

## Assistant Director

An Assistant Director is the Director's right hand man, he's in charge of responsibilities such as breaking down the script into a shot by shot storyboard and working with the director to determine the shoot order. They're also responsible for figuring out how long each scene will take, the schedule, make sure every aspect of the shoot stays on schedule. Coordinating all production activity and supervising cast and crew are all part of an AD's main duties. Overall they provide a link between the director and cast/crew, while maintaining the order on the shooting schedule and shots. The responsibilities get more into depth when actually working on set, it specifies in pre-production which is the key for a successful shoot. The weather, if the day looks cloudy but no rain percentage was forecasted, then the AD must determine which scenes to do first in case it does rain. Budgetary constraints, this means he has to be aware of how much can be spent in shooting. Cast availability is another responsibility from the AD, he must ensure the cast needed for the scenes are on standby or the ones needed for the following scene. Script coverage, preparing storyboard, overseeing the hiring of locations, all important factors that the AD is also responsible for in pre-production. The director will work very close to his assistant so they're both on the same page when producing his vision. The main key for an AD is driving the film forward and on schedule, so they're frequently giving announcements and directions to coordinate the cast and crew. As we can see the AD have plenty of responsibilities, but with great responsibilities also come great power. The AD is in charge of discipline on set, he's the head of the other assistant directors and oversees the preparation of the daily call sheet. The daily call sheet is a document detailing daily shooting logistics, this piece of documentation is distributed to all cast and crew. Another big one on their shoulders is the safety and health on set, meaning they have to minimize the chances of danger. So taking action on eliminating hazards and danger at all times is a must. They may be straightforward at times and sound a bit of rude but their job requires to stay on top of everything, it's nothing personal they just take their job very seriously.

First AD's must be team leaders, they have to be able to communicate excellently, great with managing, responsible, excellent organizers, must have a director's vision as well as keeping up with all the responsibilities. Planning ahead is always necessary for an AD, troubleshoot and always staying put for what's going on in the productions such as in scenes as well as with the cast and crew. They are definitely under a great amount of pressure, usually the job can be stressful and a positive approach must be required to work this position. Strong mental toughness, patience to deal with others, to deal with mistakes, to come in handy when the situations seem to be out of control. The AD is the lifesaver, they have to work long hours and multi-tasking is a must. When working alongside a director, if the visions aren't congruent the shooting will not be as effective, as a matter of fact it will not be effective at all. The AD will eventually move up to the director's position when the time comes, but meanwhile an AD must learn as much as he can from the director. With the knowledge already in hand, the AD will step to the director's position more confident, the leadership skills will become even stronger knowing every aspect of the production. Starting as an AD is an excellent way to gather great experience and education in the filmmaking industry. For personal reasons, if i'd have to work in the top productions as an AD to work my way up and eventually becoming a main director then i'll do what it takes. This is just like in any industry, no one just arrives to the top, we all have to work our way up from the bottom. This position can be fun, when there's a great amount of knowledge, when things run smoothly, when everyone is on the same page the AD position can be enjoyable. The thing to always keep in mind is to expect the unexpected, at some point anything can go wrong and it's the AD's duty to resolve quickly. Not everyone can play this position in production, it takes a mentally strong, quick thinking, intelligent, leader, organized human being. But in order to reach the dream director job, this is a phase that must be experienced.