



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MY HERO

# Short-Film Festival



*Narratives • Documentary • Animation • Musical • Experimental*

**Tell your hero story, and share it with the world.**

- All artworks submitted to the Gallery must be original.
- All work must be original!
- All films need to be 10 minutes or less.
- All short films need to be appropriate for visitors of all ages and must encourage positive contributions to society and the world.
- No works will be accepted that promote hatred, violence or prejudice of any kind.
- Acceptance of short films into the virtual screening room will be at the discretion of the Film Festival Director.
- All works submitted to the MY HERO Short Film Festival may be used for educational or promotional purposes.

**Deadline for the 2008 Awards is June 15th!**

**[www.myhero.com/filmfestival](http://www.myhero.com/filmfestival)**

**The MY HERO Project**

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The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3)  
not-for-profit organization

# A Step-by-Step Approach to Making a Short Film



## Pre-Production

- ◇ Choose a hero to make a movie about or choose a concept of heroism to illustrate.
- ◇ Determine the form that will best tell your story:
  - Documentary
  - Animation
  - Experimental
  - Narrative
- ◇ Research and Write
  - Outline
  - Script
- ◇ Create storyboards to visually plan your film.
  - Lists of shots needed to tell your story
  - List of questions (for interviewing your hero)
- ◇ Identify your production team
  - Director, Producer, Camera Person, Sound Person, Picture Editor, Sound Editor & Composer
- ◇ Scout Locations – think of location as a character, look for cinematic traits.
- ◇ Equipment
  - Arrange for use of audio video production equipment

MY HERO accepts films created with a wide variety of production values. We are looking for good storytelling about people who are making a positive difference in the world. If you do not have access to a video camera, you may even shoot your film using a digital still camera. BE CREATIVE and HAVE FUN!

## Logistics

- ◇ Create a workable filming schedule for your production team and your hero.
- ◇ Download release forms on <http://myhero.com/filmfestival> for all involved in production.
- ◇ Get permission from property managers/owners to shoot on location.

## Equipment - Preparing to Shoot Your Movie

- ◇ Test your AUDIO AND VIDEO equipment
  - VIDEO - Record and playback a short test video.
  - LIGHTING is critical - If your location requires additional light for quality recording of images, make arrangements to set up lights for your shoot.
    - AUDIO - Record and playback your footage and listen to the sound to be sure you have the best possible set-up. If possible, you should try to record sound with an external microphone. Check your headphones to be sure that you are monitoring your sound accurately.

## Production

- ◇ On Location
  - SOUND - Make sure that the room is as quiet as possible for recording your hero story. Also be sure to record room tone (ambient sound from each location). This will be important when you go to post production/editing.

- PICTURE - Shoot establishing shots and coverage at each location. Recording a variety of cutaways, close-ups, medium shots and long shots to establish a setting will be helpful in editing.

- ◇ Art Direction - Have someone assigned to the consistent aesthetic "look" of your movie (color, backgrounds, lighting, props, set decorations, etc.).

- ◇ Music - Be sure to turn off all music during shooting – you can add music in Post.

- ◇ Editor - If possible, have your editor on set capturing and editing as you shoot – this way you can see what you still need.

## Paperwork

- ◇ Release forms for your talent at the shoot

- ◇ Proper spelling of all of your cast and crew and those who are helping you for your final credits

## Post-Production

- ◇ Capture footage into computer.

- ◇ Create an audio/video log of your footage using the time code.

- ◇ Build an assembly edit of all the footage you might want to use.

- ◇ Create a rough cut narrowing down the essential shots.

- ◇ Fine tune picture edit and add credits.

- ◇ Sound edit - Add backgrounds, music and FX – then mix.

- ◇ Music - Create your own music or work with a composer so that you own all rights to your movie. You cannot use copyrighted music.

- ◇ Output movie to .mov file in full resolution or DV tape.

- ◇ Drag .mov file to DVD or CD and burn as DATA.

## SUBMIT THE FILM TO THE MY HERO FILM FESTIVAL

- ◇ **Download and fill out the Film Festival Entry Form and applicable Release Forms and/or Parental Consent Forms on the MY HERO Web site.**

- ◇ Send your film, completed entry forms, and entry fee to:

### The MY HERO Project

Short Film Festival and Competition  
1278 Gleneyre #286  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
U.S.A.

Questions and additional information:  
Contact [media@myheroproject.org](mailto:media@myheroproject.org)

**For online lesson plans and resources**  
[www.myhero.com/filmfestival/resources](http://www.myhero.com/filmfestival/resources)