



## Q&A Love your work

For cinematographer and SAE Institute lecturer David Hawkins, 28, life is a moving picture, full of great lighting and perfect framing.

### What is the role of a cinematographer?

In the simplest terms, it's everything to do with the camera, including framing and lighting.

### Isn't that the director's job?

The director's job is to oversee the whole production – [it's] a very creative but managerial position.

### Do you only work on set?

No, we work with the director on the pre-production process. On set, I take over so the director doesn't have to think about anything except performance.

### What have you worked on?

People might know *The Saviour*, which was

nominated for an Oscar this year for best live-action short film.

### What makes a great picture, composition-wise?

There are lots of theories about working in circles or triangles to achieve a pretty picture. Over the years I've learnt the structures so I just move the cameras around and at a certain point you know that's the one.

### What do you mean by working in triangles?

It's about trying to create triangular structures by using people or forms to create a shape to guide the eye.

### Have you begun to see life as a series of scenes?

Yes! I'm always seeing good shots and great lighting and wonderful framing. I went through a period of keeping a book of them but it got too fat, too quickly.

### What sorts of things make your job difficult?

Two things: time and money. In the Australian film world we have so little of both.

### Which film has perfect cinematography?

I'm a Dion Beebe fan, the Aussie who shot *Chicago* and *Memoirs Of A Geisha* and who won an Oscar. He has the most beautiful, subtle style. *Chris Sheedy*

