

We asked people who have taken part in Diversity Films' programmes the question:

What has Diversity Films done for you?

Here is what they said...

It made me realise my dream.

2/6/2012 6:43 PM

sad to hear the news about no more films from diversity films due to lack of funding, it's another nail in the coffin for working class people trying to get involved in filmmaking with professional guidance and promotion assisted to them which is a unique and rare bonus and incentive to anyone who has a passion in filmmaking and can be from any background

1/31/2012 11:38 PM

Being a part of Diversity has chosen my career path. I never expected to go down the route of photography and film making and it is something i am going to do for a very long time

1/31/2012 3:44 PM

It was the first place where I did a more meaningful voluntary work: I worked within a small, dedicated and passionate team, which helped me a lot at the time to have more purpose and contributing ideas, plus gave me a really big motivation. It was really great to have been able to discover other communities of Glasgow, and make films with people there, so much good fun! plus worked with a variety of people from refugees to teenagers making their own music band. I learned a lot as well: using a camcorder, conducting an interview, organising film collections ...I really wish I could have still volunteered there!

1/29/2012 3:34 PM

Without Diversity Films I would not have been able to make my projects to the level I have. I have gained more skills in a short period of time that I had in previous years looking for work experience within companies. Diversity Films gave me and others a chance when no one else would. I will forever be indebted to them and would not hesitate to help them in the future if I was able to assist.

1/28/2012 6:08 PM

Being able to experience at first hand the dedication and commitment of the staff in taking the 'mistique' out of film making. This approach allowed those who would otherwise be somewhat reticent in becoming involved to approach this discipline with added confidence. Diversity Films is all about community activity and the way they i.e. the community can participate in the Film Industry.

1/28/2012 5:54 PM

Working with Diversity Films showed me what I needed to see to become a filmmaker. The help and experience i have gained through this will continue through out my career in whatever direction I decide to go.

1/28/2012 5:23 PM

Getting involved with Diversity was one of the most creatively rewarding things I have done in my life. I met great people, I learned new skills, I felt involved in something worthy

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and it has given me hope that I may be able to get involved in more film making like this in the future.

1/28/2012 2:24 PM

Before I attended Diversity Films workshops I was a manic depressive, but they gave me something to look forward to and gave me some self worth. as well as teaching me a lot of aspects in the making of a film. Although I know there is so much more they could teach me, I enjoyed everything they had to offer. and know of nowhere else I would have got this level of expertise and encouragement. Since Diversity I have entered the film I co-P produced, into several different festivals. To see the reaction of the public to the films we all produced was a great feeling. I have kept writing hoping that funding will be found for more film ideas. Doing this made me get out and about since this I seem to have lost the get up and go this provided me with.

1/27/2012 9:01 PM

Diversity has been an invaluable aide in entering the film and television profession in Scotland. I was invited to meet lots of nice, interesting people who were already working in the industry. I was also given the opportunity to freely get involved with others who, like me, were keen to learn more about all aspects of making our own films and/or becoming a professional. Since its inception in 2007 Diversity Films has progressed with their programmes year-on-year so more successes are sure to follow, and as such, is a valuable resource that must not be lost.

1/27/2012 4:41 PM

It was fun being involved with Starting Block, I learnt about documentary film-making and getting your message across, and how film can give you a voice and help you to share your experiences of disability or other stuff.

1/27/2012 12:47 PM

I gained a valuable insight into the business of film making and gained a great deal of skills that are useful in other areas. I felt my time was well spent and would recommend Diversity to anyone interested in film making.

1/27/2012 10:27 AM

I have always been passionate about film making and diversity gave me the chance to direct and produce my first film. I wouldn't have been able to do this otherwise. I was given the chance to use professional equipment and train with industry professionals. As well as this I met great, like minded people who will be useful contacts and great friends. Everything I have gained from working with Diversity has been invaluable to me and I can't stress enough how much of a loss I feel it would be if Diversity was no longer available to Scottish film makers in the future!

1/26/2012 6:33 PM

Learned new skills had fun and new friends.

1/26/2012 9:38 AM

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For me Diversity Films is more than a community that I love to be in. They are like my second parents. When I first arrived to Glasgow, Diversity Films encouraged me to work professionally in the film industry. Some of the many important influences were organising workshops within professional bodies, i.e. sound dubbing sessions at BBC (even few times) and 422.tv. Also because of my taking part with Diversity Films in filmmaking my name is knowing in filmmaking community and in the database (imdb) in the internet. I would encourage funding bodies to keep Diversity Films operating, because what they do are very important activities, especially involving teenagers and many other diversities of people (local and asylum seekers and refugees). Leo Saidenough.

