

# THE NORMAN JEWISON FILM PROGRAM: DIRECTORS' LAB OVERVIEW

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## WHAT IS IT?

It is a 5 ½-month, full-time program for up to five (5) directors a year, and provides the opportunity to:

- Build your confidence by exercising narrative, cinematic, and technical storytelling skills
- Establish strong relationships through collaboration with writers, editors, producers, and other key creatives
- Engage in the casting process, and work with actors to nurture strong onscreen performances
- Define what your unique offerings are within the screen industry
- Develop and help package your projects for the marketplace
- Deliver on a festival-ready short film, working with producers from the Producers' Lab, and editors from the Editors' Lab, as well as writers from the Writers' Lab when applicable

Ultimately, the experience in the Directors' Lab gives you a host of new relationships and enhanced skills, an expanded reel, a professionally produced short film, and a primary project in development to further showcase your talent and voice, along with an understanding of the next steps needed to advance your career.

## HOW IT WORKS

The Directors' Lab experience is a combination of individually focused mentorship, Lab-specific and cross-discipline workshops, and sessions targeting the artistic, collaborative, practical, and business aspects of directing and creating.

Each director in the Lab will have different trajectories and goals coming into and upon leaving the program, so we take a targeted approach to individual mentorship and project development, consulting with you along the way.

This program is designed to engage a multitude of working professionals on short-term contracts as workshop leaders, consultants and mentors, to best reflect the needs of each cohort. We do not operate with a full-time/permanent faculty.

To ensure we have the flexibility to build the right program activities for each individual and cohort, we do not have a set curriculum. Elements of the program, including mentors, guests, and workshops, will change annually according to the needs of the current cohort, and the projects in question, while continuing to reflect the core components outlined below.

The program is full-time, with the expectation that this is a priority for you. We schedule a lot of activities, as well as pockets of time for you to apply feedback and advance your work, to take time to digest the learning, and to regroup/reassess as needed.

In general, the program runs Monday to Friday during business hours, with exceptions made for guest availability, and for production activities as necessary. We cluster in-person program days wherever possible, with other days being set up for virtual/remote participation as appropriate.

The Directors' Lab is designed to be highly cross-collaborative with the other Labs (Writers, Producers, Editors), and wherever possible, with the talent in other CFC core programs: the CBC Actors Conservatory, The Slight Music Residency, and the Bell Media Prime Time TV Program. This Lab is for directors who are ready to collaborate with other artists as a way of expanding your professional skills, your work, and your creative process.

Directors retain all original IP to the projects and work that they bring into the program to develop, and that they generate while at the CFC. The CFC does not take any ownership of underlying IP, but we do own the completed produced exercises, short films, and showcases, because all insurance, agreements, and ongoing liabilities are with the CFC.

## 1. DEVELOPING VOICE & CREATIVE VISION

Directors explore different practices and approaches to build a range of experiences you can draw upon when examining and evolving your own work and process, through:

- Case studies with other creators, which help to break down a variety of approaches, styles, and work
- Hands-on workshops and production exercises, which give you the opportunity to exercise your artistic vision, narrative storytelling, and technical skills

- Individual coaching throughout, to increase your ability to better articulate and execute on your vision at all stages of the creative process, and support your exploration of what makes you and your projects distinct

## **2. BUILDING COMMUNITY & STRONG CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

You will expand your understanding of how best to respect and engage with writers, producers, actors, editors, and other key collaborators, through practical interaction, workshops, and mentorship.

The opportunity to work through artistic differences, develop and navigate effective communication styles, and discover your best on-set leadership approach all serve to deliver on this.

As you work together with other creatives in a variety of ways on several exercises and projects, you will build relationships, expand your networks, and ideally forge long-lasting partnerships.

## **3. UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS OF DIRECTING & THE MARKETPLACE**

Directors meet with a range of industry professionals from all facets of our business, both traditional and non-traditional, gaining valuable insights on key considerations for content creation, best and evolving practices, and feedback on your projects/slate and larger career strategy.

These sessions and meetings are meant to help bridge the gap between your creative aspirations and the business, while also expanding your own professional network.

## **4. PROJECT ACCELERATION & PACKAGING**

Directors come into the program with a primary narrative film or TV project, and a project slate that reflects your vision across different genres and formats.

Throughout the Lab, you will work to identify and articulate the distinctive elements of these projects, while developing your primary project/script, the pitch, and the package.

You will also work across Labs to develop and produce a fully realized, festival-ready short film in the program, which showcases your distinct voice and talent.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The CFC is committed to providing accessible practices that are in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If you require accommodation at any stage of the application process, or have any questions regarding appropriate accommodations, please contact Deborah Fallows, Executive Lead, People & Culture, at: [dfallows@cfccreates.com](mailto:dfallows@cfccreates.com).

## CONTACT

For questions, please email [programs@cfccreates.com](mailto:programs@cfccreates.com).