





**FILM-X - A FILM EXPLORATION CENTRE AT CINEMATHEQUE  
- IS THE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE'S COMPUTER-BASED FILM  
STUDIO FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.**

**Thirteen networked activities invite young filmmakers to explore the medium of film. The various studios are the setting for directing, acting in and shooting short films in both physical and virtual universes. It is also possible to make flipbooks, stop-motion animation and claymation. After shooting a film, the soundtrack can be recorded in the sound studio. The editing computer is used for editing films and selecting sounds and music. The finished film production is burned on a DVD.**

## INTRODUCTION

A visit to FILM-X starts by viewing an introductory film in Cinema Benjamin, Cinematheque. The intro film presents the various options available at FILM-X. After a brief guided tour of the facilities, visitors are assigned to film crews in the various recording studios. Each crew is given a magnetic card giving them access to the various activities - at the proper level for each crew.

As filmmaking requires a team effort, it is a good idea to decide which roles and functions - i.e. actor(s), cinematographer, director, sound technician and editor - should be assigned to the various crew members. Qualified film instructors are ready to provide advice and assistance.

## ACTIVITIES

STUDIO 1, STUDIO 2 and STUDIO 3 are for experimenting with plot, directing, acting, dialogue, and filming. STUDIO 4 is for making your own flipbook or trick film. ANIMATION is for experimenting in stop-motion animation or claymation. SOUND is for recording your own sounds - both sound effects and voice-overs - for your filmed sequences. EDIT has seven editing computers. This is where you edit the sequences you have filmed into the final film and add sounds and music. The last step in the process is the burning of the finished film on a DVD in the FILM-X LAB. The final film can last up to two minutes for levels A and B and up to five minutes for Level C. See STREAMING.

*See the intro film, background sequences and insert shots on [www.film-x.dk](http://www.film-x.dk).*

## STUDIO 1

Studio 1 combines physical sets with a virtual studio and green screen techniques. You shoot your film sequences in a mixture of real and computer-made worlds. There are four background sequences to choose from:

- 1) In 'Magic Powers', a pile of rubble can be transformed into a castle and a witch's spell can be broken.
- 2) In 'The Dinosaurs', the streets of Copenhagen are terrorised by dinosaurs.
- 3) In 'The Fairytale Palace', you write your own plot in a palace setting - such as Hans Christian Andersen's 'Clumsy Hans'.
- 4) In 'The Steadfast Tin Soldier' you have to rescue the Tin Soldier from drowning in water flowing in the gutter. The film is a dramatic scene from a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen.

Studio 1 is ideal for filming action, adventure and romance. Sound effects, dialogue and music can be added afterwards. Insert shots are available for both 'The Dinosaurs' and 'The Steadfast Tin Soldier' and can be edited into the films.

## STUDIO 2

Studio 2 is a totally virtual studio for performing experiments with the 'green screen' technique. First, the actors' performance is filmed in front of a green screen. Then the computer is used to combine these studio sequences with background sequences from the various films in which the action is performed. There are four background sequences to choose from:

- 1) In 'Bottom of the Sea' the actors have to dive to the bottom of the sea, find the pearl and avoid a shark!
- 2) In 'The Sweet Shop', the actors are magically reduced to Lilliputian size and go prowling about on a sweet shop counter.
- 3) In 'The U-Boat' the actors submerge in a submarine to hunt for a chest filled with treasures or a bomb!
- 4) In 'The Tinderbox' - a modern version of a scene from Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale - the actors ride on a lift below ground and have to get past the fairytale's two dogs. They have to grab the gold and the tinderbox and then have a showdown with the witch!

Studio 2 requires the crew to focus on coordinating movements and viewing angles. As insert shots are available for 'The Sweet Shop', 'The U-Boat' and 'The Tinderbox', these films can be edited. Sounds and music can be added to all films.

## STUDIO 3

In Studio 3, you can work with 'rear-screen projection'. The main prop is an authentic Morris Mascot. There are four different background sequences to choose from:

- 1) In 'Car Chase', the actors try to shake off a pursuer in a Jaguar.
- 2) In 'Seaside Drive' the actors drive a car on a seaside road.
- 3) In 'Four Flying Wheels' the actors fly in the car over a mountainous landscape.
- 4) In 'The Ugly Duckling' the Mascot/Duckling is pursued by an evil duck along a dark street in a sinister neighbourhood. All the ingredients are in place for a modern version of a scene from Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale.

As Studio 3 is the only recording studio equipped with microphones, it is possible to work on the dialogue right in the studio. As insert shots are available for all four background sequences, these sequences can be edited, and sound effects and music can also be added/mixed.

## STUDIO 4

Studio 4 is for experimenting with animation forms like pixilation and stop-motion techniques. Young animators can either make their own flipbook or a trick film. To make the flipbook, 36 photographs are taken of someone moving around in front of the camera - in just 3 seconds. The photos are printed on paper which can then be collected in a flipbook. By quickly flipping through the pages, the illusion of movement makes the photos come alive - like a short film. Trick films are made using a similar method, the individual photos are merely combined into a short film. Trick films are used as an exercise for actors working here to play different roles before making their own real film in Studio 1, 2 or 3. Sounds and music can be added to the trick film in EDIT.

