

First Assistant Directors main duties are to coordinate all production activity, as well as supervise the cast and crew. As a first director, they are also in charge of the second and third assistant directors. Basically, they serve as a link between the Director, cast and crew, whilst also working with the production office, and providing progress reports about the shoot. Before the shoot, the First AD's main task is to build a filming schedule, which details when and where the scenes will be shot. When drawing up the shooting schedule, First AD's must also be aware of the budget, cast availability and script coverage. Preparing the storyboard, overseeing the hiring of locations, props and equipment and checking weather reports are all key pre-production duties for Firsts. During production, they must ensure that everyone is on standby and ready for the Director's cue for action. First AD's main responsibility is to keep filming on schedule by driving it forward, so they make announcements and give directions to co-ordinate the cast and crew. They also control discipline on the set, supervise the other Assistant Directors and oversee the preparation of the daily call sheet.

A Joke one of my mentors sent me about AD's

A Director, a DP and an AD are walking along. They run up on a magic lantern and the Director rubs it. A Genie comes out of the lantern and says, "Ooooooh. I thank you for releasing me from my imprisonment. I will now grant you each 1 wish..." They all think for a minute and the Director says, "I would like to be taken to a tropical island, populated by beautiful women, surrounded by more delicious food and drink than I could ever ask for." *Whoosh!* and the Director is swept away from sight. The DP thinks for a second and says, "You know what? That sounds pretty good. I'd like the same thing." *Whoosh!* and the DP also disappears from sight. The Genie turns to the AD. "And what would be your wish, sir?" The AD says, "I want you to make sure those two are back to work in 5 minutes!"

