

Chapter 19 Essay

Producer's Role in Film Production

A producer plays a vital role in the production of a film. Not only does a producer secure a budget and oversee the post-production work, they oversee just about every aspect of the movie. This is something I never knew before I took this course. In the opening credits of a movie, people see the word "producer" and thinks it's just someone who puts up the money for the movie to be made; I used to be one of those people. And also, if you're anything like me, you won't understand why there are so many. Producer, executive producer, co-executive producer? And so on... These people all play very important roles in the movie making process.

The executive producer is someone who often owns the rights to a book or a story and secures at least 25 percent of the budget. Executive producers don't really get tied up in the technicalities of making a film. They usually have several other projects at the same time and just want to see the movie get made.

A co-executive producer, however, has a lot more involvement. They often help with casting, financing, or post-production. A co-executive producer also has some financial stake in the movie.

A line producer is someone who is on set at all times to supervise the budget and the project but has little to no creative input in the project.

Associate producer is a very honorable title. This usually goes to someone who had an exceptional role in the movie being made and being made well. For example, a writer who comes in and fixes a terrible script. Or someone who comes in after the movie is made and reshoots scenes to better the movie (I'm looking at you, Joss Whedon. Justice League thanks you.)

After the movie has been made, it's the producer's job to deal with finance and distribution of the finished film. All in all, without producers, we probably wouldn't have movies. Or any good ones, that is. The producers handle everything from the very beginning stages of just having a story to tell, to the final stages of marketing and distribution. Give these people the credit they deserve. For the longest time I didn't, simply because I didn't know about *all* of their involvement.

Being a producer seems like a very exhausting, involved, tedious and rewarding job. Now that I know more about it, maybe it's something I'd like to do in the future.