

'The Underdog Crew' 2023 | Television production workshops

THE SLIP

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'The Underdog Crew' 2023 | Television production workshops

Boots-on-the-ground television production workshops, where Underdog Crew participants work alongside professional film crew in the production of episodes of 'The Slip.'

SPRING/SUMMER COURSE STRUCTURE. 60 hours of bite-sized 3 to 4 hour workshops and a 4-day filming placement over 10 weeks. Inclusivity: **up to 14 interns** from non neurotypical or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Project aims:

- Advancement of the Underdog Crew media training programmes.
- Expansion of our professional output and level of professional training.
- An exciting project that highlights current teen issues in the UK.
- Stealth education around mental health, addiction and societal issues.
- Creating an ongoing revenue generation project for The Underdog Crew C.I.C
- Enhancing our national media focus.

THE SLIP

An original teen drama series by DB Morgan

an **The Underdog Crew C.I.C** production in partnership with **Megalodon Studios**

Five teenagers, thrown together by circumstance, fight the system in order to find their place in the world, preserve the sanctuary of their spiritual home and come together to win 'Pop Star: Essex'... and the validation that comes with it.

A bold and forward thinking series reflecting the highs and lows of 12-15-year-olds and their fractured lives in the UK today. Told through the lens of fourteen-year-old **Macey Caine**, sole carer to an alcoholic Mother acutely gripped in a downward mental health spiral.

The Slip has been devised in line with the current network thirst for programmes that reflect the twelve to fifteen-year-old demographic and add to the broad appeal content they already love elsewhere on the BBC, ITV and channel 4.

Cheryl Taylor, Head of Content for BBC Children's, says: *"It is widely acknowledged that 12-15 year olds can be a difficult audience to reach. We feel that there should be more public service content specifically for this age group. Our aim is to produce new content that bridges the small gap between the top end of CBBC and all the amazing content for 16-34s on the BBC."*

An original episodic TV comedy series for submission to networks in 2024.

KEY ACTORS ATTACHED



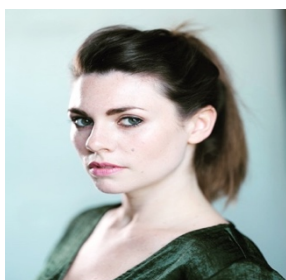
PAUL DANAN as Danny Rye

A legend of British TV, Paul starred in **Hollyoaks** and has featured on **Love Island**, **Celebrity Big Brother** and many other British TV shows. As a high profile mental health survivor, Paul is not only acting in 'The Slip' but also part of our mental health advisory team, due to his own project, '[Morning After Drama](#).'



SEAN EARL McPHERSON as Remy Akinfenwe

A well known face on British TV and independent film, Sean talks on the role of youth mentor and 'The Slip' centre manager. Ex addict and ex-convict, Remy found his self love as a Buddhist and is a bit of a new age hippy, living off-grid in a bushcraft settlement.



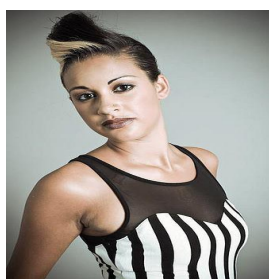
ALISON CARROLL as 'Auntie Taz'

Alison is a living legend as the character '**Lara Croft**' in the **Tomraider** game franchise. An amazing actress who exudes emotive energy, Alison takes on the role of 'Taz' - half sister to Macey's Mother. Living on a disused barge, Taz is ex Greenpeace, a ferocious women's rights activist and local youth worker.



JAMIE CHAMBERS as Billy Cavalier

With a list list of credits including working alongside Bradd Pitt, Sasha Baron-Cohen and many more, Jamie has worked on **Star Wars**, **Fury** and **Bulletproof**. A martial artist and screen combat instructor Jamie's skillsets make him the perfect screen tough guy.



CHLOE CLENNON as Ruby Caine

A versatile actress, born and bred in the region, Chloe exudes emotive energy and portrays of broken characters rising against their oppressors. Grit and authenticity ooze from her performances and earned Chloe top spot for her heartfelt portrayal of Macey's alcoholic, mental health crippled, Mother.

PLUS a roster of highly talented local teenage actors.

Each episode also includes several local extras and representatives from the region.

THE SLIP

"Harnessing the power of professional film to promote positivity and wellbeing in young adults."

A community interest production in association with Megalodon Studios.

Powered by, and raising funds for, the **Underdog Crew**.

'THE UNDERDOG CREW C.I.C' REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION. UK Company registration number: 14530067

PROJECT CHAMPION / LEAD ACTOR – Paul Danan



Paul Danan's Morning After Drama. During the first lockdown of the COVID pandemic in 2020, Paul launched a drama workshop in Bristol aimed at supporting the mental health and positive life development of people in active recovery at a time when isolation was having an impact on so many. A collective of passionate specialist recovery and mental health workers and producers, MAD sessions are free and open to anyone recovering from poor mental health, addiction or who would like to build confidence and have fun with a welcoming group of non judgemental and wonderful people.

