Working With Actors

The most important thing to me as a director would be to treat all the people I work with as equally important for the completion of a production. This of course includes the actors and actresses along with the extras needed to make the movie. Hiring a casting director is an important step for finding the actors and talent, but not just any casting director. It would be important to find a casting director that line up with my vision and ethics for the characters along with treating the actors with respect.

Once the main auditions are completed, it would be good to go through the different actors audition recordings. This way the casting director and director have a say in who they best think would fit the part. After selecting a few actors for the roles, there will be call back auditions. During the call back audition process I believe it is important to give the actor room for creative expression for the character, but also guiding them with my own vision of the character. Together, my hope would be to create a unique personality and aura for the character that the actor and I created.

Going through table readings with the actor is very important. I would like to have a few table readings with the actors all together, but also one on one. The goal is to create a meaning and backstory for the character. One on one table readings with the actors would allow a clear vision of the needs, wants, and feelings vital to the characters drive in the story. The table readings also help get the actors comfortable with working together.

While on set, it’s important to review the scene with the actors or give them guidance when they are struggling to find the emotional connection. Although it’s really the assistant director’s job to work one on one with the actors while on set. It’s important to indicate to the assistant director what the vision is for the characters. Overall be kind, and treat people with respect rather than just an asset to complete the movie. For example, give breaks and allow the actors to relax while off set. Giving the actors breaks will also help keep them relaxed and in a good mood for the next scene. Everyone is creative and has a unique perspective to offer when making a movie, but being prepared is also important. Have notes, be attentive to the actors, and allow them to discover the character by prompting questions. Prompting questions like “what do you want from this character” can help give the actor guidance for the emotions expressed in that scene.