

2 DAY FILM-THEATRE ARMOURER

Introduction

The use of blank-firing firearms on stage or set involves stripping away layers of accepted firearms protocols. It requires a lot less rigid dogma and a lot more in the way of flexibility, research, thought and understanding of the issues involved. It is not a standardised process and so there can be no laid down rules upon which to fall back. In addition to the above, considerable pressure can be felt by those supervising firearms on set to cut corners in the interests of speed, convenience or camera angles.

This course aims to give students the information and understanding required to operate firearms, in the entertainment industry environment, safely and within the law. To enable students to appreciate the judgements and decisions that need to be made, with regard to the following subjects (see 'Scope'), and to be able to recognise their limitations and seek specialist advice as required.

Agenda

- Risk assessment
- Firearms theory
- Safe distances
- Training of artists
- Practical/non-practical firearms
- Antique/imitation firearms
- Ammunition, blank & inert
- Industry specific Firearms Law

Prerequisite

The student will be expected to have basic knowledge of safe firearms handling.

Course Instructors

Instructors at Helston Forensics have in excess of 100 years of professional experience between them, that experience is current and covers all types of firearms: sporting, law-enforcement and military.

The principal instructor on this course has thirty years of experience in the movie/TV industry working on over forty productions. He has worked on many of the most firearms-intensive projects of modern times including; 'Saving Private Ryan', the HBO series 'Band of Brothers' and 'Pacific', 'Blackhawk Down', 'The Bourne Ultimatum' and 'Fury'.

Helston Forensics

Is the preeminent privately operated technical firearms training provider in the UK with unparalleled facilities at its premises in Cornwall.

Notes

1. The course duration will be 09:00-17:30.
2. Refreshments and lunch to be provided.
3. Assistance with hotel bookings will be available from our office staff.
4. This is a CPD-related course. This can contribute to your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and will be evidenced through multiple-choice summative assessment and the award of a course completion certificate.



The standby Armourer must be confident, as well as competent, enough to ensure that firearms handling on set is both safe and period correct



Muzzle blast. The dangers from particles of propellant, wads, restrictors, etc. leaving the muzzle at high speeds are very real. Safe distances must be established and enforced



The flash from the breech can be as much of a hazard to the firer as the flash from the muzzle is to the rest of the cast/crew. Proper instruction in the use of muzzle loaders is essential



With live performances and filming in public spaces, safety measures are complex - and not just for the cast & crew. Noise can be a big consideration for the audience and/or public too!



Productions can be enhanced considerably where the flash and bang of a muzzle loading pistol is used, the armourer and cast must work as a team to ensure all runs smoothly



Blank ammunition comes in all shapes and sizes, understanding the differences and how they function within a firearm is a complex subject



Blank firing firearms behave differently to live firing ones. Artists need to be taught to, for example, simulate recoil



It goes without saying that the vast majority of ammunition used on set is blank! However, there may be occasions when a projectile of sorts is required to be fired. Special, very special, measures need to be in place for those occasions...

Contact details

Helston Forensics

Water-Ma-Trout

Helston

Cornwall TR13 OLW

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1326 574747

Email: info@helstonforensics.com

