Established in 2010, the **60 Hour Film Blitz** is an annual film festival organized by, and for, students. It offers practical experience not only in filmmaking, but also in all facets of festival management, complementing the analytical, historical and theoretical work undertaken within the film studies curriculum.

The Blitz challenges students and members of the public to create a short film within 60 hours. The completed films – which must be no longer than 3 minutes – are then exhibited at a special gala screening, at which prizes are awarded in a number of categories: for beginner, intermediate and experienced filmmakers, selected by a jury consisting of professionals in the field, as well as an audience favourite, selected on the night by ballot.

In addition, a series of events are arranged around the Blitz to help the filmmakers. These included, in 2012, six pre-festival workshops with professional filmmakers. The festival director and co-ordinator offer close supervision and advice, whether on using the equipment, securing filming locations or on final edits.

**Benefits/impact on students/staff:** The event has continued to grow, receiving approximately 30 applications each year, not only within the film studies department but also from across and beyond the University. In this way, the event has helped to bring together those interested in film at all levels, providing a fun and accessible film event.

While this is a student-led event, it benefits from the close supervision of staff experienced in film festival management. The coordinator offers the students essential advice and guidance throughout the year, whether applying for funding, preparing advertising and promotion, developing time management and planning skills, or managing a group of volunteers. These transferable skills are essential in ensuring a successful and well-attended gala event.

The final gala event attracts notable judges – such as Chris Fujiwara (the Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival), Rod White (Manager of the Filmhouse Cinema in Edinburgh) and Matt Lloyd (Artistic Director of the Glasgow International Short Film Festival) – and a sell-out crowd in an auditorium that takes 300 people, many of them looking very tired after working around the clock to finish their films!
Student feedback: “The Blitz offered an opportunity for interdisciplinary education that enhanced my experience of cinema studies. I adore historical and critical studies, but the Blitz provided exposure to practical elements like production and programming that created a community and positive learning environment beyond the classroom...These events bring students together to think, laugh, and grow from their shared stories.”

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