1/25/2012 9:07 PM

My experience with Diversity Films, was working with film making equipment, a highly skilled team, to be valued by the team and the other participants. I felt comfortable and despite my lack of skills with technology I was able to contribute to the Barras Story. I really enjoyed the story boarding, carrying out research and taking pictures at the Barras which were included in another project at a Photographic Exhibition. I was really proud of my name being on the credits of the Barras Story and the follow on exhibition.

1/25/2012 8:00 PM

Diversity Films opened up a whole new part of life for me. So much that I think I could make a living on some of the skills that Diversity Films has taught me.

1/25/2012 7:24 PM

It's really great that an organisation exists that gives indie filmmakers the chance to develop their skills and ideas.

1/25/2012 7:23 PM

I have loved every moment of my participation with Diversity Films, from learning how to set up cameras, to seeing completed films appear on the big screen. All of the trainees were involved in a great deal of teamwork and discussion as to how to make the best film possible, and were given all the support and guidance from the staff at Diversity Films to help make this possible. We appeared at a variety of film festivals over the course of the last year, as well as appearing at more local venues, where we would be available for a Q and A session from the audience. This was a real confidence builder for all concerned, as all of the films were so well received wherever we went. This all stems from the first class training we got from everyone at Diversity Films, and shows just how important an organisation they are when they give such great opportunities to people such as ourselves who might never have been able to access such training without their help. I can't emphasise strongly enough how much this experience has enriched my life, and brought great joy as well as encouragement and education to me, a disabled man who has very little of the above available to me. There are many others who could be helped out of the poverty of opportunity and one of the best ways of doing so would be to continue to fund

Diversity Films in increasing the reach of the arts to people like myself. They were fantastic.

1/25/2012 6:44 PM

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Diversity Films has given me access to a world that I normally would not inhabit. It has broadened my horizons both in a work and a social sense. The work they do for communities and young or inexperienced film makers is invaluable.

1/25/2012 6:27 PM

Hi James Casey here, stating that if it wasn't for Diversity I would not be where i am just now. I participated in two films one playing the lead role and a small part in another which I am extremely grateful for. Marie Olesen from Diversity put me in touch with Ken Loach whom I met in November 2010 and then I got another call in 2011 to audition for a part in his new feature he was making in Scotland. I did really well at the first audition and I got another call back in mid february and then I got the best news I have had in a long time that I had secured the role of Dougie in his new film, 'The Angel's Share' which I filmed between May and June that year and will be released the summer of 2012. Diversity has helped me and so many others progress through telling stories through films which is the best way to get peoples thoughts and feelings across!. Regards James Casey

1/25/2012 5:55 PM

I cannot quantify how much Diversity Films has helped me professionally, educationally and personally over the past year I have known them. I was part of the Starting Block programme, which gave me the opportunity to make my own short film. Not only did they give me a budget for the film, but I was given invaluable one to one writing and directing mentorship, which has given me skills I have utilised since the end of the project and I know I will be using for years to come. I was stuck in a rut that I was having trouble getting out of until a friend persuaded to enter a script idea to the Diversity Films Starting Block programme. Now I have a film that has been in over 100 film festivals worldwide, has given me the opportunity travel (Creative Scotland funded me to support the film at Palm Springs Shortfest and the Iris Prize, a cash prize I was nominated for by London) and has won me money with which I made my next short film with confidence, knowing I had the skills from my mentoring process. Today alone I have to send the film out to 7 requests, such as India, Mexico, New Zealand, Italy, and Korea, a year after production. Inspired by Diversity Films approach in the film industry, I started a filmmaking group made for experienced and non experienced filmmakers who want to get people together to share ideas, talent and skills. The group consists of workshops on different areas of film, taught by local talent in the area and in the industry and allows people to bring their scripts and discuss them. Since starting up 6 months ago we already have between 20 - 30 people who attend our meetings regularly, we have almost 200 members on Facebook and 3 short films made and a fourth and fifth in production. Our youngest attendee is 14. All this as I felt I wanted to share and give others the opportunity to experience what I achieved with Diversity Films. The amount of friends I have made since working with Diversity Films is awesome, from backgrounds I may not have come into contact with otherwise. I would be very sad to see Diversity Films go, not just for myself, but I get anxious there won't be others getting the same the opportunities I did with them.

1/25/2012 5:35 PM

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My involvement has allowed me to attain new skills since retirement. This has been beneficial in ensuring that I have a rewarding life and gives me the ability to help charitable and educational institutes.

1/25/2012 5:23 PM

Diversity Films was a terrific experience. I've made 3 short films for the church prior to my contact with Diversity. Having had mental health problems, which facilitated my attendance at the course, I found it helped me mix with people again whilst doing something close to my heart. However, all further involvement stopped when, despite my prolific experience at script writing, sketches, acting, producing etc., the sort of material I generate was not considered appropriate for the competition that was run for a film making project. This was not the fault of Diversity Films in any way but I missed future involvement - good look to all of you guys!

1/25/2012 4:53 PM

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Top Result? Inspiration!

