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FAITH
MOVIE UK LTD PRODUCTIONS

Underdog
CREW



UNDERDOG CREW STUDIOS

Empowering positivity
Fostering self belief
Creating opportunity

#allequal

PATRONS AND SUPPORTERS:

Colonel Peter Mahoney CBE , David Brady, Gregg Masuak, Jamie B. Chambers, Leona Clarke, Ray Whelan
Multi award winning Actors, Directors, industry figures and Commanders of the Order of the British Empire



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS... *so you're up to speed.*

WHAT'S THE AGE RANGE OF THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE HELPED?

We generally work with, and aim to support, young adults between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

WHAT MENTAL HEALTH OR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS DID/DO THEY HAVE?

We work with anyone who has been identified as needing an injection of positivity in their lives. From mental health survivors, to people on the autistic spectrum or non neurotypical, anxiety, depression or youths dealing with family tragedy, isolation, or at risk of taking a wrong turn in life.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS THEY FACE IN LIFE?

Our project participants generally face difficulties in socialising, being part of group activities, or having the confidence to put themselves 'out there'. Whether stemming from being on the autistic spectrum, suffering anxiety or low confidence, or just generally being less gifted in the art of confidently mixing with their peers.

HOW DID THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH THE UNDERDOG CREW CHANGE THEIR LIVES?

We've seen huge developmental changes in all our project participants. Growth in confidence, increased ability to socialise, boosted positivity and changes in aspiration. Every Underdog Crew member has a positive story to tell relating to their participation in our projects.

WHAT KIND OF SKILLS DO THEY LEARN?

Alongside teaching empowerment and interpersonal skills we offer full professional training in all aspects of the film-making process. From special effects, to set building and prop design, to working alongside industry professionals in the camera, lighting and production departments. **Real world skills in real world environments.**

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ACTED AS MENTORS FOR THEM?

To date, underdog crew members have received training and one-on-one mentorship from around thirty industry professionals. From award winning directors and producers, to global actors and actresses and award winning special effects makeup artists.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THESE KIDS IN 5 YEARS TIME?

Several interns over the past few years of establishing the Underdog Crew have gone on to pursue work in the media industry. From an original project intern who is now official club photographer for a well known football team, to several media students who excelled, and are excelling, at media college. Our aim for every participant is to embrace the possibility of achieving one's dreams. A lot can be achieved in five years with a positive mind-set and a strong desire.

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN INVESTED IN THE 'U.C' SO FAR AND FROM WHICH SOURCES?

To date, over three short films and two feature film productions we have created projects with budgets exceeding well over £100,000. Around 60% of these budgets have been raised through sponsorship and in-kind investment. With the time and resources involved with ensuring at least 40% of our crew are 'Underdogs' we have spent around £25k on our Underdog Crew commitments to date.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST PER YEAR TO SUPPORT ONE UNDERDOG CREW MEMBER?

With the establishment of our permanent Underdog Crew studio in Clacton-on-Sea we estimate each member to cost around £3000 per year (20 members).



"You don't need a spaceship or time machine to access my worlds. Neither do you need to find the golden ticket, be the star quarterback or head cheerleader. You just need to grasp the opportunity of adventure and believe in yourself." 

DB Morgan is a screenwriter, author and award winning Director, born and bred in Colchester, Essex, UK. A mental health survivor, vocal advocate for [#ownvoices works](https://www.ownvoicesworks.org) and proud family ambassador for www.sickchildrenstrust.org. DB is a producer and director of low budget British independent films who understands how to wring every ounce from the most meagre of budgets. He gained a reputation as a serious first-time filmmaker when casting big TV/film names for his debut short film, 'Hard Sell': Craig Fairbrass (Cliffhanger / Rise of the footsoldier/London Heist/The bank job), Karl Howman (The Sweeney/Brush Strokes/Eastenders) and Chrissie Cotterill (Nil by mouth/Doctor Who/Bad girls). Winner of a 2009 MTV short film competition and official selections at several international short film festivals for his 2015 short film, 'Little Man' - budgeted at just £50.

