My Film Budget

I am a low budget filmmaker at best and a person looking for loose change under seat cushions to get more money for crew at worst so the realm of budgeting is almost lost on me when most of my films are self-produced. With that out of the way I understand that budgeting is a crucial part in the filmmaking process as money is what drives the whole narrative. With that being said this is how I have raised money for a film.

Generally, the films that I write and direct don’t need a tone of special effects or extravagant explosions, most of them have settings in Texas and have something to do with Texas. What they do require a lot of time, effort, and patience to get done right. All I need is the right people who are willing to work hard for a good product (and maybe a few extra bucks).

To get to the basics first I have my own company I can fall back on when it comes to self-payment for any individual needs or anything no one else is willing to invest or buy. My whole life has been one big do it yourself when it comes to filmmaking so this is the most familiar to me. As for other potential backers I have my mentor Deen who is the owner of the production company Rent A Studio. I had worked with him on several occasions on his films and he was one of the producers of my film These Lost Souls which was one of the only films I made not to be produced by only me. Finally, I would reach out to my Dads company for any additional funding. I know that seems sad but if there was anyone I would trust in the business area it’s my own family.

When it comes to any other additional costs I will reach out to the classic Go Found Me page cus that always seems to work wonders. I would need to reach out to my local film community at large and to anyone who gives a crap about me on social media. With the film community I can assure them that I am an “experienced” filmmaker and I would be able to put forth a product worth investing in and at the very least that would give me a good starting point to where I need to be.

Most of the actors I have worked with are good friends or long time acquaintances so I will be able to get a few people for a small amount or at least as a favor. Same with crew. For a lot of the extra helpers or extras in general I would normally use friends, family, or people ready and willing to be in front of a camera for free. I live in a community where people are not terribly acquainted with films or being in one for that matter, so when they get an opportunity to be part of one it’s an awesome thing to them to be in one.

Generally, I have a group of editors, including me, who work on all my projects after we are all done with shooting. The only thing I would concern myself with when it pertains to post would be sound mixing as I am not at all equip to do so in any way. I’ve worked with a few editors who are experts when it comes to sound mixing and correction however I’m sure they will not be cheap.

Finally, I would love to avoid any type of loan on the bank whenever possible and turn to my investors or my own wallet for spare change. However, if it was 100% freakin necessary I would make a deal with the bank to secure a loan.

So generally that would be my very flimsy plan on getting money for my own film. It’s not Hollywood style, but I’m used to working with a run and gun, gorilla filmmaking type of budget so this is perfect for me.