

## **Chapter 17 - Directing Three: The Shoot**

Well, I finally got behind the camera and directed something. This was a very interesting experience for me. I would have to say that I was definitely out of my comfort zone. The whole project was an incredibly new experience for me and I would be lying if I said that I wasn't nervous. From the beginning I couldn't imagine myself rounding up actors and then actually using them in a scene that I wrote. My mind took some time to process that and once I found myself more comfortable with the idea I went with it and wasn't too critical of myself on how it would turn out. With all that nonsense out of the way I started the casting process. Initially I chose a simpler route and tried to use some drama students at my wife's place of work. She works at a university and had actually recommended the idea of using some drama students. I had two actors lined up but one of them bailed on me at the last minute, so I had to go back to the drawing board.

The second time around, I went about the casting process in a different way. I used social media and craigslist to cast a wide net of potential actors. To my surprise I got a nice amount of replies from the two platforms. I definitely saw this way as a more successful route than my previous option. I found a great place to hold auditions and had the actors come by over the course of two days. I was also able to keep two actors on standby in case my main actors could not make the shoot for some reason. I definitely learned from my initial casting process when my actor had become unavailable.

When all was said and done with the casting process it was time to set up a rehearsal time as well as a time to shoot. After the actors and I rehearsed the scene we agreed on a shoot date and were able to move forward with the process. Like I've said before I'm fairly new to this world of film and this was my very first time directing anything. Once the time came to shoot I

honestly had no idea how things were going to go. I decided to shoot at my apartment because I felt it would serve its purpose. My scene was simple and only involved a couple talking about issues occurring in their world. When my actors arrived I provided them with breakfast as well with some more rehearsal time. Everyone had a great energy about them which I was very happy about and one of the main reasons I had hired these particular actors. I was extremely happy with the positive vibe in the air and knew that would help with the scene. Once everyone was comfortable with their lines we started rolling.

After the first couple of takes I could see the issues I would be dealing with on set. The lighting was not the best. I have some lights in my apartment that aren't very flattering and if I turned them off, you would not be able to see the actors. I think with more technical expertise I would've been able to handle the lighting better. Another issue that was occurring was that my actor was not able to remember all his lines. My actress was doing very well in every take but my actor seemed to be struggling. This came as a surprise to me because he was doing very well in the rehearsals, I'm not sure if it was nerves but I tried my best to make him as comfortable as possible. I put the script near him in case he forgot his lines but I'm not sure if that helped the situation or made it worse. I've stated before that I don't really have the eye for a frame or establishing shots so I feel as though that might have hurt my scene. I don't have much experience with cameras or lighting so I tried to do my best with what I had and what I thought looked good. What I've learned even more now is that filmmaking is not an easy process and that there are a lot of moving parts that have to fall in line in order for things to work out successfully. If I were to do it all again I would definitely have more rehearsal time with my actors and have better equipment to shoot my scene. I can definitely say though that I am glad to have experienced what it's like to be a film director.