The workshops instil a sense of worth and provide inspiration, whilst simultaneously tackling tough subjects such as drug use, sexuality, mental health and more, which are all too often delivered as a forgettable speech and miss the mark. MAD's non judgemental approach allows each individual to feel safe and seen, often for the first time. Paul is excited to bring his own experiences into 'the Slip' universe as both an actor and a mental health collaborative story advisor.

Collaboration and intern selection Partners (attached and TBC)

- Colchester Institute
- Lads Need Dads
- The Tuskar Trust
- The Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester
- The Gilbert School, Colchester
- Colchester school exclusion centres

THE SLIP

‘Commercial Viability and the marketplace’

What is a Teen Drama?

Teen drama is one of the most enduring genres to have graced TV screens since its inception. We’ve all been teenagers at some point. And the heartbreak, emotions, journeys, discoveries, and drama that comes with being a teenager typically makes for highly engaging stories.

When we’re talking about teen drama, we’re talking about a series that focuses on teenage or young adult protagonists, who are most of the time, facing some sort of conflict. That conflict may be the ups and downs of friendships, a shaky romantic relationship, or even the fate of the world. Teenagers are usually just exploring life and their freedom all whilst battling peer pressure, parental pressure and societal pressure. The downside of having free rein over your own life means that you can very easily be led down the wrong path and make mistakes that will haunt you. Teen dramas at their core, try to unpack what being young is like. Teenagers are complicated, high school is messy, and relationships are crazy.

Writing Teen Drama with A Twist

The difficulties of growing up – the triumphs, the pitfalls, the laughs, the tears – are all a part of normal teenage life. Teen dramas explore these commonalities. Typically, there may be conflict with an authoritative figure or a person of power. That person might be an overprotective parent, a school authority, or even the supernatural.

Teen characters are most often just trying to figure out how to get through life unscathed. We can all relate to the feelings that come with being a teenager. But drama’s purpose is to heighten these experiences. And it does this by, for instance, placing the characters in extreme, even fantastical, situations we would probably never find ourselves actually in. By seeing how the characters react to an extreme or distinctive situation we find universal experiences within the extraordinary.

Connecting with the Target Audience

Arguably one of the most important things in writing, in general, is knowing your audience. Our target audience, in this case, is teenagers – specifically ages 12-15. Catering authentically to this audience means exploring the things that mean the most to them. Part of our production workshop process is interviewing young adults to find their authentic voice within a modern world and the issues it brings, with the aim of producing a marketable product with maximum authenticity and audience engagement.

These insights can then also become standalone micro-docs for further purposes within the Underdog Crew realm. Real issues like struggling to fit in, finding hope in a bleak world, friendship and family issues - together with more hard hitting subjects, like drugs, alcohol and teen pregnancy.

Underdog Crew intern feedback

'UNDERDOG CREW CHAMPION 2022', Joseph Allison. Production Designer for 'The Slip'.

Joseph Allison, 'founding [Underdog Crew](#) member', has risen dramatically through the ranks following first joining us as an intern on our 2020 feature film, Faith (renamed as '[Blood Highway](#)'). With over 30 international awards and accolades to its name, Joseph played a huge part in ensuring the sets and costumes looked amazing, together with jumping in, as and when asked, in all departments. Having now worked on all three of our feature films to date Joe is a seasoned pro on-set. Cool, calm and collected. In tribute to his amazing work ethic, professionalism and boundless creativity energy we backed, and funded, him as Producer and Director on his first professional music video: 'Fools Gold', starring the UK's leading folk/punk band, 'Forest of Fools'. Joe has now been awarded the esteemed role of Production Designer on 'the Slip', stamping his creative mark throughout the series. Joe also will pay forward his own experiences as project youth mentor.

"I have a disease called Ankylosing Spondylitis which is an inflammatory arthritis. During university I suffered from a severe flare up which affected my eyes and caused me to lose my sight in one eye. This resulted in a mental breakdown and multiple mental health issues that really affected my quality of life and well-being. I felt lost and alone. It was around this time that I discovered DB Morgan and his underdog crew, we worked on a film called 'Faith' which has gone onto win awards all around the world.

The underdog crew has been a fantastic experience because it takes people of all backgrounds and abilities, nurtures their skills and at the end of it you have new friends, a new potential career path and a film to be proud of. As an underdog crew film maker,

DB Morgan took me on knowing nothing about me or what I was capable of but gave me a chance when I felt my most broken. Since then we have gone onto make three feature films together and I've made some fantastic friends and connections along the way. The film industry felt like it was impossible to get into before the underdog crew, but your dreams of working in the film industry really are just one step away." **Joe Allison AKA Eyeconic**

Joe is now leading the next generation of [Underdog Crew](#) interns in this exciting project, one of six television production workshops within this year's Underdog Crew training programme.

