

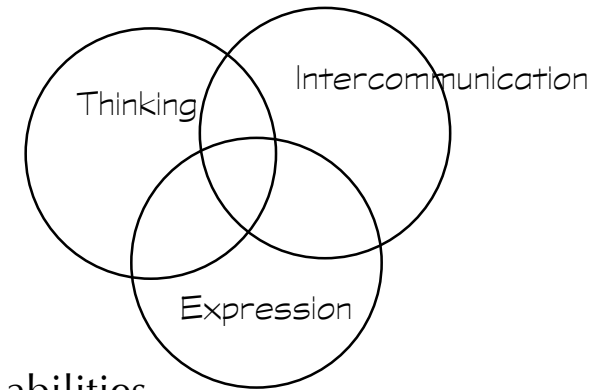
**EIGAKKO!**

Workshops For Young Filmmakers



Let's make a **movie**, just like we make a diary or letter.

“EIGAKKO!”



A Workshop to develop  
Thinking , Expressive and Inter Communicative abilities  
Through Movie Making

For Children and Youth between the ages of 10 and 16

Led by Movie Directors and Producers

What is “ EIGAKKO ” ?

“EIGA” = “Movie”

“GAKKO ” = “School”

“KO” = “Children”

“KKO” = “Like”

When we put it all together,

we get

**“EIGAKKO!”**

[AY GAH KO]

## Why I created “EIGAKKO!”

I have long been aware, in filmmaking, of the necessity of inter-communicative ability and clear thinking. First of all, unlike writing a novel, filmmaking is not a solitary activity. As a matter of course, the filmmaker must make his ideas understood by all concerned, actors and crew alike. He must impart what he has in mind to many persons, and ensure mutual understanding and cooperation among all participants, so as to be able to act together as one, in a kind of symbiotic movement.

In my work as a director, I have also learned that my own thinking must be clear. I am often obliged to isolate myself for a time for meditation, reflection, and soul-searching. In so doing, I have trained myself over time to be disciplined in my thinking; hazy ideas and vague feelings can lead to confusion, misunderstanding and even conflict on the set!

Image, communication, and information technologies have become something very close to us. Computers, mobile phones,

and digital cameras are increasingly a part of our daily lives, experience, and environment. I have often found, however: though younger people can easily "communicate" with computers and game machines, that because they are still growing and developing, they experience some limitations in expressing themselves, or in working with others. I also feel that there are not many of them who can, for example, carry a camera with clear thinking regarding an object that they wish to shoot; or when they encounter difficulties or even failure, they are not yet equipped to deal with, or even be fully aware of what is occurring.

It is precisely through the creative process of filmmaking, in shooting images and working with others in this workshop to achieve a specific end (the production and screening of the final film product) that I wish to make my contribution to nurturing and developing these abilities in the younger generations.

Koto Nagata , Ginger Studio CEO

CONCEPT OF WORKSHOP : one step leads to the next!

## STEP 1: Thinking

We first consider "What to shoot?". It is not always possible for us to come up with appropriate ideas quickly when asked to do so. Consequently, a working script is provided, the same as in the case of true movie production.

Participants will begin by thinking about or imagining certain objects ( physical objects or objects in the mind ) around them ( for example, objects sitting on his or her desk, people or colors of favorite fabrics, etc.) These things or people should be of interest and/or a favorite of participants.

We next take note of our impressions of these things and then practice "thinking".

This activity, as an example, but many other, eventually becomes a mental exercise, which gradually trains participants to make decisions about shooting (what, where, when, who, etc. ) by getting these objects "sorted out" in their minds: the first steps in learning how to think!

## STEP 2: Production

Production stands for the process of shooting, editing and the output of the final product (the film). It is neither “freestyle”, nor an hour upon hour kind of shooting. Attention will be focused on screen images found among the objects of shooting ( which were initially chosen in step 1). The process can be compared to taking pictures with a photographic camera. During this process, participants will be induced to make decisions. They will not endlessly film until they finally become satisfied.

Upon completion of shooting, materials will be downloaded into computers, as instructed, for editing. Through the editing process, participants will realize (and be surprised by) how changeable initial perceptions and impressions can be. They will place and replace a piece of the film on the timeline, and edit it repeatedly, until they reach a point where the product expresses that which they intend to express.

## STEP 3: Communication

It would not make sense at all if the edited work remained idle on a bookshelf. Similar to characters and words, image contains a communicative function, and has meaning only when seen by others. Therefore, at the end of workshop, there will be a screening of films. Other participants are the first ones to view completed works, in essence becoming “the first audience”. Each participant will experience how the image products produced by them are received by others, as well as how this reception made them feel.

I always feel such mutual communication between the filmmaker and the audience to be very important for film production. I would like those who produce films in these workshops to also experience and learn from such mutual communication. Participants can confirm how much of their thinking got through to the audience, learn from it, and then apply it to their lives, and perhaps even to their next creation.

The three steps would not make much sense if any one were missing. Step 2 makes sense because of Step 1; and Step 3 would make another Step 1 more meaningful, leading in turn to Step 2, and so on, in a perpetual cycle of growth: one step always leading to, and impelling one, to the next!



ONE  
MORE  
STEP!

EIGAKKO! hopes to expand its activities to foreign countries, beginning in India, in hopes of enlarging the communicative horizons of youth at home and abroad. This means that by exchanging their works with those produced by young people in other countries, participants can learn how their works are received where languages, cultures, and perceptions are quite different from their own. By the same token, they could give their own impressions of works from abroad, thereby enriching each others' communicative possibilities.

NEXT  
STEP!

## International Youth Film Festival

EIGAKKO! hopes and plans to hold an International Youth Film Festival after some experience with the workshops. The spirit of these festivals will be similar to those festivals for youth which are currently held in South Korea and Taiwan, go beyond by allowing entrants from all countries.

*EIGAKKO! is recruiting partners and sponsors for the opening of The International Youth Film Festival. Those who are interested are welcome not only to participate in the workshops, but to cooperate with and assist us in many other capacities.*