Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[Women in Film & Video \(DC\) \(must be a member to access list-serve\)](#)

[NY WIFT Job Board](#)

[Linda Burns PA Academy \(Atlanta\)](#)

