CINEMA FACTORY
ACADEMY

CINEMATOGRAPHY

1 YEAR DIPLOMA

COURSE CATALOG

MENTORS

CJ RAJKUMAR
(MESC MASTER TRAINER)

Authored 14 books on cinematography technology. Written over 500 articles for The Southern India Cinematographers Association website. His films have won numerous awards at International film festivals, including the Berlin Film Festival in 2009. Renowned for his contributions to both cinematic literature and practical cinematography. His books have been appreciated by legends such as Balu Mahendra, PC Sreeram, and Santhosh Sivan.

His Notable Works

A Book On Advanced Film Lighting, Oli Ooviyam, Digital Nirangal, Click, Pixel, Asaiyum Padam, Focus (lens and composition), Oru Thuli Natchathiram.

A RAMESH KUMAR

Visionary cinematographer behind the trend-setting visuals of 'Oomai Vizhigal'. The legend who re-invented cinema scope in tamil cinema.
Trend setter for more than 800 commercials. A master who built platform 500-foot 80-foot-high to stimulate a helicopter shot with trolley.

His Notable Works

Indian, Captain Prabhakaran, Oomai Vizhigal, Uzhavan Magan, Thennavan, Thaai Naadu, Independence Day.

MADHU AMBAT

A top asian cinematographer, 50+ years of experience as cinematographer. Over 250 feature films in 9 languages. Winner of 3 National Awards, recipient of numerous Kerala State Awards. Worked on two hollywood films and collaborated with Manoj Night Shyamalan.

His Notable Works

Adaminte Makan Abu, Makaramanju, Hrudayanjali, Aswathama, Sooryante Maranam Yaro Oral, Purushartham, Swathi Thirunal, Amaram, Pani, And the Oscar Goes To.

MANOJ PARAMAHAMSA

Every Wednesday: Micro Shoots

Manoj Paramahamsa is an indian cinematographer who has worked in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films. He has worked as cinematographer in 25+ films. Eeram - Vijay Award for Best Cinematographer, South Scope Cine Award for Best Cinematography, Vinnaithaandi Varuvaayaa - Cinema Award For Best Cinematographer,Ye Maaya Chesave - Filmfare Award for Best Cinematographer.

His Notable Works

Eeram, Ye Maaya Chesave, Nanban, Race Gurram, Radhe Shyam, Leo, Beast Guntur Kaaram, Dhruva Natchathiram, minmini.

UNIQUE INDUSTRY TIE-UPS & FEATURES

- MOU with Sony & Lotus Cine Group

- Cine Makeup Technology – Available Only at CFA

- Web Series Shot by Students – First Time in India

- Feature Film Final Grade DI Training

- Virtual Production | Vehicle Rigging | L-Set Customized Shooting

- Every Wednesday: Department- Wise Micro Shoots for Modern Film Language

- Hollywood-style Cove Lighting Training (inspired by Roger Deakins) – Only at CFA

Every Wednesday: Micro Shoots

CINE-301 – Theory: Digital Photography & Cinematography

- History & evolution of cinematography (film ▢ digital ▢ OTT).

- Visual language: shot sizes, framing, rule of thirds, symmetry.

- Camera systems: ARRI, RED, Sony, Panasonic, BMC.

- Optics: lens types, DOF, compression, focus pulling.

- Camera settings: ISO, shutter angle, white balance, frame rates.

- Case Studies: Oppenheimer (IMAX format), Anjali (low-key angelic lighting).

Learning Achievement:
Students gain mastery over camera theory + visual storytelling principles.

CINE-302 – Theory: Advanced Film Lighting Techniques

- Classical methods: 3-point, Rembrandt, Butterfly, Split, Loop and beyond.

- Tools: Fresnels, LEDs, HMIs, baby lights, bounce & diffusion.

- Makeup + lighting integration (exclusive CFA feature).

- Creating indoor "time-of-day" using lights – Madhu Ambat ASC Masterclass.

- Crisis lighting, low-light, and event cinematography.

- Special Workshop: "100 Things with Baby Lights" –
  advanced exploration of baby lights.

Learning Achievement:
Students acquire professional and experimental lighting mastery.

CINE-303 – Practical: Camera Operation & Menu Settings

- Digital camera menus: ARRI, RED, Sony – exposure, codecs, LUTs.

