

# TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

## Moving Image Training Alliance (MITA) Report

This project was developed and undertaken by MITA to 'To audit and map independent training providers working in moving image across the UK, whose practice focuses on work with children and young people aged between 5 and 19 years of age'. It was supported by Into Film as part of its strategic work working with children and young people in moving image. The project took place in autumn 2014, comprising an online survey, focus groups in Sheffield, Bristol, London and Edinburgh, and four case studies.

### FOREWORD BY INTO FILM

*Into Film is a charity that seeks to put film at the heart of children and young people's learning, contributing to their cultural, creative and personal development. Our UK-wide programme of learning through and about film provides 5-19 year olds with unparalleled opportunities to see, think, make and imagine. Funded by the BFI and the film industry through Cinema First, Into Film is delivering a wide reaching programme incorporating a network of film clubs where young people watch and make films, learning resources, teachers and educator training and in cinema activity including the UK's largest free film festival.*

*Whilst the organisation is focused on delivery, we are keen to find ways we can strategically support the film education sector and commissioning an audit of filmmaking practitioners who specialise in working with young people to discover how we can best help the sector become better networked, access training and become sustainable. Into Film welcomes the recommendations from this report and will work with the sector to progress this work.*

### BACKGROUND

Every week, hundreds of talented people learn the art of moving image production through a network of specialist independent training organisations across the UK. Existing research finds more than 30 of these organisations in London's moving image sector alone, each with a reputation for providing high quality, professional training, film production and exhibition opportunities. Together, they help more than 10,000 people across the capital to develop their skills each year<sup>1</sup>. This MITA research project for Into Film expanded on this evidence base to examine and map training providers in moving image across the regions and nations of the UK, with a particular focus on those working with 5-19 year olds.

The independent training sector is an influential presence providing high quality industry-standard training for many years. This ranges from high quality scriptwriter training to technical craft and production skills. The sector operates with a strong social inclusion remit, with many of the individuals who benefit from this training drawn from groups that are under represented in the workforce of the film/media industries. In particular, many organisations are recognised for their strong track record in working with young people aged 5-19 years old.



## KEY FINDINGS

There is a long established sector working across the UK in participatory film and media training with young people aged 5-19 years old. The sector has in-depth knowledge of its local communities, and that knowledge is part of its cultural capital. Its sustainability is due to its ability to meet the needs of its user groups, while adapting to changing funding climates by operating a flexible, mixed economy of funding and own earned income.

### The shape of the sector

- The survey finds **over 160 organisations** with **3243 employees and freelancers**, and **883 volunteers** working in film and media training with young people across the UK.
- The sector is spread across the UK, with largest numbers in Greater London, the South West, the Midlands and Scotland; and the least in the North East and Northern Ireland.
- The sector is very well established: 81% of organisations have been in existence for over five years, 49% for over 11 years.
- The sector is characterised by small companies: 60% have fewer than 5 employees, and 21% 6-10 employees.
- The sector relies heavily on freelance and volunteer staff, particularly for the smaller organisations.

### Reach

- The sector engages an estimated **35,000+ young people a year**, many from under-represented and hard-to-reach groups.

### Engagement

- **96%** of organisations support **young people from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds**, including NEET, SEN, young offenders, BAME young people, and disabled young people.

### Participatory

- A large majority - **88%** of organisations – offer participatory work with young people outside of school settings. Over 56% work in schools.

### The support needs of the sector

Survey respondents identified the most pressing sectoral needs as:

- a. access to funding;
- b. funding partnerships;
- c. access to networks;
- d. promotion of the success stories of individual organisations.

Alongside the survey, four focus groups took place in Bristol, Sheffield, London, and Edinburgh, bringing together small groups of respondents to discuss key issues in greater detail. Each group was made up of practitioners working in participatory film training with young people, and represented a diversity of views from small and large, urban and rural organisations, as well as individual freelancers. Key issues discussed were funding, CPD & support; networks; and quality of delivery and a proposed MITA Code of Good Practice.

Focus group attendees stressed:

- The need for greater engagement of funders and strategy makers with current delivery organisations.
- The importance of continued support for production-led training for young people, and concern about the current lack of provision, which, it is felt will have a negative impact on the sector’s delivery in supporting young people’s ability to engage in film at all levels.

MITA could build on its existing networking and advocacy role to meet the support needs of the sector by:

1. Raising the profile of organisations providing participatory filmmaking for young people;
2. Advocating on behalf of the sector to schools, BFI Film Audience Networks, ACE Bridge organisations, government strategy makers and others (via a website/a new MITA Code of Good Practice);
3. Facilitating sectoral partnerships;
4. Working with funding bodies and strategy makers to support progression routes for young people from 5-19 years;
5. Working with funding bodies and strategy makers to help support sustainable funding models.
6. Developing MITA’s existing Code of Good Practice towards a specific new, sector standard Youth Training Provider Code of Good Practice for organisations working with 5-19 year olds. This would assist Into Film, other funding bodies, schools, youth and community groups in working with future signatory organisations.



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

In assessing the findings of the survey and focus group discussions MITA proposes five key recommendations for further research and implementation:

### 1 **Develop a sector standard Youth Training Provider Code of Good Practice**

MITA, with support from Into Film, to develop a new, sector standard Youth Training Provider Code of Good Practice for organisations working with 5-19 year olds, building on the existing MITA Code.

This would include development of **accompanying Guidelines** for those looking to work with training providers and trainers, to support schools, youth groups and community groups in recruiting appropriately for their programmes. The Code and Guidelines would act as a sector standard, and provide a gateway level of quality assurance.

### 2 **Database of Preferred MITA Training Providers.**

Into Film (and other partners where appropriate), to promote MITA members signed up to the Youth Training Provider Code via a portal or weblink from Into Film's site, or through signposting to MITA's website database of providers based across the regions and nations of the UK who work with young people both in and out of formal education settings.

### 3 **Adapt & roll out Into Film CPD Training for MITA providers**

Into Film's current CPD Practitioner offer to be adapted and extended beyond school settings to provide CPD training for appropriate MITA organisations. This would provide Into Film with significant additional delivery outlets through existing organisations that are working with over 35,000 young people a year, and are experienced in providing high quality, community-based training. MITA organisations provide Into Film with an invaluable means of meeting its targets through expanding its network of providers to generate new film clubs, and engage with schools, teachers and youth groups.

### 4 **Support Networking Opportunities**

A space for providers to meet and share best practice; coordinated via the MITA membership network. Whilst networking was not prioritised in the responses to the survey, this finding was different in the Focus Groups, where attendees strongly voiced their networking expectations of joining MITA and working with Into Film. In particular it was felt that the demise of the Screen Agencies had left a large gap in networking provision. Currently MITA provides several annual networking events in London, but could extend this nationally given additional support.

### 5 **Strategic Support**

Into Film to consider offering small pots of seed match funding, that could support training providers in leveraging significant additional match funding. This was a model that focus groups felt could provide opportunities for Into Film to reach many more young people with minimal outlay. Focus groups were aware that Into Film's current strategy was not to support project funding, but hoped this would be reconsidered.

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<sup>i</sup> *Mapping Independent Production Training in London, 2004. Burns Owens Partnership for Film London*