

# Chapter 17 - Directing Three: The Shoot - QuizPrint

1. In your own words, why is a creative spirit the most important quality in a director?

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The “Creative Spirit” is the most important quality in a director because first this quality differentiates a good director than others, second it’s what keeps the director going,

The creative spirit makes you (the director) look at challenges and problems differently, it also make you accept failures and learn from it, and you have the “creative spirit” you can turn any failures, challenges or problems into success some how (even if not a tangible success at least you will learn something)

Example: Fitzcorraldo ultimately fails in his main quest (to pull the boat over the hill) but because of his “creative spirit” he was able to turn his defeat into some kind of victory (eventually he accomplished victory in another way buy making the opera play on a moving ship).

The “Creative Spirit” is the main drive that could lead the director to accomplish things without the need to raise money, no need to gather a crew or no need to move the boat over the hill, all is needed is the “creative spirit” that can make you do wonders.

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2. Were you prepared enough? What part of pre-production would you focus more on next time?

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Unfortunately I did not have the time to shoot any of my scenes as my script is not over yet,

BUT I will answer all the following questions based from what I’ve read and learnt:

PREPARATION is the name of the game, preparation is another very important quality of a good director and a successful production

In Pre-production we have to prepare for everything, everything needed for the shoot, the cast, the location, and the crew needs, that incudes parking, security, restrooms, food and catering services,

Also I would focus on refreshments and drinks (unalcoholic) to be available so that the actors and other crew members stay refreshed,

Also I should be prepared and expect the unexpected, I want to think ahead so I can avoid any problems that can occur in production (I should imagine all the possibilities of the things that can go wrong and plan accordingly, so I know from the beginning and be well prepared.

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3. Do you feel like you communicated well with the other departments on set?
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Communicating with other departments is very important for any production/project to succeed and be a good one, communication need to be clear and specific,

I want to make sure to keep positive attitude with all crew members from different departments, I want to make sure that every one is comfortable and focused so that they can do their best,

I will listen to other people's suggestions (from other departments) and consider it,

Filmmaking is a collaborative art form, that needs people to work together.

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4. Were you able to communicate clear directions to your actors? Could you answer the six questions for them?
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Communicating with your actor is much more important that communicating with anyone else on set, actors are creative, sensitive people you have to deal with them cautiously.

I will give my actor direct, clear and action verbs orders in a good polite ways,

I have to be able to answer Hagen's six questions to my actors as the answers to the first four questions will provide the actors with the necessary background and information on their characters (The four questions are: 1-Who the character is? 2- Where the character comes from? 3- where the character is? 4-Who the character is with? How does the character feel?)

The answer to the last two questions will make the actors understand the "point of the scene" and the direct object (the two questions are: 5- What does the character want from the person/character he or she with?

6- what does the character do to get what he/she wants?

Last but not least I have to be careful about the info./material that I share with my actors, depends on which scene we are shooting and what is needed from this actor/actress.

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5. Were you satisfied with your choice of location?
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The Location of the scenes is very important, I will scout the locations my self, I will also visit the mentioned locations in different timings during the day and night to check the weather and the lighting in the morning and in nights,

I will make sure that the selected location is the best location to first serve the scene, then the whole story including the characters.

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6. What was the most difficult decision to make on your feet?

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I would say the most difficult decision to make on my feet, those decisions are the ones that are made during production and usually appears out of no where, they are challenges and problems that might jeopardize the production, but given my “creative spirit” and skills I should be able to fix/solve any problem or challenge on the spot and on a way that doesn’t jeopardize my production, the take of the scene or my actors and crew.

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7. What aspect of production went smoothest?

I would say that the most aspect of pre-production that would be smooth is scouting for locations, I have a good eye and a good plan, I should visit the locations personally, also I will visit the locations in different timings during the day and night to check the weather and the lighting in the morning and in nights,

8. Give an example of Murphy's Law in action during production.

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First of all Murphy’s law states that “Whatever can go wrong, will” this means that i should expect everything to go wrong, in other words I SHOULD EXPECT RTHE UNEXPECTED, that’s why the unexpected is expected and I will be prepared for anything, I should be thinking ahead (I will imagine every situation and every possibility that could wrong so I can be prepared or be over prepared).

An example of murphy’s law:

I was shooting an outdoor scene and I was prepared in case the camera man forgets his camera, that why I brought an extra camera and guess what the camera man broke his camera on his way to the location, so the camera that I brought and though it would be useless as a second option was the main camera that we shooted the project with.

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9. Why do you think the scene you shot is the best representation of your script?

I believe that the scene I was working on was the best scene to shot because it was a very important scene in the end of act two, where I present the conflict of the main character and the whole movie (present or introduce the main conflict to the audience).

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10. Do you feel confident about your performance on set? What do you think was your strongest trait?

Weakest?

I was very confident on set while shooting the scene, thanks to the curriculum which taught me to be well PREPARED, which is the most important trait for a successful director, in addition I have the main driver which is the "Creative Spirit" beside a clear vision of what I want,

As for the preparation part: I gathered all the required information, did my full home work on research the: theme, characters and everything that was needed to shot the scene, I included all my information, pictures, articles and materials and include them all in my "Workbook" (The Director's Workbook) which should contain:

- 1- The shooting script (final lined script).
- 2- A Shootlist (List of the things that need to be shot on that specific day)
- 3- Storyboards
- 4- Blocking sheet
- 5- Character notes

My strongest trait was preparation, which went so well,

My weakest trait was communicating with the actors, this part was not covered/read by myself before the scene, but I have learnt to be more positive and careful with actors as they are creative, sensitive people that needs to be handled carefully, I will also use action verbs with them instead of adjectives and orders.