

Kyle Ernst

1. In your own words, why is a creative spirit the most important quality in a director?

To have creative spirit is to see it through, even with the chance of failing. Because if you aren't willing fail, you cannot succeed either. No matter the scale, if you don't have the drive, the want, or the spirit to be a director, the ability to succeed will be low.

2. Were you prepared enough? What part of pre-production would you focus more on next time?

Aside from weather, everything was on time in the schedule and went from paper to screen smoothly. I feel like re-writing the scene and polishing it a bit more could have been good, but as a beginning writer, I'm not gonna nail it 100% every scene I write.

3. Do you feel like you communicated well with the other departments on set?

Yes, aside from the location we shot at, the person didn't inform other residents we would be there and when. This was annoying but easily preventable, and thank goodness it was also resolved.

4. Were you able to communicate clear directions to your actors? Could you answer the six questions for them?

Yes and yes. Being able to communicate the character and letting them put themselves into their shoes either by relative experiences or just the characters' mood worked better than I expected. No hiccups there.

5. Were you satisfied with your choice of location?

Very. It looked natural in the way of where things were placed and the lighting. I'm a huge fan of natural lighting.

6. What was the most difficult decision to make on your feet?

Changing a line to be more natural, some things look better on paper, but brainstorming new things to say in the moment can be a bit of a challenge. The actor I worked with was good at using improv to help the situation land on its feet.

7. What aspect of production went smoothest?

Shooting shots that were drafted ahead of time in a storyboard.

8. Give an example of Murphy's Law in action during production.

No matter how prepared you are something will go wrong. It snowed the day before so creating a one shot going from inside to outside, playing with exposure, was especially difficult. Lesson learned: Always plan for weather conditions!

9. Why do you think the scene you shot is the best representation of your script?

It is a moment that so many people can connect with. It's the moment the main character finds out they've been accepted to a University. I've been in the room when friends have opened letters being accepted, so I threw that atmosphere into my scene.

10. Do you feel confident about your performance on set? What do you think was your strongest trait? Weakest?

Yes, I was able to not take too much control and let the actor be creatively free and try takes with different emotion, sometimes one way worked better than others. Being able to communicate my vision was clear and wasn't lost in translation ever. I think I'm fairly weak in the aspect of composition, but I have improved over the past year.