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Chapter 9 - Cinematography - Quiz

1. Describe the basic duties of a DP. Explain the difference between a director of photography and a cinematographer.

The basic duties of a DP are to make sure the visual image is captured at the highest quality. The difference between a DP and a cinematographer is that the DP does not actually operate the camera, while the cinematographer does.

2. What jobs comprise the director of photography's crew?

In the director's photography crew, the DP will work with a camera operator, 1st assistant camera operator (focus puller) and the 2nd camera assistant (clapper/loader).

3. Why is depth perception important when lighting an actor?

Depth perception is important when lighting an actor because it helps the audience to distinguish the distance between foreground and background. We have two eyes, but the camera only has one. So, when you add light in specific ways to get depth, it acts as two eyes.

4. What are the three main lights used in cinematography? How are they used together to create "the visual image"?

The three main lights used in cinematography are key, fill, and backlight. The key light is used to wash all of the shadows of the face, shadows are brought back with a

fill light, then the backlight creates a halo effect which triggers the human eye into seeing a separation of the subject from the background.

The two basic aspects of “the visual image” are lighting and camera. When you put all three main lights in front of the camera, it make an amazing “visual image”.

5. What is the difference between tungsten incandescents and HMIs? What is the purpose of each?

The difference between tungsten incandescents and HMIs are that tungsten give you yellow light, while HMIs give you blue light. The purpose of both is to show moods and themes.

6. What are some of the other tools a director of photography will use to create lighting effects?

Some of the tools a DP will use to create lighting effects are gels that go in front over the lights to change color, scrims, cucolorises, and a bounce.

7. What are the different parts of a camera?

The five different parts that make up a camera are the light-box, the lens, the shutter, the iris, and the final plane.

8. Why is “vetting” your DP so important? When vetting him, what characteristics are you looking for? What do you want to avoid?

Vetting your DP is very important because you want to make sure you are getting the correct person for the job. You want to make sure their style is similar to yours. The characteristics you would be looking for are easy to work with, smart, competent, and experienced. You will want to talk to the people they’ve worked with in the past to avoid getting anyone difficult to work with or inexperienced.

9. What is the most important quality of a camera?

The most important quality of a camera is Excluding light, except where it is wanted.

10. What is a lens and what is its primary purpose?

A lens is glass elements of different shapes on a barrel made of metal or plastic. The primary purpose is to get a sharp image of the object onto the focal plane, where the film is located.

11. What is focal length and what does it effect?

Focal length is the magnification power of a lens usually expressed in millimeters. It controls the field of view the camera sees.

12. What is controlled by the iris?

The depth of field is controlled by the iris. The larger the iris opens, the less depth of field. Same with the smaller the iris closes, you'll have an increase in the depth of field.

13. What does the shutter control?

The shutter controls the length of time light is exposed to the film. This is measured in fractions of a second, for example, 1/60 or 1/000 of a second.

14. In your own words, why is well executed sound important?

Well executed sound is important because it makes the film more real. It can pull the audience in and out if there isn't well executed sound.

15. Who generally comprises a sound crew?

The sound crew is generally comprised of a mixer, boom operator, and one to two assistants. The job of the mixer is to supervise the audio department, provide equipment, and determine microphone placement. They also monitor every take and makes changes in the sound levels on a mixing board. The boom operator manipulates a shotgun microphone on the end of an extendable boom pole over the actor's heads

16. Why does the mixer need to make sure levels are kept within a proper range?

The mixer needs to make sure the levels are kept within a proper range because the sound that is recorded at too high of a level will be distorted and hard to fix in post.

17. What are the tasks of a sound assistant?

The tasks of a sound assistant include attaching wireless mics to actors and retrieves mics, along with other things.

18. What is time code used for?

Time code is used to show the director what the last few takes look and sound like. It also syncs pictures to audio.