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The Assistant director of a film might be one of the more crucial jobs needed on a set when it comes to discussing the team of people running the behind the scenes operations of a film crew. From the start I feel like it’d be best for to know that Assistant directors are not the same thing as an Assistant to a Director. Director Assistants are just there to help make the directors life easier when it comes to falling through with production of a film. Assistant director on the other hand have a whole list of jobs that range from Arranging the production schedule, Maintaining order on set, tracking progress on set, and creating call sheets and making sure the needs on it are met.

Call sheets for starters are made by the assistant directors and is basically a schedule for the entire day so actors and actress have an idea of where they’re needed all throughout the day. When the film crew is all needed where they are required another main role for the assistant director is to “call the roll”. The points of these jobs are for the multiple assistant directors to take action on getting every member of the crew where they need to be and calling out a series of cues for everybody to follow. These cues range from a large list of different terms; which vary in a way from set to set, such as “Turnover” which signifies the camera and sound crew to get ready to start rolling. The sound team will always start off first since they need to be sure that the sound is rolling at the right speed, they then assure the crew that everything correct by calling out “Speed” which is then followed up by the Clapperboard in front of the main camera to mark where the time and audio match up.

There are many different rolls to call out such as “action”, “cut” or “going again” if the director isn’t happy with the take. But the assistant director usually isn’t by himself or herself when dealing with everything they’re tasked with because chances are high that they have more than 3 different assistant directors anyway. Depending on how intricate the whole production is, on a team usually the first assistant director works alongside the Unit Production Manager to make sure all the jobs I just listed come into effect. Sadly the only downside to becoming a head AD is having little to no creative say in the production as a whole they’re there to make sure that everybody else gets their job done and everything stay on schedule. The Second assistant director is tasked with creating the call sheets and is also the backstage manager working alongside the actors and actresses. Third is the AD that is tasked with moving the talent from “Base Camp” which is the hair and make up trailers, organize crowds when it comes to filming in public and supervise PA’s .