Valerie Walker

Recording Radio Film Connection

Jeff Holmes, Mentor

Chapter 17

Experiencing the video shoot for the scene for the film has been a constant uphill battle. It seems that in order to get a movie completed you must have the mind of WIERNER HERZOG AND MALCOM X …“By any means necessary” even “stealing.” (Smile)

Subsequently, that meant I had to be literally the whole crew. The entire acting brigade was my family members. Getting them together all at once was a task in itself. And on top of that, there were no available baby sitters for the 2 young bundles of joy.

Furthermore, finding the right location for those low-to-no budget shoots, took real creativity, trying to use sand hills from the local construction company as cemetery dirt and abandon building landscape as the cemetery grounds was a challenge.

The small hand held cannon with the built in microphone and absence of a shot gun mic and at the least, lavaliere mics nearly brought me to tears. In addition to remembering that if I don’t get permission for the music I wanted to use in the shot, I would have to settle for whatever I could find from the internet; which wouldn’t have been a problem if I had the right equipment to download it. My computer was as slow as snail mail and there’s no more downloading at “my job.”

Consequently, I have come to realize that I must raise more funds in order to get serious results. I need to make a couple of budgets and stick to them.

I must remember to write and rewrite the script no matter how small and take time to storyboard every single shot. Also, it will be beneficial to spend as much time as possible rehearsing the actors and never cast someone who cannot think on their feet. I have considered calling out to interns and hopefuls from the local colleges in the next go round, being careful not to allow lack of acting or overacting to distract from the intended message.

One important thing I will also take into consideration is the amount of dialogue in each shot and how to fill in the shot with scenery when necessary, and using establishing shots in appropriate context to create a realistic point of view.

I learned without question that, the pre-production phase is certainly the most crucial part of the film. Proper planning will cut down on unnecessary stress factor. Careful planning would have kept me from becoming overwhelmed about using the small handheld camera and trying to get as close to the actors without all of the outside noise issues. Also, packing all of the equipment ahead of time, will cut a large amount of stress; including charging batteries, remembering lighting if you have it, extra SD Cards etc. Having a concrete plan of action is the key, even though mishaps can occur.

Finally, I found that having someone check for continuity helps in the production and when finding the time and space to edit the footage.