**Shooting To Kill**

Christina Vachon is a producer of films that matter. As a producer of independent films, she faced many different obstacles while producing. The films she produced had stories that were not multiplex sellers at the time. Films like “Velvet Goldmine”, “Safe”, and “Poison” pushed boundaries at the time, and were somewhat controversial for their depictions of gay men and women. Vachon, though, would much rather work on these types of films that reveal stories that haven’t been told on screen much before than large budget blockbusters.

The budgeting on the independent film is much smaller in contrast to blockbusters. This makes time, efficiency, and money management much more important while creating independent films and producing them. This can put plenty of stress on the producer, directors, actors, and entire crew. If everyone is committed to the project and works as a team, however, when the finished product is screened it will all be an exhilarating sigh of relief.

Vachon has experienced such stress and relief through projects she has worked on. She states that two important rules to producing are, One: “Never let the movie get away from you.” Two: “Everyone is expendable.” While filming “Safe”, which she states is her proudest film to work on, she had to fire an out of control art department halfway through the shoot. Another time, she had to fire an budgeting agent ten weeks until the shoot wrapped, with no other production staff being hired because of the situation.

The act of producing independent film, or any film in general, takes plenty of courage and faith in the project. Producers are gifts to filmmakers who have a project they have poured their heart and should into, but having the finance for it is their main obstacle. They are also human, and deserve as much respect and love as any other member of the team.