

The A-Z list of film terms

Most popular terms

'Aerial shot' An exterior shot taken from a camera upon a high up position, this shot is sometimes also referred to as a bird's-eye view.

'Animation' A form of filmmaking that includes photos of single shots, each pieced together to make a 24 frames per second animation - giving the appearance of the objects moving on their own (objects are usually puppets, or figures made out of clay).

'Borough & District Council' Please be sure to liaise with the Film contact of the relevant Borough and District Council. They can help with any consent required and it is important that in any event they are aware of the filming being undertaken.

'Building Exteriors/Interiors' Filming or photographing the exterior/interior of a building does not infringe its copyright. If there are intellectual rights to consider, such as company logos, then the production company will require permission from the building owner.

'Cabling' The Production shall agree in advance with the Film Contact regarding the appropriate use of cables, the safe laying of agreed cabling and the suitability of attaching cables to street furniture, trees, historic properties and any other relevant items.

'Call sheet' A list, usually created by the first assistant director, of actors who will be required on set for each day's shooting, what scenes are scheduled and which locations will be used.

'Camera movements'

Crane shot - a moving shot taken from a crane, moving the crane to create this.

Tracking shot - A moving shot taken from on top of a platform on wheels, usually used when following a fast car.

Pan - a moving shot when the camera stays in the same place but rotates horizontally.

Tilt - A shot when the camera stays in one place but moves vertically.

'Camera Track' All matters relating to tracking shall be discussed and agreed with the Film Contact in advance of filming. Any obstructions or alternative footways planned must be cleared by the Film Contact. Tracking boards may be required in certain circumstances.

'Catering & Removal of Litter' Catering arrangements and the positioning of catering vehicles shall be agreed in advance with the Production and Film Contact.

'Charges' All charges will be agreed, and an agreement signed, in advance of filming.

'Child Performers' The Production must make adequate provision for the health & welfare needs of any children employed when filming. A child is considered to be any young person under 18 still subject to full time education.

'Coning' The Production acknowledges that cones have no legal force to secure parking and their use shall be agreed in advance with the highways authority, the District Council responsible for parking enforcement and/or the police.

'Consultation' Successful filming relies upon the local residents and business receiving adequate notice where appropriate.

'Computer generated imagery (CGI)' Images that have been manipulated in order to look realistic - however, sometimes the images can be created fully on a computer.

'Council Property' Whenever filming on local authority Council-owned property e.g. in parks, schools, town halls etc, the Production shall negotiate a licence with the Film Office.

'Cranes / Camera Cranes & Aerial Platforms' In advance of the shoot, the Production shall discuss and agree with the Film Contact and any other relevant authorities, the specific weight and positioning of cranes/camera cranes and the need to maintain access.

'Crew Call' The time of day shooting is scheduled to begin for the day. Your call time may vary.

'Dailies' The prints of footage shot the previous day, often viewed by the director and producers at the end of each day to monitor progress. Also known as "rushes". Can cause side-effects ranging from nervous breakdowns to over-confidence back at the studio.

'Documentary' Raw footage which is representing someone/something's life and being.

'Drones/Aerial Filming' To film with drones (also known as Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)), you will need to be aware of the application process and permissions required.

'Facility' Equipment/rooms provided as a service.

'Film Contact' Denotes the person appointed by any given organisation, agency, private company, charity, the Film Office or local authority to manage the filming on their behalf.

'Firearms' No firearms of any kind, including prop or replica firearms, shall be used without agreement in advance between the Production and the police and/or appropriate emergency service and the Film Contact, this includes when filming exteriors and/or interiors on public and private property. An armourer must be present during film shoots involving firearms.

'First Aid' By law, the production is responsible for providing suitable first-aid equipment, facilities and personnel to enable first aid to be given to employees if they are injured or become ill during filming. Production companies must ensure first aid needs risk assessments are carried out for all premises and productions.

'Genre' A type/category of film.

'Health & Safety' The Production is bound by law to have health and safety assistance. In the event that the Production involves less than five people, the Film Office should be contacted for advice. Failure to follow appropriate Health & Safety procedures may invalidate any insurance.

'Highways Authority' Defines the body responsible for managing and maintaining all aspects of the highway.

'Highways & Traffic Management' The Production shall liaise with the relevant Film Contact when wishing to use public highways and footpaths. Any traffic management measures put in place must also be agreed by the police.

'Highways & Filming from Vehicles' The Production shall discuss and agree with the Film Contact and any other relevant authorities when filming from a moving vehicle on a public road. Please note this section refers to but is not limited to filming using low loaders, tracking vehicles and a-frames.

