

## Making Big Questions: A Film-Maker's Process

Have you ever wanted to make a film? This is a practical session for Christian would-be film-makers, with war stories from the production of the Big Questions apologetics documentary series, shot anywhere from Antarctica to Japanese robotics labs, from Iran to Israel, and interviewing and atheists like Laurence Krauss, P.Z. Myers and Sam Harris and believers like John Lennox, William Lane Craig and Alister McGrath. [www.bigquestions.com](http://www.bigquestions.com).

We'll examine the process: concept (generating creative ideas), development (refining the idea, selecting key personnel), financing, pre-production (planning the shoot), production, post-production (editing and music), marketing, distribution and, as a result of all this, generating fresh concepts and beginning the process again. (See Marcus Gillezeau, *Hands On: A practical guide to production and technology in film, TV and new media* (Sydney: Currency Press, 2004).

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### I. The Process

See Marcus Gillezeau, *Hands On: A practical guide to production and technology in film, TV and new media* (Sydney: Currency Press, 2004).

#### A. Concept

1. Research
2. Generating creative ideas
3. Start with...

"Committees are by nature timid, based on the premise of safety in numbers, content to survive, rather than take risks and move independently ahead. Independence, then, has always been the attitude at Porsche. To do not what is expected, but to do what we feel is right...

Committees lead to creations that have no soul, no clear identity - this is why no Porsche will ever be created by a committee, but by a handful of people who know what a Porsche is."

-Prof Ferdinand Porsche, Fred Senn, 'A Moment With Ferry Porsche', *Porsche Panorama*, [www.pca.org/Panorama/AMomentwithFerryPorsche.aspx](http://www.pca.org/Panorama/AMomentwithFerryPorsche.aspx),

#### B. Development

1. refining the idea

2. selecting key personnel

C. Financing

D. Pre-production:

1. planning the shoot
2. Equipment

E. Production

F. Post-production

1. Editing
2. Music

G. Marketing, Distribution

H. Developing fresh ideas and beginning again >>>

II. A philosophy

“Once you’ve got it to 80%..., in order to achieve the next 10% of excellence, you have to double that effort again. Then if you want to go the next 5%, you have to double all that again.”

-George Miller (*Mad Max, Babe, Happy Feet*), *Good Weekend*, 14/10/95, p.60

***Suggested Readings:***

James Monaco, *How To Read A Film* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)

John Truby, *The Anatomy of Story* (New York: Faber & Faber, 2007)

Simon Veksner, *How To Make It As An Advertising Creative* (London: Laurence King Publishing, 2010)

Michael Rabiger, *Directing The Documentary* (Boston: Focal Press, 1992)