

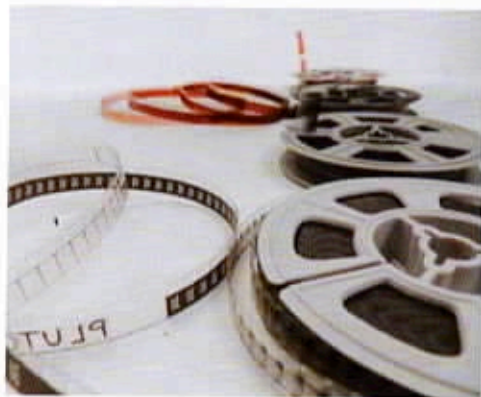
More than a hobby - film making is my life!

Storytelling has been my calling for as long as I can remember. As a child, I would frequently and consistently create short stories, expansive narratives, games and trailers in my head for movies that I would spend weeks 'acting out' in my mind.

As the years went by I became exposed to more challenging books, methods of creating art and selecting films which introduced me to the craft of film-making (such as: *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *Blade Runner* and later *La Haine* and *Badlands*),

I found myself attached to film as a medium. During the early days of lockdown, I would 'binge-watch' films that challenged my understanding of cinema, connected me emotionally and forced me to question the world around me in ways that surprised me.

Consequently, this increased my intrigue and gave me the motivation to start making films of my own. In lockdown, for my pure amusement, I created around 10 short films - learning how to frame shots, create compelling narratives and effectively edit from project to project. Following covid, with groups of friends we began to make movies - films that would require extensive planning, small budgets and, oftentimes, days of shooting.



Though not perfect, I felt increasingly proud of the short films that I was creating - leading me to submit some of my personal favourites into online competitions and film festivals, some of them being selected (and, occasionally - winning!).

What started as an occasional hobby turned into the very thing I wanted to pursue later in life in a professional capacity. Making short films has allowed me to experiment with ideas, tell stories I find compelling and express my inner thoughts and feelings in ways that the spoken word just cannot. To me, making films is more than a hobby, it's the centre of my life.

Tom Boyd Hall is an Amersham student studying A levels. He is a passionate film viewer and critique and loves to edit, write and shoot films at every moment he has free.

✦ Tom Boyd-Hall