

The Producer's Role in Film Production

The film producer's role is usually to oversee the film production. Whether employed by a production company or working independently, producers plan and coordinate various aspects of film production, such as selecting the script, coordinating writing, directing and editing, and arranging finances.

The producer will hire a screenwriter unless the film is based on an existing script. He will oversee the development of the script. Once the script is completed, the producer will lead a pitch to secure financial backing in order for production to begin.

The producer also supervises the pre-production, and post-production stages of filmmaking. One of the most important tasks is to hire the director and a crew. Although the director makes the creative decisions during the production, the producer can have the final say on creative decisions. Typically the producer manages the logistics and business operations side of things. The producer is also in charge with making sure the film is done on time and within budget. When all is done the producer will oversee the marketing and distribution of the film.

The producer has a long list of things-to-do, so to make things easier they will usually hire what is called an executive producer, line producers, or unit production managers. This includes the supervising producer, co-producer, production coordinator, field producer, segment producer, and associate producer or assistant producer. The executive producer oversees all the others producers working on the same project. They make sure that producers are fulfilling their roles on the given production. They can also be in charge of managing the film's finances, and handling of all other business aspects of the film. Line producers usually manage the staff and day-to-day operations. They oversee each and every physical aspects that is involved in the making of a film or television program. The supervising producer supervises the creative process of screenplay development and often aids in script rewrites. The co-producer is usually part of a team of producers that perform all of the functions and roles that a single producer would have in a single given project. The production coordinator coordinates the work/roles of multiple producers who are trying to achieve a shared result. The field producer helps the producer by overseeing all of the production that takes place outside of the studio. The segment producer produces one or more single specific segments of a multi segment film or television production. Last but not least, is the associate producer or assistant producer. They help the producers during the production process. They can also coordinate other people's schedules and hiring the main talent.

Their jobs in pre-production, production, and post-production goes as follows. During pre-production, they make sure the film stays on schedule and under budget. They will always be in contact with the directors and other key members of the film. During production, for various reasons, producers do not always supervise all parts of their production. Some producers run a company that mainly deals with film distribution. But when it comes to post-production the

producer has the last words on whether sounds, music, or scenes have to be changed or cut. Even if the shooting is done, the producers can still demand additional scenes be filmed. In the case of a negative test screening, producers may even demand an alternate ending.

These are all the responsibilities of a producer. They are the organs of the film if the director, crew and casts, are the head and limbs. They are the ones that control how your movie is distributed and what it will take to get it done, and done right. Producers have a lot to do and they have the ability to make or break a film. With this being said, I have a lot of respect for producers and production companies.