'Highway restrictions' Can include any of the following:

- Road closure / Intermittent traffic control
- Driving requests/tracking shots on the public highway
- Footway control
- Removal/alteration of existing streets furniture/lamp columns
- Lighting stands and cable runs across the highway/footway
- Suspension of Bay(s) and/or dispensation of single yellow lines

'Historic Buildings & Conservation Area' Special attention and care must be taken when a production is planning to use any historic buildings, heritage sites or conservation areas. Access by the general public may be a requirement by law;

'Indemnity & Insurance' The Production shall obtain and produce a copy of the relevant insurance needed before shooting commences. The Production will be expected to indemnify the local authority, its officers and employees against any claims or proceedings arising directly from any injury to persons or damage to property as a result of the activities of the Production. The need for insurance is governed by statutory obligation.

'Location' Any area other than a studio that is used during the filming process.

'Location representative' A person who has been chosen to act or make decisions on behalf of another person or a group of people.

'Location representative type' This could be a location owner, tenant or agent.

'Low impact filming' Defined as outdoor filming activities in areas open to the public, except areas managed as wilderness, involving five people or less and equipment that will be carried at all times, except for small tripods used to hold cameras.

'Multimedia' An element of film which uses multiple elements in media - such as audio, video, graphics, etc.

'Noise and Nuisance' Use of audio playback and megaphones shall only be permitted following agreement between the Production and the Film Contact. Please keep noise to a minimum when setting up early in the morning. Generators should not be switched on until after 08.00 hours unless they are silent and approved by the Film Contact. It is the responsibility of the production to ensure that noise is regulated and residents and neighbours have been informed.

'Police consent' Can include any of the following

- Replica or fake firearms/knives/other weapons on set
- Scenes of violent, distressing or sensitive nature, including fight scenes, nudity etc
- SFX (Rain, fire, explosions, snow etc)
- Stunts
- Portrait of police service, vehicle or uniform
- Staging scenes of a crime reconstruction

'Production' Refers to a Producer, Location Manager, Production Company or Production Manager or any authorised officer or employee of such a company or its agents.

'Project type' This could be defined as: Non broadcast, Commercial, Corporate, Feature film, TV high end / Low end documentary.

'Property status' These could include:

- Inhabited
- Uninhabited
- Derelict
- Operational
- Non-operational
- Special contact

'Real time' The time in which an action would occur compared to the time it occurred on screen.

'Residents & Businesses' The Production shall consider and consult with local residents and businesses that may be affected by their filming prior to and during the shoot.

'Risk Assessment' Risk Assessments are required by the self-employed and by any company with employees to be able to satisfy their insurance provisions and statutory obligations to employees and those affected by their actions. Additional location specific Risk Assessments are also required depending on the type and nature of filming.

'Rivers & Waterways' When planning to film on any waterway, the Production will liaise with the Film Contact from the relevant governing body as early as possible. Specific health and safety measures will apply.

'Road Marking & Signs' The temporary painting-out or disguising of road markings, lines or other road signs is subject to agreement in advance with the Film Contact and, if necessary, the Highways Authority officer. The Production shall also notify local Police in advance of any such undertaking. The Production agrees to fully reinstate any alterations to road markings to the satisfaction of the Highways Authority and when obliged to use official contractors shall pay cost price. Security The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the UK.

'Runner' Runners are the most junior positions on a film. Managed by the office, runners transport stuff between the production office and set, and also pick up anything else needed for the crew. They are not here to pick up your dry cleaning (unless you are the Producer) but they can be great in organizing any pickups and deliveries your department may have. Get friendly with the runners and they'll be able to help you out in so many ways.

'Screen time' The time in which an action has been manipulated through editing, instead of real time.

'Shot' A piece of film that is a single running of the camera without interruptions.

'Special effects' Small movements added into a scene that cannot be obtained through normal film, and have to be manipulated and added in.

'Special equipment' This could include:

- Dolly and track
- Camera crane (including jib arm)
- Cherry picker
- Genie boom
- Scaffold tower
- Scissor lift
- Set dressing and scenery

'Stunts/Special Effects/Pyrotechnics' For the avoidance of doubt this section refers to, but is not limited to, all car chases, river chases and explosions. In accordance with statutory Health and Safety obligations, the Production shall provide a Risk Assessment. All stunts, special effects (including weather effects and wet downs) and pyrotechnics must be under the direct control of a named qualified stunt coordinator or special effects operative and comply with the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Wet downs and rain effects may only be carried out with the approval of the Film Contact after a proper evaluation of the forecast weather conditions and with the proper signage as required.

'Wrap' End something, usually the end of the day of filming but can be used as a wrap on a scene, actor, or item. It's always nice to hear these words called out at the end of a day, or even better at the end of a job.

'Video' The image portion of a film.