



POETIC FILM SCHOOL

FILM SUPPORT & PROVISION
HIGHLANDS and ISLANDS



Callout to **Community Cinemas**

Supporting Community Cinemas in the Highlands and Islands to deliver -
accessible film training, diverse screenings and cultural film festivals



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Dear Community Cinema,

My name is Robert Aitken, and I am a writer, director and producer who has been making films about the people and places of the North of Scotland for over a decade and delivering a successful programme of accessible Micro-Film training for the last four years. I work predominately with rural Highland communities and have a deep understanding of people and landscapes, which has helped me develop a grounded placemaking approach to making films.

The POETIC FILM SCHOOL approach aims to bring accessible and affordable filmmaking to people of all ages and skill levels; from first-time enthusiasts to experienced filmmakers, all who desire mentoring to hone their art form. We have a great team of researchers and cultural advisers who work with collections and archives to help groups develop new scripts, stories and narratives embedded in their unique locality and culture.

We can offer filmmaking training initiatives for individual groups or collaborations working together to reduce costs and we can deliver one-off or multiple screenings.

Now is a great time to get involved in filmmaking, so if you'd like to arrange training in your area or venue, please contact myself directly at: robert@aitken.online and I'll will get back to you with more information.

Robert Aitken

Poetic Film School *Read an online bio at: <https://www.aitken.online/bio>*



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Participant feedback

'As a beginner, the smartphone filmmaking training was easy to follow and replicate afterward.'

'My confidence as a filmmaker has grown and I feel supported and inspired to try new methods of filmmaking.'

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING Introduction Workshop

2hr tutorial on how to get the best out of your mobile phone camera as a filmmaking tool

- 'From the ground up' mobile phone filmmaking training
- Easy to understand tutorials
- Cinematic photography and filmmaking
- In-depth look at the poetic approach to filmmaking
- Cost-effective camera movement techniques
- Online tutorial video reminders
- Free training notes

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING Advanced Workshop

Day workshop creating a Micro-Film using your mobile phone

- Micro script & storyboard development
- Camera and filming techniques
- In-App editing
- Adding audio, music and voice over
- How to add titles and credits
- Postproduction colour grading
- Final production of Micro-Film
- Final output

SHORT-FILM FILMMAKING Course

Series of 6 full-day workshops spread over 4-6 weeks creating a 'Film Short' as part of a film-making team

- Development of a short film inspired by the people and places where we live
- Script & storyboard methods
- Film crew roles and responsibilities
- Film-team support
- Location filming
- Camera and filming techniques
- How to edit your short film
- Adding audio, music and voice-over
- How to add titles and credits
- Postproduction colour grading
- Final production of Micro-Film
- Final output

Film-training for all ages and abilities:

- **Young People** - Smartphone filmmaking can be a great way to develop young people's creativity
- **Adults** - We all love using our mobile phones to take pictures. Now you can learn new techniques to get the most from your phone as a filmmaking tool
- **Creatives** - Mastering essential filmmaking techniques is pivotal for aspiring filmmakers

What we have produced

THE DREAMING BOG

An eco-poetic film on Climate Change told through the history and mythology of the Peatlands of Northern Scotland and the Mires of Finland - an exploration of the punishment and preservation by humankind on these vulnerable landscapes. ***BOOK A SCREENING NOW***

Watch the film trailer at: <https://www.facebook.com/thedreamingbog>

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Film training workshops and courses provide the Highlands and Islands with professional support and provision with cost-effective packages suitable for all sizes of groups and venues.

Read more at: <https://www.aitken.online/education>

What we have delivered to date

1. Screenings of the highly acclaimed film 'The Dreaming Bog' across the Highlands, Scotland and Finland.
2. Q&A sessions and audience engagement events with our multidisciplinary film team of artists, writers, historians, climatologists, and anthropologists, etc.
3. Smartphone filmmaking workshops and courses with Lyth Arts Centre, Highlands and Islands Climate Hub, Lairg Learning Centre, Skerry Community and Timespan Museum, etc.
4. Micro-Film Festival for Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival Highland 2023, at Lairg and District Learning Centre and Highland & Islands Climate Hub.
5. Over fifty screenings, film training events, and conferences across Scotland and International.



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