DB Morgan has recently completed his first two feature films as screenwriter, director and producer: 'Faith' - starring Frank Jakeman (Game of Thrones) and Leona Clarke (An Inspector Calls) - and Room Sixteen: starring Jamie Chambers (Kingsmen, The Brothers Grimsby), Leona Clarke (Faith), Ray Whelan (Solo: A Star Wars story, Soft Hands) and Sean Earl McPherson (The surrogate of infidelity, Gatwick Gangsters). Both features are currently in post production and due for SVOD release in 2021. Four further feature films are slated for production from March 2021, where Clacton-on-Sea will become DB's Hollywood playground with the production of his most ambitious and expansive feature film yet: Morris Men.



 **WATCH FAITH TRAILER**

 **FAITH 'BEHIND-THE-SCENES DOC**

DB Morgan's Underdog Crew Concept

As a mental health survivor, anxiety sufferer and general all-round underdog, DB Morgan is proud to welcome under-represented and minority groups into all his filmmaking exploits. Having trialled his 'youth involvement project' during the shoot of his 2010, MTV competition winning, short film, 'Subject 3' he quickly learned that everybody has something to offer in a creative environment and crew members on the autism/asperger's spectrum especially came away empowered and motivated from their experiences on set. **Fast forward to 2020 and DB Morgan has enhanced his beliefs.**

*"We recently completed production of **Room Sixteen**, my second feature film, with a crew made up of around 50% members on the autism spectrum - or from disadvantaged or challenging family backgrounds and minority groups. Through production of both films we hit many obstacles, faced huge challenges and completed productions with nature throwing three storms at us, extended periods of torrential rain in an outside environment, and most recently the police attempting to shut us down amidst tight Covid restrictions. Not one crew member let us down and other crew members were surprised to finally learn they were working alongside people who are often classed as lesser employees due to their diagnosis. I've been so proud to see these guys grow and shine throughout the process. Hearing their feedback and witnessing their positivity and confidence grow has been amazing. I now need to push this concept forward and encourage others to embrace my own ideals."*



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FAITH MOVIE UK
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"When I was younger, I never really believed in myself, I never really had confidence in many things. From issues from my childhood. My parents suffer from mental illness and it was really tough. I always felt like I couldn't achieve anything, and I have nothing to show to the world. I had a dark stage in my life dealing with a lot of suicidal thoughts. But I overcame it. This team and film have given me a sense of purpose, and the title alone just shows how I feel now in life. After dealing with a lot of stuff and gradually picking myself up. This experience has given me faith."

JAMIE WRIGHT (17) FOUNGING UNDERDOG CREW MEMBER and GRADUATED MENTOR



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#FAITHMOVIE LEADING LADY, LEONA CLARKE talks 'Underdog'.

"During my years as an actress so far, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with an abundance of different types of people. I have come to find that the most exceptional creatives are the ones who have had traumatic experiences, a difficult upbringing, painful backgrounds, learning disabilities, have struggled or do struggle with mental health... To me, these people have been some of the kindest I have ever met."



Their loving nature, warm-heartedness and willingness to go above and beyond for every task has no limits. Whether that's applied to their job within the film or the simple action of making a cup of tea; it's done with a kindness and compassion that I find admirable.

I have watched people come out of their shells and work harder and longer than anyone, throughout any situation, without ever even so much as a whisper of a complaint. I am thankful for the people that are deemed the "underdogs" of the world. To me, they are some of the most beautiful people you could ever hope to meet. They are the true survivors; the ones who have overcome incredible difficulty and not let it overpower them. Instead, they owned the hardship and took from it a wisdom that shines through their core.

