

Film and Video Production Podcast Transcript

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Now and get back, where ninety eight point seven percent of our students earn a career. On today's episode, we're going to look at film and media production, one of the hottest industries in Georgia. We're going to talk to an instructor, current students, and a graduate working in the industry. What we won't be doing is talking to you like you're in a sixth grade Career Day assembly.

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Simply welcome to tech, where you can be better. You will learn about the latest in broadcast technology transmitting visual images. And so it is relevant too.

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Can you get paid after going through the film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Tech? Yes, yes, you can.

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So my name is Graham Smith. I currently am working as a video technician for a company called Vision. All that does corporate live events. And primarily I work with robo cameras, but I do all kinds of other things here and there and jump in with actual sets of hands, with audio lighting levels, all kinds of different parts of that event, space and production that's needed. I am a full time salaried position doing that, and it's working out very, very well for me. So far, every single chat tech graduate that I've met out in the field has done very well for themselves and one of them is actually a really good friend of mine. He graduated about 10 years before me and I ended up interning for him because he was looking for an intern and I applied for that internship. And as it turns out, he was a chat tech graduate. So we interviewed and then I came in and did an internship for that. But since then, since doing that internship, he calls me back all the time to help him with projects for his job. It's contracted freelance work, but there's that network and that comes from both of us having gone to chat tech. And we're able to talk about, oh, yeah, I remember that teacher Janice and I remember the class and we

did that. And there's that, like, surprise exam at the end of the semester for that class. And, you know, like, you know, you're able to kind of there's that camaraderie there and there's a network there, which is interesting because it's only a tech school. You know, you think of like Yuga or University State of Georgia or things like that. And those are cool schools. But Chat Tech also has that same kind of network with people like that and who are good, you know, they work hard and they have those skills to do things and they go out and do it. And so I think if you really want it and you go to chat tech, you can definitely make it happen.

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Let's meet some current students and find out what classes are really like.

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My name is Pamela Dubravka. I have my own photography company specializing in corporate events, and I started in the program at Chattahoochee Tech because I wanted to learn video to add to my photography company.

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I'm just in general, I am a student at Cerruti Check and I'm about to graduate with the TV and film production technology degree.

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When people ask me, teach me how to use my camera, it's well, you got to use your camera to learn how to use your camera. I can't just tell you. And I saw that in the classes, too.

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Pamela makes a good point. You have to actually do it. If you're going to learn it

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in all the classes, they will show you how to do it. They'll give you examples of how to do it. They'll give you a theory of how to do it, exactly why they're given the assignments, and then you have to do it. And it still can be frustrating because you have to do it and that's how you learn to do it. Some of the things that I shot at the beginning,

am I going to include in my reel. No, but some of the things definitely everything I've done has been useful.

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You really get to learn like, OK, this is what a camera can do. This is what the end product will look like. And this is going into that. And I now know, OK, I can I can shoot this scene knowing what the editor behind me is going to be able to do.

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I know you're asking yourself, is a hands on approach worthwhile? Will it actually help me in the real world? Let's ask Graham.

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I was a first year, our second year. I was a second year student at Caltech in the television production program. This other guy was a senior and he was about to graduate. But he had never touched Premier Pro, which is an editing software, video editing software, and he's applying for this internship. But he spent four years at his university and had never even, you know, didn't know anything about that. He's like, I don't know anything about that. And he never took a class on it. No, nothing. I had spent one year at Caltech and I was already in it. I was already in the program. I was not a master, but I knew how to keep up. I knew how to be more valuable to that employer. And I ended up getting the internship because of that.

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The film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Tech gives you practical experience from the very beginning.

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My name is Meredith Mieux. I'm the lead instructor for the film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Tech. Our program is very project based. We like to be hands on because we have them for less time than a four year institution would have them. You know, week number two, you you know, they start on projects. We're you know, we're we're run and we hit the ground running.

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You pick up a camera, you touch a camera, you learn how to white balance, you learn how to focus, you learn how to zoom. You learn how to basically, you know, all the basic functions of what a camera does, a modern camera. And then they do touch on like on set etiquette and and, you know, the shot protocols and things like that, things that the director and everybody is going to be calling out in lighting. I really enjoyed the lighting, you learn basically how to light different scenarios for, you know, drama or interview or commercial or whatever it is, you know, you really start to understand how lighting takes place and what the viewer is able to see. You learn some really solid editing techniques. You start out using Prempro, which many listeners probably don't realize. That's what a lot of TV shows are edited on. So obviously, that's a very valuable skill in the industry. With that,

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in the film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Tech, you'll be writing, shooting video, creating graphics, editing footage and polishing products from the first semester to the last.

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The biggest advantage that I got from school that's helping me now is being very hands on with things, not just talking about it, but also being able to do it. You know, there's a discussion of how you do these different things, but then you immediately go into the hands on side of it and actually practicing it. I know personally other people who have graduated from other universities where they've had that theory and they've had that, you know, they talk about it, but they don't really have the hands on part of it. And I man, I wish I had gone to chat tech because I would have been, you know, been able to get my hands on this stuff a lot sooner and be more prepared for the working world. So that's a huge advantage. Huge plus of tech is most of the work you do. Well, pretty much all of it is talked about and then it's actually practiced in real time. And, you know, by the time you're done, you know how to do it and you've done it. It's not just you've talked about doing it, but you've actually completed the process and done it, whether it's things in post with video or audio or setting up lights or punching up a switcher for cameras or just for directing or, you know, just having a fluid, having a basic at least a basic understanding of how a section below and how production works and getting things done on time with deadlines

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and all of that narrative filmmaking. I really enjoyed that class. I didn't think I was going to because I don't enjoy writing or really like trying to come up with a story. But that was one of my favorite classes, actually. You learn basically how a film is made from IDL all

the way to production. You have to turn in casting calls. You have to turn in, you know, permissions to properties that you film on. I mean, it's if you're using animals, you know, shoot, then you have to use those kind of permissions, children, all kinds of stuff. And they go in and they teach you how to use different programs on how to find actors, where to find actors, where to find three actors to draw students here. So it's all very valuable things that I feel like are going to really pay off.

