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Chapter 5 question #1

To make a great film, filmmaker’s need a lot of helping hands. Such as the producer that helps to develop the plan behind the film and the executive producer to help fund it. A DP, makeup artists, set designer, etc. But a director also needs a helping hand to make sure everything is running in smooth order. Which is where the first assistant director comes into the picture. The 1st assistant director is the directors right hand man to help supervise the cast and crew, so that the director can focus on the creative process and not stress about the other things.

One of the first main things a 1st assistant director needs do is create the daily schedule for production every day, so that everybody knows what they will be doing for the day. When they make the schedule they also need to be aware of the budget, the cast availability, and what the script will cover for that day. They also prepare the storyboard, oversee the hiring of various locations, the props and equipment, the weather for the day. They ensure the safety and the health of the crew and the cast set. These are the key things they need to do in pre-production. They make sure everyone is on the same page and ready for the director’s cue so they can start filming. They also are over all the other assistant directors and runners. Their main responsibility is to make sure that everything stays on schedule by making sure they make daily announcements and by giving directions and coordinating the cast and the crew.

1st assistant directors need a lot of skill sets to make sure that everything runs smoothly. They need be authoritative and a team leader, while also being approachable because if they appear to be difficult to work with, no one will want to listen to them and nothing will get done for the day. They also need be super organized and have good time management skills. They need to know how to plan ahead so that if anything comes up in production they can solve it as quickly as possible. They also need to have excellent communication skills so that they can get their point across effectively. So that when problems arrive on set they know how to handle them so that things don’t go awry. Being able to multitask is also very important, because they may encounter repeated interruptions and need to be able to prioritize those tasks. They also need be calm because sometimes things don’t always go as planned, so they need to maintain a clear head so they can figure out the best way to solve the situation, and that means dealing with and being in a stressful environment. So remembering to be positive and open minded in those situations can help them see what needs to be taken care of.

1st assistant directors are extremely vital in production. Without them, not a lot of things would get done on time, everything would be chaotic, and production would be an entire disaster. No one would know what to do for the day and it would be a very hectic and stressful environment. The director would have to many things to take care of which would bring production to a halt. 1st assistant directors help to keep up the pace so that the director doesn’t have to worry too much about these things and that everything will run smoothly. When everyone is informed about what to do it makes production not as stressful and everyone can focus on making a great film while having some fun in the process.