

A Wrap From Film Camp!

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SBIFF Film CAMP



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Last week was a busy one for SBIFF, as we hosted our 8th annual Film Camp at Camp Whittier! Our campers had an amazing time creating films together, and we were so inspired to watch them work.

Want to know about what our budding filmmakers were up to last week? Read on!

DAY 1 – Arrival and Ice Breakers

Students checked in, were given a tour of their cabins and met their fellow film

campers before enjoying a series of Pixar shorts and a crash course on film appreciation with SBIFF Executive Director and SBCC Film Professor, Roger Durling.



After lunch, students returned to the Creek Lodge for a lesson on screenwriting and film analysis – then it was time to hit the pool! After dinner, students played ice breaker games around a sunset campfire, and then capped it all off with the perfect feel-good summer film. JAWS of course!

Day 2 – Team Workshops and Nature Walks

Campers formed teams and started brainstorming ideas for their short film projects. Director Max Barbakow (Palm Springs) spoke about his career and students attended workshops on acting, improv, storytelling, and screenwriting. Using their newly learned screenwriting skills, they begin to draft ideas for their films.



Each team created plot points for their film, and assigned themselves filmmaking roles. Campers drew storyboards and created shot lists based on what camera

angles and movement would be needed to best tell their stories.

After knocking out these critical first steps, campers enjoyed a guided nature hike around the 40 acres of Camp Whittier. They learned about plants and animals around the campgrounds and scouted locations for the scenes of their movie projects.



Campers escaped the heat with some more time in the pool before dinner and an evening screening of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

DAY 3 – Shoot Day!

After a hearty breakfast campers met for a demonstration of camera work and received their equipment. Then each group presented their script, storyboard, and shot list—in pitch meeting format—to their fellow campers.

Award winning VFX artist Leslie Ekker (*Titanic*, *Apollo 13*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) presented a course on filmmaking and worked with each group to help prep for their first day of shooting. Leslie spent the afternoon in production with the campers as they set up their camera angles and directed the first scenes for their films.





Following their full day of filmmaking, campers enjoyed a screening of Space Jam, which served as a primer for the following day's presentation on voiceover work and editing.

DAY 4 – Editing!

Thursday already! With a full day of filming behind them, our campers were ready to reconvene into their filmmaking groups and determine a final list of pick-up shots they'd need to complete their projects. Lists assembled, they went out in the field to set up and capture each one.

After they finished getting the footage, it was time to start thinking about how they'd put it all together into a finished project - and that's where the day's seminars on editing and voiceover came in!

The campers spent some time editing, then took a break to enjoy group games on the main field. After dinner, they relaxed with a screening of Apollo 13 and s'mores by the campfire, where they discussed everything they'd already learned, and how fast the week was going by.



DAY 5 – The Finishing Touches!

The last day of camp brought a lot of feelings—and a lot of work! Our campers spent the morning putting the finishing touches on their films, and then burned off some energy testing their aim at the archery station. From there, it was on to a producing seminar in the lodge, and then the screening prep began!

Our campers created posters, decorations, and notes for the evening and presented their work in test screenings for the whole group. Excitement built as they participated in interviews about the week and helped set up the lodge to welcome their family, friends, and guests from the Rotary Club. Once everyone arrived, they enjoyed a celebratory dinner together, and then it was showtime! The campers screened their films for the guests and each other to cheers and applause, and then bid their new friends farewell, proud of themselves and each other.

What a week!



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