## ANIMATION

In Animation, you can experiment with stop-motion animation or claymation. If you choose to work with stop-motion animation, you have a selection of animated characters, for use against various backdrops. If you choose to make claymation, you have to make your own character in modelling clay, choose a universe for the plot - such as a horror-movie, pirate or teenager universe - and then animate your figures in a light box.

A plot is written and filmed using the stop-motion technique of taking one photo at a time, moving the figures or dolls slightly, taking the next photo, and so on. The result is one continuous movement/action - a short film.

It is possible to draw your own background beforehand (A4 landscape-format) and bring in your favourite animated heroes and villains from home. Drawings cannot be made at FILM-X.

## SOUND

The sound studio is for recording dialogue, voice-overs, sound effects and music for your film.

## EDIT

FILM-X has seven digital editing computers. They can be used here for editing the sequences you filmed in the film studio by adding insert shots. This is also where the sounds recorded in SOUND are synchronised with the film sequences and where sound effects and music are added. EDIT has a sound archive that includes a 'musical toolbox'. EDIT has three soundtracks with space for adding dialogue and voice-over, atmosphere sounds and sound effects as well as music.

## FILM-X LAB.

At the FILM-X Lab, you can burn a finished film on a DVD and take it home with you. There are seven DVD burners in all.



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## STREAMING

A visit to FILM-X starts by selecting your preferred level of work. FILM-X has three levels of difficulty: A, B and C.

### Level A (ages 6 to 9 years / up to 3rd form)

Level A is for working on directing and acting, filming with one camera and for adding sounds and music to the filmed sequences.

### Level B (ages 10 to 14 years / 4th to 7th form)

Level B is for working on directing and acting, two-camera editing (STUDIO 1 and 2), sound mixing and adding music and insert shots. Films are edited in EDIT using the overlay technique.

### Level C (ages 15 years and above / 8th form, upper secondary school, upper preparatory school and adult education centres).

Level C is for working on directing and acting, two-camera filming (STUDIO 1 and 2), sound mixing, as well as adding music and insert shots. In EDIT, films are edited using the insert technique.

*The streaming indicated above is intended as a guide.*

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## WEEKEND VISITS

FILM-X is open at weekends and during school holidays to those who wish to try their hand at film production. FILM-X provides a setting for spending active, entertaining time together and is perfect for families with children and groups of children and adolescents. Each visit lasts 2,5 hours. To get the most out of the possibilities offered by FILM-X, each film crew should consist of four to six people. We recommend: 1 director, 1 cinematographer, and 2-4 actors. Based on your preferences, we designate which recording studios at FILM-X you will use. It may be necessary to make up crews by mixing people from the different groups that have turned up. Individuals may also visit FILM-X.

### TARGET GROUP

Children 6 years and up. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 must be accompanied by one adult: 1 adult for every six children. **ADULTS ONLY IN THE COMPANY OF CHILDREN.**

### OPENING HOURS

#### Saturday and Sunday

**Visit 1: 12:00noon-02:30pm**

**Visit 2: 03:15-05:45pm**

### BOOKING VISITS AT THE WEEKEND

Cinematheque's ticket office: tel. +45 3374 3412, Tuesday-Friday 09:30am-10:00pm / Saturday-Sunday 12:00noon-10:00pm.

Reserved tickets must be picked up no less than two days before a visit. It is usually possible to book FILM-X for special events outside normal opening hours and for a surcharge, e.g. teambuilding for a group of adults. Further details: film-x@dfi.dk

### ADMISSION

A visit to FILM-X costs DKK 30.00 per person, which covers the cost of materials.

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## SCHOOL VISITS

FILM-X gives schools the opportunity to combine experimental and practical activities with the school's (film) theory lessons. The FILM-X Education Service plans and carries out instruction at FILM-X Tuesday through Friday. Educational material and teacher's books are available for these visits. The primary target group consists of students and pupils from primary and lower secondary schools (forms 0 to 10), upper secondary schools, higher preparatory schools and adult education programmes (VUC).

### OPENING HOURS

#### Tuesday through Friday

**Visit 1: 09:00am-12:00noon**

**Visit 2: 12:45-03:45pm**

### BOOKING SCHOOL VISITS

Schools can book visits by phoning +45 3374 3410 Tuesday through Friday, 1-3pm. Educational and technical advice is available by phoning +45 3374 3670, 1-3pm on Mondays.

### ADMISSION

In principle, admission to FILM-X is free, but a fee must be paid in advance of the visit to cover the cost of materials:

**DKK 250 + VAT (max. 10 pupils)**

**DKK 350 + VAT (11-19 pupils)**

**DKK 450 + VAT (20-28 pupils).**

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## CAPACITY AND STAFF

A maximum of 25 persons may visit FILM-X at one time, including adults (weekend visit) and a maximum of 28 pupils (school visit). FILM-X has a team of film experts and educational guides at its disposal. Two guides are usually available during each visit.

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## FURTHER DETAILS

For further details, please visit [www.film-x.dk](http://www.film-x.dk) and [www.skoletjenesten.dk](http://www.skoletjenesten.dk).

Any questions please contact film-x@dfi.dk. Head of FILM-X Centre / FILM-X Education Service: Anne Bertram: tel. +45 3374 3670. Please note that a new head of FILM-X will take over in the autumn of 2007.

## **PUBLISHER**

FILM-X

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Skoletjenesten

**|| FILM. A**  
**DANISH FILM INSTITUTE**