

What is Fresh Films?

Fresh Films is a Hollywood film set where teens & college students replace the pros. Teams of youth work together, rotating through all film positions – from camera and sound, to editing and effects - gaining technical and life skills. The resulting EMMY quality feature films, TV episodes or commercials are released in theatres, at schools, on DVD, online, on TV, at major retailers and internationally with funds from distribution reinvested to support more youth programming.

What is Fresh Films I AM not disABLEd documentary project?

The Fresh Films I AM not disABLEd documentary project is a documentary that follows the journey of youth with disabilities and their families as they prepare to take part in the Penguin Project. This documentary will raise awareness, understanding and empathy of those challenged with mental health, developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities as it showcases at film festivals, on TV and streaming platforms and in schools.

I thought Fresh Films made films and TV shows?

Yep, we do that too! Films and TV shows are created as part of our Fresh Films summer program. You can apply for that too. There is more info on that near the bottom of this FAQ!

What happens during the I AM not disABLEd documentary project?

Tech Training: 2-day tech training will take place in early November, tentative schedule November 3 from 9:30am-4pm and kicks off with an introduction to all the teens participating in the project. During tech training, you and your fellow filmmakers will develop or improve your camera, audio, and lighting skills!

Production: Production will take place Wednesday evenings from 4:30pm- 6:45pm and Saturdays from 9am-2pm. You will need to commit to one or both of these sessions weekly in order to participate. This is a real working film crew, so some filming days will take place outside of the normal Wednesday and Saturday schedule. You will get on the crew for these days based on your availability. You and your production team will rotate through all the key positions on the set during filming days. Some Saturday sessions may be editing days. You'll use industry standard HD equipment and editing hardware and software to create and edit your project.

Do I need to be available for all sessions to participate in the project?

The apprenticeship will take place Wednesday evenings and Saturdays throughout the months of November-April, so you need to be available one or both of these days of the week.

Where does the project take place?

The I AM ABLE project will take place at the Center for Living Arts (RI) and on location at the homes of participating film subjects.

Who can participate in the program?

The program is open to youth ages 12-18.

Do you have to live in the Quad Cities to participate?

Not necessarily! As long as you can participate on site consistently for either a Saturday or a Wednesday session, you can be from outside of the Quad Cities.

Do you need previous film experience? Or a certain GPA?

There is absolutely no experience necessary to be on a Fresh Films crew! And we don't look at your GPA, but we will help build your resume and tech skills. Teens just need to have a passion to learn, get creative and collaborate with a team. We'll fill you in on the rest!

What kind of film are we creating?

We will be producing a documentary which will follow the stories of youth with disabilities as they perform in the Penguin Project.

Who is being featured in the videos?

Those who are being featured in the project include youth participants and their families involved in the Penguin Project.

How do you apply for the program?

To be part of the Fresh Films production, just go to www.freshfilms.org and fill out the online application.

Who leads the production?

College-aged interns from previous Fresh Films seasons along with our professional filmmakers will work alongside the teen crews showing them everything they need to know.

What happens after you're selected for the film crew?

Once you're selected, you'll need to confirm your participation by sending in your filmmaker's release form. The release form confirms your participation on the crew. We'll also discuss production dates and other needs with you and your parent or guardian.

Do you HAVE to answer the essay questions on the application?

Yes! It's how we determine your passion for filmmaking and choose our teen-filmmaking crews.

Is this a camp?

No horseback riding here! Fresh Films is intensive hands-on filmmaking, where teams of teen filmmakers apprentice alongside professional filmmakers and work on all the aspects of film production. On-set you'll rotate through all key positions on the film-set, working camera, sound, lighting, production, and more.

Will I be paid to participate?

Sorry, no film grants. But we will teach you the producing, directing and editing skills you will need to create your own short film.

How much is this program going to cost?

The program is free to participate in thanks to support from Augustana College, Regional Development Authority, Rock Island Community Foundation, Doris & Victor Day Foundation, Rauch Family Foundation, Murray Foundation and Jaycees.

What do you have to buy?

