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Chapter 17 – Directing Three: The Shoot – Quiz

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

Having a creative spirit while directing is important because there are many things that can go wrong and those who are creative will be able to come up with another solution quickly to adjust with things that may have gone awry. Creative minds are more open minded and are capable of adjusting to different things rather than get frustrated and not know what to do when things do not go according as planned.

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

\*I did not create a script; however, I will describe about a certain day that occurred during one of the on-site productions at Wild Waters Adventure Park (a water park) with my mentor and his crew.

Before heading out to the shoot, we prepped the cameras the previous day to make sure all the batteries were charged, everything that we would need from reflectors to waterproof equipment for the camera to small things that may be needed were on the production cart and/or in the trailer. It is always best to be over prepared than having a moment when we need something but did not bring/have it with us.

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

My mentor directed this shoot and always communicates well with me and his staff in order to get the best shots. There were not any other departments on set. We all did a little bit of everything.

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

My mentor made sure he was clear in what he wanted the actors to do. The main thing was for them to have fun. It was a little difficult working with kids but everything worked out very well for the shots.

1. Were you satisfied with your choice of location?

Since it was a commercial for the water park, we were shooting at the water park itself.

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

The difficult decision I noticed from my mentor was determining whether or not we needed to take more shots of certain scenes. There was the main person who was in charge of basically everything that happened in the park, and she was very difficult to get a hold of. My mentor had to make the call as to whether we needed more and different shots or to call it.

1. What aspect of production went smoothest?

The smoothest aspect of this production was when everyone was having fun in the water. It was already a hot day and getting the chance to be in the cool water working was fun.

1. Give an example of Murphy’s Law in action during production.

An example of Murphy’s Law during this production was when my mentor had to determine whether there were enough shots needed. Since the main person was not there to answer his questions, to know if she wanted some kind of particular shot or was happy with what was taken already, my mentor had to provide the answer.

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

There were many scenes shot for this commercial, and they all represent the key idea in going to the water park and having fun.

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

I felt confident with the performances on site because my mentor always has a clear idea of what is needed. He is great to learn from and has a very creative spirit that allows him to come up with various ideas for certain shots.

My strongest trait during this entire day of shooting was being there for the guys with whatever they needed, from towels to batteries and making sure the camera stayed dry.

My weakest trait was not being able to actually go into the water that day.