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Please join a new training program in South Africa and be part of creating a more diverse film industry globally.

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ACE Incubator program

„Academy of Creative Excellence“ run by the SA Film Academy
A commitment to the upskilling and mentorship of emerging
filmmakers in the South African commercial film industry.

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Our call: Every German production supports the ACE program and commits to work with one or two trainees per job.

What can you do?

As a director:

Prior to the shoot: Ask your German production company to get in contact with the service production in South Africa to make sure they will have trainees on set.

As a production company:

Prior to the shoot: Ask the South African service production company to get in contact with ACE to make sure they will have trainees on set. This can include different departments as Producing, Directing, Camera, Production Design etc.





The SA Film Academy

Launched in 2006 in Capetown by Seaton Bailey, **The SA Film Academy (SAFA)** is very established in the training and development sector and has a successful track record with finding trainees and youth who are suited to our industry. To date, the organisation has placed over 3 000 trainees and interns in over 450 local and international productions. The trainees and interns are placed in various departments; from Production, Directing, VT, Art Department, Lighting, Costumes, Camera, Hair & Makeup etc. based on their training and interests.

What is ACE

Created in 2021, Academy of Creative Excellence (ACE) is a dynamic, skills development initiative started by the SA Film Academy (SAFA) to holistically assist in the growth and development of emerging filmmakers in the local film industry.

ACE has been successfully implemented in the longform film industry for the last two years and now boasts an impressive alumni.



What is new & how it transforms

We establish a new collaboration between ACE run by SA Film Academy x Local Film Productions in SA x International Commercial Film productions

The idea is for every international production that shoots in South Africa to take on one to two SA Film Academy trainees or interns. In this way, giving trainees the opportunity to work on commercial and longform productions during season and ideally beyond. The pilot stage of the ACE incubator programme in the commercial industry will be centred around German work that is shot in South Africa. This will then be expanded to local work as well as work coming from other territories.

SAFA will handle the logistics of connecting productions with intern and trainee crew by granting them access to the database*

Each trainee receives a daily fee, which is paid by the German production companies and settled via ACE.

As we are still in the pilot phase of the programme, we are open to input and suggestions on how to implement it in your market and roll it out as easily and effortlessly as possible.

Why support us?

- Create new opportunities for young filmmakers.
- Open channels for foreign crew to get to know local trainees and enable skills transfer.
- Open an avenue through which international production companies can invest in the socioeconomic development of a country they regularly work in.
- Be part of creating a more diverse film industry globally.

How to support us?

- Champion the initiative and the key players.
- Endorse this programme by taking it up in your productions.
- Make a commitment to encourage uptake amongst International film companies.
- Share this document and information about the incubation programme among international databases and networks.
- Share input and suggestions on how to make the initiative relevant to your market.

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Ideal outcomes

- Create an initiative that has longevity
- Develop an alumni community and track progress of interns
- Support interns and trainees as they develop and assist them as they look to join crew agencies down the line
- Publish and share trainees and interns' successes
- Help technicians acquire their own gear and vehicles as they gain experience and move up in their fields
- Work alongside GREENSET to mitigate the environmental impact of local and international film productions in South Africa



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Thank you!

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