Having recently wrapped on Faith, a feature film in which 70% of the crew are dealing with mental health issues, are non neurotypical or from difficult backgrounds, I can safely say it's been the most meaningful project I have worked on to date. Being surrounded by people who had nothing to prove but wanted so much to prove themselves anyway, meant that we have created something that's truly come from the heart. I am so proud to have had the pleasure of working with them. Within just two weeks, these people became like family to me and I will treasure that forever. They deserve to go as far as their desires wish to take them and I look forward to following their journeys. I hope to work with them all again in the future."

UNDERDOG CREW STUDIOS - Launching 2022 in Clacton-on-Sea

A 2500 square feet studio space. Fully integrated modular 'internal room' film sets. Rolling road greenscreen simulated driving studio. 'Indoor forest' environmental set. Self catering 'Life skills' kitchen. Designated I.T area with fully integrated education suite. Practical special effects workshop. Audio production suite incorporating dedicated 'foley' studio. Fully DBS registered Underdog Crew team members, chaperoning daily groups of up to ten attendees.

Monthly specialist filmmaking workshops. **Annual prize giving/ graduation ceremony.**

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH:

- Building confidence through teamwork
- A nurturing space to develop new creative ideas
- Encouragement, guidance and signposting into further learning
- Self sufficiency/responsibility through daily rota'd lunch cooking
- Taking ownership of choices based around positive actions

High intensity creative workshops including:

- Industry standard practical special effects
- Screen combat training and implementation
- Prop making workshops
- Set building workshops
- Acting and improvisational workshops
- I.T workshops for graphical design and VFX

Certification modules:

- Storyworld building workshops
- Script development workshops
- Short film making workshops
- Post production workshops
- Post production audio workshops

To read full Underdog Crew write-ups please visit: [FAITH WEBSITE](#)

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"Sometimes I find it hard because I think people just see the disabilities sides of me and not take me seriously but I felt like on the Faith set we were all equals no one was judged. Everyone just had the one goal and we all came together with all our love of films to make this film all together. I felt like I was actually taken seriously on 'Faith' and that everyone was... so it was a really good, friendly environment."

JAMIE MURPHY (17) - FOUNGING UNDERDOG CREW MEMBER



Educational links with



DIRECTOR, DB MORGAN talks 'Underdog'.

It would be wrong of me to ask my crew to open up on their own personal experiences without offering my own into the mix. Two years of hell at a notorious Essex boarding school led to my younger life being consumed with drug abuse, leading to being an ex drug user and mental health survivor. I have been left with bouts of crippling anxiety that restrict my life in many ways. After losing our 12-year old daughter, Jodi, to aplastic anaemia in 2010 I've also been left with PTSD. I choose to rise above my limitations and slowly face my demons one by one.

As a writer my life experiences have provided me with so much ammunition to channel into the emotions of my work. As a creative I have learned that everyone has a story to tell and the richer a life's tapestry, the deeper the story. I love working with 'outsiders' as a true underdog myself and thrive on proving people wrong when it comes to underestimating, prejudging or prejudicing against marginalised people and groups. I am passionate about growing my 'underdog crew' ethos into a recognised UK movement and allowing all comers to shine under the brilliance of their own light.



FUNDING, SPONSORSHIP & IN-KIND INVESTMENT

Setting up our official 'Underdog Studios' base in Clacton-on-Sea requires a blend of grants and private investment. We have already established a core of supporters and sponsors to provide training, production equipment, on-site practical workshops and many other cost cutting resources. Building lease, studio conversion, insurances, staff wages and administrative costs all need to be covered by cash investment.

We have projected year one costs to be around £65,000. This includes the retention of a highly experienced grant finder, who will ensure we are self sufficient by year two.

Welcome to the Underdog Crew. How would you like to get involved?

"There are many regional projects and community groups who allow under-represented or marginalised groups the opportunity to dabble in creative environments. It's brilliant! BUT... the 'Underdog Crew' takes them deep into the real-world creative battlefield, where the blood and guts fly, and leads them courageously out the other side."

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