

Film Connection
Chapter 6 - Act One - Quiz
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1.) What is the most important qualities in a successful writer/director?

Being both iron-willed tyrant and a Buddhist monk. One must be able to take criticism, admit when someone else is right and incorporate those critiques into their writing. Whereas, in directing, a strong sense of self, and an undying passion for storytelling are vital.

2.) What do Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity have in common? How were they creative problems solved? How would you have attempted to solve the creative differences on set?

Both films had creative differences (egos clashing) amongst the actors and directors, which caused for uncomfortable film environment, resulting in poor films. Both also had too many competing storylines and themes. The Blade Franchise just had to fulfill the contractual obligation. It appears the cast and crew white knuckled their way through. Whereas, Highlander had creative differences and funding fall through. Ultimately, the director took initiative to salvage the film with securing private funding and using old footage and filmed some new footage and edited them together.

If I run into this on any future projects, I will attempt to sit down with those experiencing differences/difficulties and try to sort out solutions that are mutual beneficial. Should that not work, I'd pull rank, remind of them of the obligation agreed to and remind them they aren't the only folks affected and committed.

3.) What is so unique about Highlander: The Renegade Cut?

With Highlander, the additional contributing factor to the decline in the franchise was that funding fell through. This prompted Russell Mulcahy to seek out private investors, film some new scenes, and edit together the old scenes from the original sequel and newly shot scenes to create a better version of the sequel.

4.) What lessons can be learned from the tumultuous production of Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity?

First lesson, filmmaking is collaborative. Entirely. And there is no room for ego; it chokes creativity. Second lesson, there is always a solution, even if not initially obvious. No matter how dire the circumstances.

5.) Why is being able to take criticism an important attribute of any filmmaker?

It shows professionalism and that the level of passion and commitment to storytelling surpasses ego.