Nothing! There is no purchase necessary to submit to apply to be a filmmaker with Fresh Films!

What if we already have a crew including actors. Can we make our own film?

Sounds like you're well on your way – congratulations! Fresh Films, however, is a team-oriented experience, from start to finish. Our program isn't designed to produce any one filmmaker's vision. But, we certainly hope you go on to make your own short films!

Who is the director, the cinematographer?

No one filmmaker will be selected over another to serve in any crew position for the duration of the production week. As a Fresh Films Filmmaker, you will rotate through several crew positions, including camera, sound, assistant director, etc, working alongside the professional film crew.

What equipment will we use?

Get ready to start drooling! We use Blackmagic Design and Canon HD cameras, Dell Precision Laptops outfitted with Adobe Premiere. We also have professional sound and lighting packages. It's a Hollywood set – although we have a lot more snacks and less sushi.

How do Actors get involved?

This program may need voice-over actors, and if so, we will post audition information on our website in March and will also share with local talent agents. All actors (union, non-union or enthusiastic newcomers) are encouraged to try out for a paid role in the film.

How do you intern with Fresh Films?

Interns are chosen from our Fresh Films alumni. Once you've participated in the Fresh Films program, you will receive information on how to apply to be an intern for the following year.

Tell me more about your partnership with Augustana College?

Fresh Films is now located on-campus of Augustana College. Fresh Films and the college just launched a new Entertainment Media program (started Fall 2017) and college students at Augustana get to intern and work with Fresh Films all-year long in production, editing, marketing, business and accounting. Our goal is to create leaders in the Entertainment industry who have a well-rounded background of production, technical skills and distribution. We encourage you to check it out as you get closer to college!

What else has Fresh Films produced?

Here are some of the Film and TV projects teens have created as part of Fresh Films! Please check them out – rent, download, stream or buy – and support your fellow teens!

+ "Alternate Universe: A Rescue Mission" is a science adventure film starring 80's superstar Steve Guttenberg that had nearly 200 teenagers from Colorado to New Jersey working on-set or in the editing bay. The film launched at a White House Educational event, and just released at Redbox, Family Video, iTunes, Amazon, Target and on all major cable systems.

www.alternateuniverserescue.com

+ "The Stream" starring Rainn Wilson and Mario Lopez released in theatres and then on iTunes, Amazon and at Walmart. The film was created by over 160 teens from Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and other cities. The program was made possible thanks to AT&T, Taco Bell Foundation and Century 21. You can see it here: www.thestreammovie.com

+ Emmy-nominated show "Detectives Club" has kid-detectives seeking the scientific truth in every episode – like do belugas really sing? Or do people interact with dinosaurs? Premiered on PBS WTTW Chicago, the show is re-launching in late 2018 with even more episodes and kid-detectives. View a trailer here <https://vimeo.com/127275089>

+ And most recently, teens in Chicago and Los Angeles worked on new TV Pilots! New shows "Miskits" presented by Subway and "Gwen's World of Weird", presented by AT&T just released to Hollywood heavyweights from AT&T, Disney, Warner Brothers, Amazon, National Geographic, Fullscreen Media and even to a producer at Star Trek! You can view the TV Pilots at freshfilms.org/watch-our-films.php

Who is Fresh Films?

Fresh Films / Dreaming Tree Films has been around since 2002 – and have made it our mission is to ignite youth through creativity. Our authentic film platforms give teens hands-on experiences, real-life skills and a heightened responsibility to succeed. Teens have called it "the best time of their lives" and over 250 media outlets have showcased the teens' work.

For nearly a decade, our Fresh Films (www.fresh-films.org) program has been the largest national platform for youth creativity. Hollywood Celebrities including Mario Lopez, Rainn Wilson, Usher, Jonathan Lithgow, Dominic Monaghan, Natasha Bedingfield, Alexa Vega, JoAnna Garcia Swisher, Sean Astin & many others have acted or participated in the teen-created films. You can learn more or make a donation towards the program by visiting www.dreamingtreefoundation.org.

Have a question you're sure we didn't answer? email us at iamable@freshfilms.org