

Black Shorts Film Workshop Georgia: Call for Participation.

www.plotki.net/blackshorts

Deadline for applications is March 15th (application form below).

Please submit to: blackshorts@plotki.net

We are searching for 20 participants to create experimental films at a 12-day research workshop/laboratory in Georgia around the theme of BLACK. Unwearable, but hopefully not unbearable, these BLACK SHORTS will then be edited during a second workshop in Budapest before being screened in cinemas and published online. Previous experience in filmmaking is welcome but not necessary, just an inquisitive mind, an eagerness to learn and a willingness to collaborate. Do you want to spread rumours of everyday life in Georgia? Then read below to find out more.

So what exactly does the BLACK SHORTS project consist of?

1. A 12-day training, research and filming workshop/laboratory in Georgia with 20 young people from across Europe (May 10th – May 22nd 2011).
2. A 4-day video editing workshop in Hungary (June 5th - 9th 2011).
3. Public premiers of the finished films at downtown cinemas in Budapest, Tbilisi and Berlin (June).
4. The distribution of the finished films online, at film festivals and via DVD.

Why Georgia? Why Black?

We are aware that blackness in Georgia can invoke the past. It might be associated with the dark 90's – with armed street gangs, bullies and kleptocracy. Or that black could also refer to blackouts that plagued Georgia throughout the 90s and early 2000s, or the caravans of black BMWs and Mercedes owned by the wealthy and the ruling class. If this is black, then maybe the Revolution of Roses in 2003 was meant to signal the start of a colourful future? That it was in part about the suppression of the black-side of Georgian society? A top-down and coloured modernisation that has physically manifested itself through colourful street repainting, gentrification and upbeat styles? Of course, we might be taking black a bit too far – its roots lie in everyday life. After all, if you asked most foreigners to think of black in Georgia then it would be the Black Sea that springs to mind, whilst for many Georgians it's another sea of black they see on a day-to-day basis – the sea of black clothing in which most people clad themselves.

Thus black is both a colour of everyday life and a colour full of symbolic tension – a tension that can be artistically exploited. Turning black on its head, we want to use the colour to shed light on stories of everyday life in Georgia. Whilst the topic of black can be broad, what unites the possible film-topics is the colour's underlying subversiveness, outsidership and supposed legitimisation of all that is 'white', legal and proper. We feel ill at ease with both the bright promises of modernity, as well as the dark undertones of local-based resistance. Instead, we care for smaller stories of everydayness that are (dis)coloured – symbolically or physically. Intrigued and inspired, we want to slip under state-based radars to bring rumours of everyday life.

Give me more details! What will happen at the workshops/laboratories?

During the first two days of the filming workshop in Georgia, you will be trained in basic camera and sound techniques and be given an introduction into how to develop a story within a film. We will also form five teams of filmmakers, based on research interest, film skills and local language ability. Within the team you will develop your common idea for a film with an expert tutor. The teams will then have a little over a week to film their chosen topic. The final days of this first workshop will be for reviewing footage and deciding upon how your final film will look. During the editing workshop in Budapest, you will (having solved conceptual, thematic etc. issues in Georgia and via email) make the final edit of your film. On the final day we will screen the films in a downtown cinema in Budapest.

It is important to understand that the workshops should be seen less as places where experts can hone their skills and more as laboratories where groups can experiment with new ideas/mediums/working dynamics. This is not a film school nor a grant for already formed films (there are plenty of these already in existence), rather this is a project during which you can explore different aspects of a country as part of a group through experimenting with film.

Who are you?

We are the central and eastern European magazine Plotki, the Georgian documentary film company Sakdoc Film and the Centre for Arts and Culture at the Central European University in Budapest.

Who am I?

If you're under 35, creative, willing to learn, inquisitive and speak good enough English to work in a multi-national team, then we'd love you to apply. Though local language ability is an advantage, you don't have to speak Georgian or Russian as each team will have one Georgian/Russian speaking participant. Though previous filmmaking experience is not necessary, we encourage filmmakers to apply. Filmmakers should have realistic expectations and be willing to work with those who are less experienced, we might also ask those with more experience to lead sessions and share their expertise with the group. If you've never worked with film before, it is not a problem.

We will select participants based on their profile and the proposed film idea (see application form below). Whilst we would like to cover all participants' travel costs, if you live outside Europe then it's unlikely that we will be able to fund the full amount due to budget limitations. Please note that we can only accept individual applications (not from groups applying with one common idea).

How much will this cost me? What will I get in return?

If you're living in Georgia the participation cost is 10EUR, if you're not from Georgia the cost is 120EUR (to reflect the differing travel-costs). In return you'll get travel to and from the Georgian workshop, living expenses in Georgia, travel to and from the Hungarian workshop and living expenses in Hungary. You'll also get training sessions on using film

equipment, conceptualising documentary films and editing films. Finally, and most importantly, you'll get the chance to design, plan, shoot and edit a short film as part of a multi-national team.

What type of film do you expect?

We are looking for short (average 15mins) experimental films on the theme of black in Georgia. The filming will be low/no budget. Each group will have a hand-held HD camera and a separate sound recording device. Everything else will have to be improvised. Each person will be given a daily allowance for travel, food and accommodation, some of which could be pooled and used for the films if you wish. There will be teams of four and the work should be divided amongst you as you see fit - there will be no set roles within the groups. The experience of meeting others and discovering a country through the medium of film is paramount. We have called for experimental films as we want to allow participants to be as creative as they wish. Within this experimental label, you are free to propose films that are fiction, documentary or anything in between.

Application Form.

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Please submit to: blackshorts@plotki.net

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Information.

Name

Age

Nationality (needed for visa issues)

Currently residing in (needed for travel cost calculation)

Relevant experience (filmmaking, artistic, social scientific, journalistic)

Languages spoken (English is a must, Georgian and Russian appreciated)

Please indicate that you are available to take part in the two seminars (May 10th – May 22nd and June 5th - 9th 2011).

Please attach a CV

Motivation.

Why do you want to take part in Black Shorts?

Creation.

Please provide a short (1 page max) proposal of the film you would like to make. The filming can take place anywhere in Georgia.

Your proposal should include:

- the topic: What is it? Why is it interesting? In what way does it relate to the theme?
- the how: How will you access the people/places/groups? How will you film it?

(Please note that if you're accepted, you may not be able to make the film idea on which you're accepted. You will work in a team of 3-4 people, thus collaboration and negotiation will take place).

Decision.

Deadline for application is March 15th. We aim to select participants by March 20th.