

Chapter 5 Assignment

two page paper on Assistant Director (AD)

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Above the line is the head and heart of a film production known as the Director and Producer. Below the line is a portion of a members who physically get work done in a film production. The Director has to keep in mind many goals and objectives on top of an entire film and it's production. There's endless micromanagement and micro tasks that must be done. In order to ensure a a large project is being executed in a timely matter and that all goals are being resourcefully met, the director usually hires an assistant.

The Assistant Director is tasked with keeping track of all the things the Director may or may not be able to focus on. Much like working at any retail store or coffee shop, the manager has an assistant tasked with overseeing micro-objectivity in the workplace, the assistant director (AD) keeps track of daily progress according to a filming production schedule. The AD also prepares daily call sheets or schedules that use the directors shot list. That way all cast and crew are informed of when and where they should report for a particular day and time of the film production.

The assistant director also helps with arranging logistics such as location scouting, setting up and figuring out which equipment will be required, determining if any facilities will be needed or available, and creating a site survey checklist if filming on location.

The assistant director is important because they help maintain order on a set and also aid in maintaining health and safety of the crew.

Many famous directors have also once been assistant Directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and James McTeigue. Though, many assistant directors often tend to transition to production management or producer roles.

It's not uncommon for a film production to include multiple assistant directors. Such titles would be numbered as in: first assistant director, second, third, additional, and so forth. The bigger the project, the more assistants are needed to ensure the best results and maintain productivity.

Finally, arguably the most important job of an assistant director is roll calling, also known as calling the roll. The AD calls out specific cues that inform everyone on set what's going on, etc. Such rolls cue procedures and tell everyone to get ready. Some basic roll calls include:

“Final Checks, please” or “last looks”

“roll sound” and “roll camera”

“action” and “cut”

and “waiting on talent”

Resources:

IMDB (nd) [webpage] Movie Terminology glossary: A. Retrieved February 7 2017 from <http://www.imdb.com/glossary/A>

Directors Guild of America, DGA.ORG (nd) [webpage] ADs, UPMs & Associate Directors. Retrieved February 7 2017 from <http://www.dga.org/Contracts/Rates-2014-to-2017/ADs-UPMs-and-AssociateDir-2014-to-2017.aspx>

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National Career Service (nd) [webpage] TV or Film Assistant Director. Retrieved February 7 2017 <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/tv-or-film-assistant-director>

filmsound.org. (nd) [webpage] MOS. Retrieved February 7 2017 <http://filmsound.org/terminology/mos.htm>