

## **Film and Television**

### **General Production Breakdown**

#### **Synopsis**

A general overview of the departments and crews involved in Production.

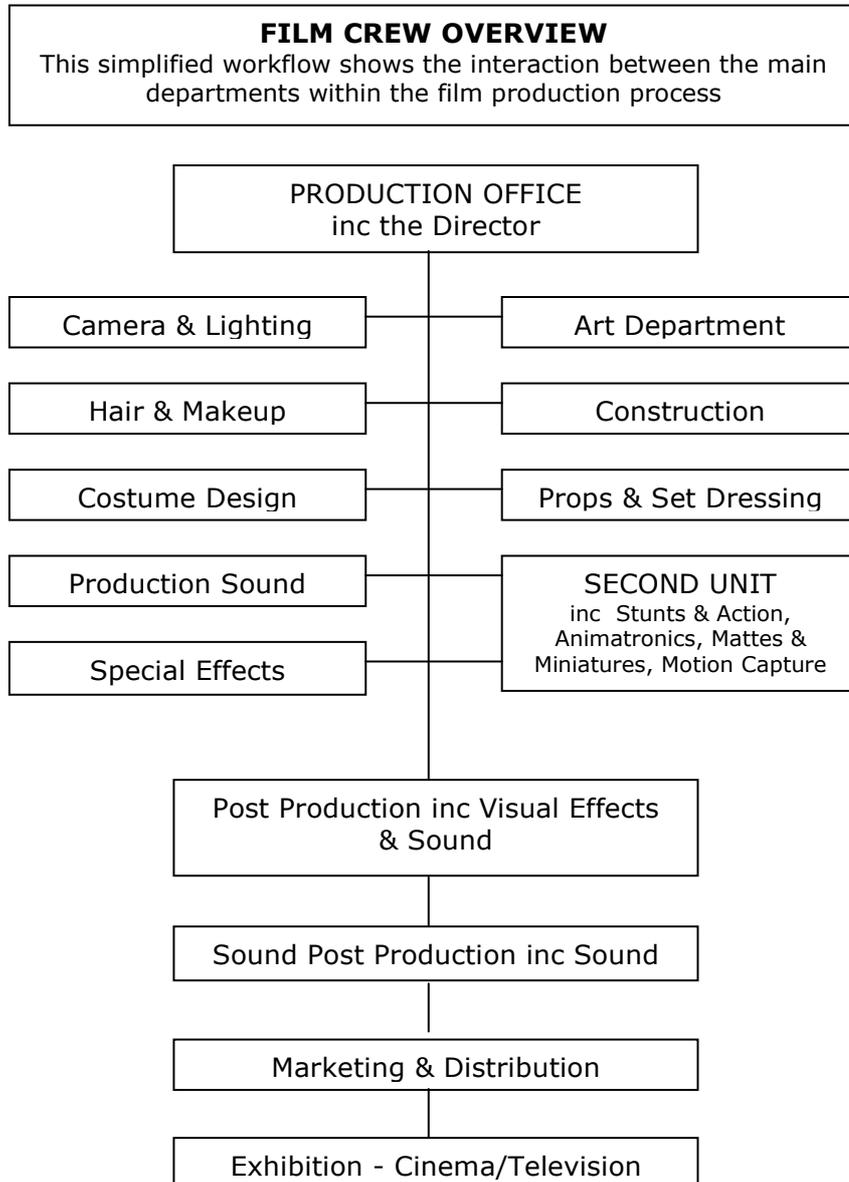
**Author: Wendy Laybourn**

**Author Web: <https://networkninenews.com>**

**Company Logo:**

**Copyright © Network Nine News 2017**

**FILM CREW OVERVIEW**



## **FILM PRODUCTION**

**First Unit** - Main characters on set and location with primary director, cinematographer and full crew.

Skills involved are camera; lighting; sound; set design; hair & makeup; costume design; construction (this crew can number 200 + depending on the number of sets locations involved)

### **Second Unit**

The number of separate units depends on the size of the film budget and the storyline -

### **Personnel**

All as the First Unit but to include Special Physical Effects (stunts, pyrotechnics etc - engineering and chemical based knowledge) - under the control of the Special Effects Supervisor.

Although the main characters may be involved, these are mainly stunt performers and stand-ins with secondary director, cinematographer and crew - generally crew who are used to working in action sequences – e.g. vehicles, animals, underwater etc

### **Visual Effects**

(computer generated effects - green screen, motion capture)

Usually main characters and primary director with specialist crew - for example motion capture which has very specific equipment and skills in use - as with Andy Serkis as Gollum in 'Lord of the Rings'

Once the motion capture and green screen footage is shot this will go to one or two selected post houses to finish. All under the control of the Visual Effects Supervisor both on set and in post.

## **ANIMATION**

Stop Motion with figures – e.g. Wallace & Gromit

Animatronics - figures with remotely operated moving parts - not much used now with the advent of CGI.

Puppets as in the Muppets and early Thunderbirds.

Cell-based animation as in original Disney films

Computer generated images as in modern Disney films

## TELEVISION PRODUCTION

**Dramas** are usually shot by selected production companies in the same way as film and distributed by the television company - as are reality shows such as 'The Voice' and 'Big Brother'

**News and current affairs** are still mainly done by the television companies in-house - things like 'This Morning' and 'Loose Women' by ITV.

The equipment used for this is very studio-based, unlike film equipment which has to be portable and mobile. Usually the cameras are on pedestals as the shots tend to be quite static.

Outside broadcast facilities will be used by both television companies and production companies for live streams such as the BAFTA Awards.

Within these live venues there will be several static cameras with other cameramen using Steadicam or similar hand-held equipment in order to capture the action. All fed back to the OB vehicles which will be outside with their own generator trucks.

### Equipment standards

The broadcasters are setting down new rules about which cameras are acceptable - which the film makers are beginning to be very unhappy with.

This is all to do with 4G and bandwidths. This is very much influenced and driven by the manufacturers of televisions who are pushing 4G sets onto the market

What we're looking for in television training is much the same ethos as in film - except that it is more digitally based with a greater emphasis electronics to keep the footage at broadcast quality.

The skills of camera work, sound, lighting, composition, effects are generally the same although there may be the difference in certain equipment.

Jobs in television are generally on a yearly contract as opposed to film which is mainly freelance. As with sound, television needs a certain degree of equipment knowledge and troubleshooting ability.