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Chapter 8 – Stages of a Production – Quiz

1. In your own words, what are the six stages of filmmaking, and what is each stage’s role in the process?

The six stages of filmmaking are development, financing, pre-production, production, post-production, marketing and distribution.

* Development: 3 phases (idea, writing and re-writing) With the first step into making a film, there needs to be an idea of what the film is going to be about, and then it goes into being written. After the main concepts have been thought out and written down, that is when all the re-writing starts to occur. This last process takes more time to go through, because there are usually so many people in this process that have their own ideas of what should happen, how this/that would work, why the characters should do a certain thing or be a certain way, etc. There are so many factors that need to take place and decided upon before the actual filming can start.
* Financing: 2 ways – studio and independent. After a script has been made, it needs to be broken down again to check on what it requires and how much is needed to complete the film. The studio way is going to a studio and proposing your script to the executives asking them to finance your film. In this process, if the studio agrees to finance your film, they must have the distribution rights, a large amount of the profits, and a big piece of yourself. The independent way of making your film is to raise the money yourself, which may lead to you creating your own company.
* Pre-Production: This is a very meticulous step before any kind of filming is done. When the script gets financed, it then needs to be broken down again to identify what is needed for that particular shot/moment/scene. It goes from actors to props. This step gives every detail of the script and how it will be created on camera. It breaks down a precise budget and schedule for everyone, and once all the thought has been placed, that is when you get everything you need to start filming.
* Production: It’s when you start to film your movie.
* Post-Production: After all the filming is done, it’s time to edit the scenes. This step is basically putting all the puzzle pieces together to create your film. Editors will place the footage into the order given. Then the sound will get edited, next is music, any special effects, and final mix-down of sounds to put everything together. After all that has been done and the sound is perfect, it gets placed with the edited footage and then you get your final result of the film.
* Marketing and Distribution: This is one of the most important parts of movie making. After the movie has been created, you need to sell your film to a distributor, that way it can get marketed out to people who may want to watch your film. It is merely impossible to be your own distributor when independently making your film, because it usually requires millions of dollars.

1. How many phases can development be broken into? What are those phases and what is their significance?

There are three phases that development can be broken into.

* First phase is the idea. You need to have a general thought of what you want your film to be about and what other concepts will flow with your film.
* Second phase is writing. This is when you write down all your ideas and thoughts into a script as your first draft.
* Third phase is re-writing. In this last step, everyone goes through that first draft and gives their opinions of what should change, be enhanced, taken out, etc. This is the longest process to go through in development, because there are so many people coming up with various ideas they want to have in the film.

1. What causes a script to get caught in “development hell?”

A script can get caught in “development hell,” because this process has too many people involved. There are so many different ideas going around and arguments being made of what should go in the film and what shouldn’t, that the script could be stuck in this process for a while. It all depends on the creative group working through the script. It may be possible that this process would take almost as long as creating the film itself.

1. What is the difference between a “producer” and an “executive producer?”

A producer is the main person in charge and responsible for the entire film. They are the ones who find a writer to create a story to have it placed on screen. Producers then go about hiring the executive producers to find people to finance the film. They are “sometimes responsible for representing the interests of the investors as well.” There are times when the executive producer title is given to the investors also. After a script has been created and bought and an executive producer found investors to invest in the film, the producer then seeks out a director who will bring his/her creativity and ideas into making the script come to life.

1. What positions make up a producer’s original staff? What does each position do?

The positions that make up a producer’s original staff starts with the executive producer who needs to raise money for the project. After that has been done, the producer then goes about hiring a unit production manager/line producer. There are also other producers that become a part of the staff such as associate producers, co-producers, and co-executive producers, but those titles are usually given out as favors. Also, the producer would have a production accountant.

* Executive producers are the ones who go out and find money to raise for the film.
* Line producers are in charge of the production crew. They deal with everything that takes place during the production and always reports to the producer.
* Co-producers and co-executive producers help the producer create the film with writing and any creative ideas.

1. Explain the difference between “linear” editing and “non-linear” editing.

Linear editing was mainly used when working with video tape. Unlike non-linear editing, you were not able to take different pieces of the footage and piece them up. The sequences would not be able to be broken up. If you would want to replace a current clip, it needed to be the exact same length as the previous clip. With non-linear editing, you would be able to “cut and paste” different sequences and scenes from the footage. It is a much easier way to edit than linear editing. Non-linear editing allows the editor to work with low resolution footage to have them appear on standard-definition TVs along with being able to create high-definition quality for TVs. With the introduction of digital video technology came the process of non-linear editing, making it much easier to edit scenes and grab clips from different shots to be placed in the sequence.