

Joseph Austin Daugherty

August 19th 2016

What is an Assistant Director?

“Quite on set!!” we have always heard these words yelled when about to shoot a scene but who is the person behind yelling these three little words? If you guessed an Assistant Director good job, gold star for you, you answered correctly! The Assistant Director or AD has many different jobs when working on set these jobs include making a call sheet and shot list, making sure everyone is in the places at the right time, making the director heard, and being a great leader. Almost everyone on set will eventually have an interaction with this person they are pretty much the second in command. Just remember always be where you need to be at any given moment and do what you need to be doing.

One of the Assistant Directors main jobs is to schedule a call sheet and a shot list for the day, these two items are vital to keep the day and the production running smoothly. A call sheet is who needs to be on set at what time and a shot list is a list of camera shots that have to be completed by the end of the day. The Assistant Director will analyze the script to map out what is needed in these certain scenes, what actors are needed, and what locations are needed. Without having these two things the production would be complete chaos, there would be people not knowing what do wandering around set aimlessly. These two things are as small as they are one of the many vertebras that make up the backbone of the entire production.

One of the major roles on set for an Assistant Director is to direct the cast a crew before the camera starts rolling. The director talks through the AD to the cast and crew, the AD is the eyes, ears, and mouth of the director. Your walkie is very essential when needing to find a certain person or when the AD is trying to find a prop or an item to be used in the next scene. When the next scene comes they are the one who yells commands such as quiet on set or roll camera. They are the directors right hand man when it comes to the shooting of the film.

The Assistant Director is one of the key players in running the show on set. They are one of, if not the most, important people on set. Without their expertise in the background who knows what some of the movies we know and love today would have looked like or even if they would have been finished or made. Time, effort, sweat, tears, and more time go into making a movie great and most of that time and sweat come from the Director and their AD They work hard to schedule and plan so the shoot can go as smoothly as possible. An AD never quits when things get hard it's only another challenge they can conquer.