- Practical focus pulling exercises.

- Metering: incident, spot, waveform & false color.

- Camera movement: tripod, dolly, gimbal, crane.

- Aerial shots & drone ethics.

- Photography foundation: portrait, baby, journalism, street, mobile photography.

- Practical Sessions with R. Prasanna Venkatesh (award-winning photographer).

- Photowalk Event: Chennai city photo-documentary.

Learning Achievement: Students gain operational confidence with cameras & movement rigs.

CINE-304 – Project: Short Cinematography Film

- Pre-production: storyboarding, shot division, script analysis.

- Lighting design for narrative mood.

- Micro short film (1–2 min) with cross-department collaboration (acting, editing, direction).

- DI & basic grading.

- Public Screening: Student Cinematic Short Film Showcase Night.

Learning Achievement: Students complete a festival-ready short film as their first major project.

Full Title: Diploma in Cinematography and Digital Imaging
Short Title: DCI (Diploma in Cinematography & Imaging)
Duration: 1 Year
NSQF Level: 6
MESC Alignment: MES/Q0901 – Director of Photography

India's 1st Abroad Feild
Trip For Flim Students

Every Wednesday: Micro Shoots

HISTORY OF CINEMA AND FILM APPRECIATION

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY OF CINEMA

- Overview of the course structure and objectives
- Evolution of cinema from its origins to modern-day
- Key movements, genres, and filmmakers
- Impact of cinema on society and culture

PHOTOGRAPHY AS INTRODUCTION

- Understanding image formation
- Types of photography
- Visual medium as art and commerce
- Touch and feel of camera and other equipments
- How to read a film
- Introduction to art, paintings

FILM APPRECIATION

- Understanding cinematic language: Mise-en-scène, editing, sound, etc
- Analysis of iconic films across different eras and genres
- Appreciation of cinematography, storytelling techniques, and thematic elements

PHOTOGRAPHY FUNDAMENTALS

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

- Brief recap of history of cinema and film appreciation
- Image formation
- Pinhole theory
- Image sensor
- Visible spectrum of Light

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

- Understanding different types of cameras and their features
- Exposure triangle (aperture, shutter speed,ISO white balance and color temperature)
- Composition techniques

INTRODUCTION TO CINEMATOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Persistence of vision
- Motion picture film
- Film formats & sensor
- Cinematic language and storytelling
- Introduction to shots/scenes/sequences
- Understanding aspect ratios
- Film appreciation- genre
- Screenplay structures

INTRODUCTION TO LENS

- Basic optic principles
- Image circle
- Types of lenses/characteristics
- Focus principles

CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

- Types of cameras for cinematography lenses, filters, and their effects
- Camera movements and framing
- Tripods, gimbals, and stabilization techniques
- Mobile cinematography
- File formats/video compression

LIGHTING AND COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES

- Characteristics of light
- Types of light/lamp/fixtures three-point lighting/rembrandt, loop, split, butterfly lighting techniques
- Short key/broad key/lighting ratios
- Color temperature and gels
- Practical lighting setups
- Framing and blocking
- 180 degree rule/screen direction
- Establishing shots, close-ups, and more

STORY AND SCREENPLAY WRITING, DIRECTION BASICS

- Elements of screenplay writing
- Understanding character development and plot structure
- Basics of direction: framing, blocking, working with actors

ADVANCED CINEMATOGRAPHY AND PRE-PRODUCTION FOR WEB SERIES

CINEMATOGRAPHY POST PRODUCTION

- Green matte
- Digital imaging/SDR/HDR/color space
- Artificial intelligence in cinematography

MOTION AND EDITING TECHNIQUES

- Understanding frame rate and shutter speed – post controls
- Basic video editing principles
- Transitions and continuity editing

PRE-PRODUCTION FOR WEB SERIES PRODUCTION

- Concept development and scriptwriting for a web series
- Casting, location scouting, and production planning budgeting and scheduling
- Introduction to episodic storytelling and multi-camera setups

INDUSTRY EXPOSURE AND WEB SERIES PRODUCTION

INDUSTRY VISITS AND WEB SERIES PRODUCTION

- Visits to production studios, post-production houses, and film sets
- Students work on producing a web series from pre-production to completion, including shooting, editing, and post-production