**1. Discuss Line Producing and the importance of staying on budget.**

**Answer:** The line producer helps in planning and overseeing the crafting of budget, the needs of the day-to-day production and ensures that everything is being crafted on budget and schedule. It is not a creative endeavor but is an essential part of any film production from a logistical standpoint. It is an extremely important role because it is very important to stay on (or better yet, under) budget. If a production goes over budget, it runs the risk of not making its money. Moreover, it’ll be a reflection on the Director: that he/she does not have the creative discipline to properly executve within time and money constraints. Such artists are shunned by Hollywood.

**2. Discuss the Wachowski’s career and why they ‘Needed a hit’.**

**Answer:** The Wachowski siblings have written ten films that have been produced, directed six films and produced six. They started out as writers, went on to create low-budget crime thriller and then made their breakout hit, “The Matrix”, which put them on the cultural map and made it one of the biggest exports of Hollywood. They used techniques in the film that would become a staple in the action genre. They followed this blockbuster with financially successful sequels and then went on to make mega-budget movies that failed to get the attention of the audience. They didn’t let the failure get to them and decided to pursue “Cloud Atlas”. They were turned down by every major studio and so, they pursued financing from independent sources and accumulated $140 million. The movie failed to garner commercial and critical success, and thus, they entered the “need a hit” territory in order sustain in Hollywood. Hollywood only cares if people came out to see your movie.

**3. What was the creative process for the Blair Witch Project and why was it so successful?**

**Answer:** The creative process for “The Blair Witch Project” included a rough script, hiring a few amateur actors and have them improv their dialog. With great editing techniques, the film turned out and ended up grossing over $300 million worldwide. It set the trend for “found footage” genre. Cross that. It *created* the “found footage” genre. It was so successful because it was shot on a tight budget of $20,000.

**4. How did Tom Cruise prove that he was still commercially viable when he "needed a hit"?**

**Answer:** Tom Cruise made fun of himself as a media mogul in “Tropic Thunder” with a bit part where he was almost unrecognizable. He wore a fat suit, prosthetic arms, became bald and played the cameo in a movie that made money. It proved to the higher ups in Hollywood (Are there really many higher ups in Hollywood beyond Tom Cruise, though?) that he was still a bankable star. After finishing up a few movies (“Minority Report” and “War of the Worlds”) with Spielberg, Tom Cruise went through a relatively dry patch. But after “Tropic Thunder” came back with a bang with the “Mission Impossible” franchise and also helped create the “Jack Reacher” franchise.