"I recently was a part of the underdog crew on set for the 'forest of fools' music video, Fools Gold. I found the entire experience to be very insightful and frankly a huge boost in confidence and my own capabilities of joining the industry. Leading up to the shoot I was nervous. I found myself wondering if I was good enough to be on set or if I would be in the way. However, when I got on set, I was met with the open arms of the crew and band. The overwhelming positivity and enthusiasm of the crew instantly put my anxieties to bed. It was slightly daunting but by the end of the day I felt more and more comfortable around such equipment and again my confidence in myself and making a future impact on the industry grew. Being on set taught me to use my intuition and I feel as though thanks to this experience, on future jobs I will be able to perform to the best of my capabilities." **Sophie Wright (The Tuskar Trust)**

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 14 participants per module *(28 participants in total)*
- **PLUS 5-10 local teenage actors.**
- Approx 60-hours creative workshops over 12 weeks. Per module.
- DBS chaperoning.
- A dedicated educational coordinator.

SPRING/SUMMER COURSE STRUCTURE

Bite-sized 3 to 4 hour workshops and a 4-day filming placement over 10 weeks.
Inclusivity: up to 14 interns from non neurotypical or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Development *(2x 3 hour workshops)*

Interns work alongside production heads through the process of brainstorming, honing the script, and putting the production elements together.

Teaching the power of collaborative thinking, teamwork, creative writing and project management.

Pre-Production *(2x 4 hour workshops)*

The fun begins as interns work alongside production heads on props, wardrobe, location sourcing, sitting in on cast online **'AirMeet'** rehearsals and all other pre shoot disciplines.

Teaching the power of collaboration, budgeting, creativity and organisation.

Production *(3 to 4 days on location)*

The production process! Each day rotating positions within a professional film crew on live television sets. Learning all aspects of camera operation, lighting, acting skills, production management, catering, timekeeping, teamwork... and, most importantly, on-set collaborative positivity.

Production continued:

'Project team challenge'

Interns must work together to produce a 15-minute behind-the-scenes documentary from the production. Interviewing cast and crew members and gathering cinematic footage to create a professional extras section for the project website and DVD's.

Post Production *(4x 4 hour workshops)*

Sitting in on the editing process. Learning the complexity and joy of seeing creative work come together on the screen. Interns collaborate on the editing of their mini-documentary.

Includes ‘Creating ‘Foley’ workshop: – creating physical sound effects for use in the episode.

‘The Business’

Understanding the ‘route to market’. A vital part of any business is marketing and promotion. Interns work alongside production heads to understand the mechanics and implementation of poster design, pitch decks, teasers & trailers, online promotion, press releases and all the other subtle promotional activities that any creative business needs to stand out.

Teaching collaboration, organisation, creative design, teamwork, business skills, creative writing and online marketing.

BONUS MODULE:

Interns work together to film and produce a 10-minute behind-the-scenes micro documentary to go on **The Slip’s** project website and online community fanzone. All interns receive a professional **IMDB credit** for their work and are listed on their specific episode as part of the production crew.



PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES:

An annual showcase event at the **2023 Essex Doc-Fest**, scheduled for Autumn at the Colchester arts centre. Course participants get to celebrate with family and friends at a glitzy event, where they get to watch the UK premiere of a **'The Slip'** episode, receive their TV production certificate and personal signed copy of the DVD they helped produce.

[View our 2022 annual showcase at the Princes Theatre, Clacton-on-Sea.](#)

"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 (19) FOUNDING UNDERDOG CREW MEMBER

Participants receive:

- One-to-One mentorship
- Full training of all aspects of the filmmaking processes
- Dedicated, mentored, time in their preferred department
- Producing their own behind-the-scenes documentary.
- DVD and participant Awards
- Travel costs covered
- Hospitality at the 2023 'Colchester Arts Centre' showcase

Participant developmental benefits:

*** from ten years of proven participant feedback.*

- Boosted positivity and emotional wellbeing
- Improved focus and life/work interests
- Improved teamwork ethics
- Boosted self esteem and self worth
- New skillsets relevant to career goals
- Making new friends, allies and collaborators
- Belonging and a sense of purpose.



PROJECT LEAD:

Dominic Beresford-Morgan
Director | Producer | Screenwriter

MEGALODON STUDIOS

07950 593982 | db@megalodonstudios.co.uk

THE UNDERDOG CREW CIC

Company registration number: 14530067

About DB Morgan

DB Morgan - Born and bred in Colchester, Essex, UK. A mental health survivor, vocal advocate for #ownvoices works and proud family ambassador for www.sickchildrenstrust.org. 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/aspergers spectrum especially came away empowered and motivated from their experiences on set.

"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

Three feature films in, and with a stack of International awards, DB Morgan continues to rough up the industry in his own inimitable way, whilst paying it forward to the new generation.

www.underdogcrew.org