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What are the instructors like? Good question.

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In all the jobs that I had, media I was in, that being the person, I was training people and I loved it. I loved kind of introducing people into the field and, you know, showing them how to create something that was, you know, floating around in their brain and then making it, you know, come to reality, I guess. And that was kind of when the light bulb went off, like, oh, this is a path that I can take. So, yeah, then I kind of sought out finding some teaching opportunities. We're really working hard to hone the skills and to give you something that's tangible to run with because the digital content or media and storytelling is not going anywhere. If anything, it's just going to blow up more than it already has. So we're trying to create the best possible visual storytellers that we can create the instructors.

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I realized that Meredith Muse and Tom Logan, another instructor, are great resources and they've been really supportive of who I am and what I'm learning.

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It is a super unique environment in the fact that so many of the instructors that were here are so passionate about what they teach because they come from that field. You're getting a lot of instruction from people who literally have come directly from that field or still working it. And, you know, that's an insight that I think is just invaluable. And we pride ourselves on being super hands on. You know, I teach several of the production courses and, you know, the first week is, hey, how are you doing? And the next week is let's grab this gear and go out and shoot video and then put it together. Let's work on figuring out how to be storytellers.

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The way that she teaches is very understandable. So I appreciate that aspect because I work well knowing exactly what to do to

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how to learn it. You know, our technical director and was running like sideline cameras for football games and like all manner of sporting events, you know, through college. So. I did a short stint kind of interview at ESPN and went, yeah, this is this is what I want to do. And then I was like, no, this is not what I did. So, you know, it's like everybody, you know, there was a lot of trial and error. I directed news for for several years. And then I went to the marketing world and really kind of saw the other side of, you know, how you can wield these powers, you know, for for influence and marketing and kind of branding and things like that. And done a lot of freelance in terms of, you know, just shooting stuff and editing stuff, mostly like live production, concerts and things of that nature. I kind of gravitated toward towards the live production.

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So let's say you decide to go through the film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Tech. What can you do with your life after you're done?

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There is no one definition for success in this industry. And I think that's what's so awesome and unique about it, is that you can find a niche and go with it. You know, if it's some thing that you're passionate about or something that you're interested in, there's a place for you to do that.

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So I have totally fallen in love with camera work. And ever since I picked up a camera and the first Internet TV class, it was like one of those broadcasts over the shoulder, you know, shoulder. Yeah, cameras. But yeah, ever since I picked it up and started working on that, that's I fell in love with that. And so hopefully I will be doing camera work. You know, this isn't a camera, a camera operator and then eventually way on down the line, if I can prove myself and the director of photography or cinematographer is at the top of that

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department, there's two tracks that students can choose from. There's a studio technician track which really focuses more on multicam production. So that would be not only your standard kind of broadcast, either sports news, but also using multiple cameras in, you know, TV shows or live production, really kind of just covering all of those bases. And then there's a film technician track and those students would take the narrative filmmaking class and the documentary filmmaking class and just give them a little bit more practice on the long form storytelling aspect instead of as a little kind of one off, you know, minute to two minute type projects. So it's really a matter of what sparked your interest. And we pride ourselves on really giving students a very well-rounded experience. You know, we go over lots of different types of projects, you know, from PSA and commercial to those long form kind of documentary and narrative stories is what

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it sounds like. The film and video production technology program covers a lot, doesn't it ? But is it all worth it?

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I think it's absolutely valuable to at least know all of those different processes, even if you're not going to do it yourself. Have an understanding of what your other guy on the crew is doing helps a whole lot. It makes you a lot more marketable if it makes your productions way easier. And that's something you don't really know until you experience it. But having the benefit of going to school at tech and, you know, learning all those different things being introduced to it, even if you don't follow through with that after you graduate, it still is really valuable to know some things about post work. Even if you're like, I'm never going to sit at a computer, I hate this. I just want to do cameras. I just want to be on set all the time. That's cool. But it really helps you to understand what the next guy is going to be dealing with, you know, when you had to deal with it yourself in school.

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I believe what Chattahoochee Tech has taught me and is the direction on how to further teach myself without getting bogged down with all the nonsense, you know, because anybody can go on to, you know, YouTube University and learn basically anything you want nowadays. But knowing where to know and knowing what questions to ask is what I've learned, which is extremely short. Because you don't know. You don't know. You know what I'm saying? So I think Chatterji Tech helped me out tremendously. And those are guides for sure.

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For more information about the film and video production technology program at Chattahoochee Technical College, visit Chattahoochee Tech dot edu. Thanks for listening to that Eighty-seven chit chat where ninety eight point seven percent of our students earn a career. This podcast is a production of Edbrooke.