Budget Proposal for Short Film in 2018

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First and foremost, I want to create an LLC. I have looked into doing this online via Legal Zoom and it’s not terribly expensive. It would cost about $200 for the initial paper work and then about $40/month for maintenance and legal fees. You have to have a “registered agent” to start an LLC and I’m also looking into options locally so that I might have a more personal relationship with my legal agent rather than just being appointed one by Legal Zoom. I have decided to name my LLC “Krafty Productions”. The phrase “crafty” is slang for craft services. Crafty also means cunning, creative and clever. Add a ‘K’ in the place of the ‘C’ and that hearkens back to my first and last initials. There’s also a sense that I will be feeding people with my work. I want to be a nurturing force in the world and so the implied connection to Craft Services is pleasing to me.

Secondly, I would like to designate a large portion of my budget to hiring a DP. I have done a little research and it seems like DP’s charge approximately $2000 for a short film or $2000 for a week’s worth of shooting – this doesn’t include lodgings, food and air fare. At the festival, I met a few DP’s and I really like Joel Froome but it would be more cost effective to find someone local because I would most likely have to fly that guy in unless he’s already working on a project around here. The DP is so important because I myself am interested in acting in my own film as well as directing and I desperately need someone to make that footage look professional.

I have contacted Perrenial Media here in Shreveport and they said they rent RED cameras for anywhere from 250-600/ day depending on the production. Chris said he’d work with me and that he was flexbile. If we go ahead and plan for 400/day for a 5 or 7 day shoot that brings us to 2,800.

Other costs, I want to spend no more than $1000 on food. I anticipate a 5-7 day shooting period. Surely that will be enough to feed everyone with maybe a little left over for some alcohol and a wrap party. This is an estimate and I’ll probably spend more if there is a wrap party.

* It takes $50 to enter a film into the LA Film Prize so I’m factoring that in.
* I plan on having a least 5 crew members and I want to pay them each at least $250 for their time. That’s 1,250. I also want to buy in
* Scenic art needs to cost between 1,000 and 3,000.
* Costumes need to cost between 2,000 and 3,000
* Let’s just assume that someone is going to need to fly in so that’s going to cost about 1,000
* Let’s just assume someone has to buy items for the set such as trash bags or they take a long drive to get some equipment for me, that’s going to cost about 100 or 200.
* Hopefully most people will be local so I won’t have to pay for lodgings but if they do come in from out of town they can stay at my house.
* Contingency money can be around 1,000
* Insurance will cost approximately 500.
* Do I need to pay my director and producer? Well, since I’ll be doing most of this I’d say NO.
* Do I need to pay my actors? Well, they should just be grateful to get a part in a quality short film, but I guess I can cross that bridge when I come to it.
* Editor – I plan on editing this myself
* Music – I plan to get Wade Marshall to help me and he and I will work out a price next year.

GRAND TOTAL:

$13,000 – 15,000 USD

\*Going to the Louisiana Film Prize Festival really made me want to submit a short film next year and while this is more money than I’ve ever spent on a project before, I would like to raise this money. WOO HOO! What an adventure lies ahead!