Course Outline: Camera Skills for Researchers and APs
£ 300 for three sessions

Course Goal:

To provide a supportive and safe environment for the participants, in which they can gain confidence, working alongside other participants at a similar point in their careers. Time is spent going through camera menus and shooting on commonly used cameras. The goal is to show participants what they need to know and to give them the ability to say yes when asked if they can shoot. The goal does explore technical aspects of camerawork, but is focused on career transformation, enabling the participants to get the shooting jobs and to forge the career they want. After the course, Piers will advise participants on relevant FaceBook and WhatsApp groups which can provide networking opportunities for graduates.

Session One: 3 Hours in Person

The session takes two hours hours to work through a presentation which Piers has developed over many hours of teaching, focusing on what participants need to know in order to shoot with confidence. The remaining hour involves a deep dive into camera menus and the more technical aspects and ends with some simple demonstrations of how to approach shooting documentary sequences.

Homework One

The participants are asked to shoot a short documentary film on any subject, without worrying too much about technical considerations. The emphasis is on taking what they've learnt in the first session, then shooting and editing so they can embed that learning. The participants are all part of a Whats App group wioth their cohort where they can share insights, ask questions or seek support. The homework does not require access to cameras and can be completed on a phone, although the participants will have built a relationship with the camera facility company where session one takes place. There is a guide and example videos provided as a guide to the work.

Session Two: 2 Hours Remote

The group share their films a few days before session two. In the online session, each participant gets to present a short summary of their experience, then all the other participants share their insights. Piers uses his mentoring experience to guide and support the discussion.

Homework Two

With the reflections and learning from session two, the participants are asked to shoot and edit a second short film. They are asked to approach different subject matter from Homework One, with specific guidance from Piers.

Session Three: 2 hours Remote

This follows a similar format to session two. In addition, at the end of the session, participants are invited to reflect on their experiences during the course. After completing the course, the cohort will become part of a larger network of previous graduates through a Whats App group and a dedicated online forum.

Course Leader - Piers Leigh:

Piers Leigh has over twenty years of experience working as camera operator and Director of Photography. He has worked on a wide range of programming, including drama, but the bulk of his experience is in documentary, with a particular focus on Specialist Factual.

Piers has always supported those at an earlier stage in their careers, happy to share experience and insights. Over the last two decades he has helped a number of young professionals establish themselves in the industry. In 2020, Piers began more formal mentoring with Screenskills, part-funded by a Screenskills bursary, is now a Foundation Level Coach accredited by the European Mentoring and Coaching Council.