

I can honestly say that I enjoyed shooting my scene. Although it wasn't my first time directing, it was my first time directing on that scale. I'll start off with everything that went wrong.

The first thing that went wrong was the extras. I was prepared to not get every extra but I did not expect to have that little. The church where we shot the scene seats 250 and we only had about 20 extras (after 60 confirmed). Thus causing us to change the shot compositions last minute. I can say that was about the most that went wrong.

First, I had an extraordinary team. Everyone from my DP to my craft service was professional and ready to come in to help free of charge. It was great seeing people come together because they believed in my vision. The day of everyone was on time and ready to work. My production manager even went as far as making sure that the location was a closed set and everyone in the crew had badges. When they saw me getting anxious, they stepped in to help me make decisions and kept the production moving forward. My cast was also amazing. They worked tirelessly to make sure that they brought the characters to life and took their time working out every shot. All of the equipment was donated for that day of shooting which took a huge load off of my shoulders.

During this shoot I learned a ton. Starting with pre production. One thing that really stuck out to me was that no matter how much I plan, somethings just won't go as planned. And that is ok. I had to learn somethings are what they are and I have to adjust accordingly. Another thing I learned is to take advantage of every single second that you have on set. That's not to say that you waste time or rush but to take your time to get the shot right. I was getting anxious when it came down to time however, I had to step back and assess what were the more important shots to capture. Another thing I learned is to double and triple check. It does not hurt to make sure that you stop and make sure that the sound and visuals are right. I also learned that if it doesn't or look right then it probably isn't right.

There is clearly a lot that I would do different. The first thing that I'd do different is delegate more to my team. I have a bad habit of doing things myself to ensure that things will be done one time and done right. This tends to spread (and can spread anyone) too thin and that's what started to happen. Thankfully I had a team that knew my every move so they jumped in before I could even ask. Something else that I'd do different is being comfortable with saying what I don't want. I have a tendency to say "yes" just to move on and I will miss out on what I really want to do. So, I will definitely be more comfortable with saying what I do and do not want. Lastly, I will go back and listen to the sound during each break, just to ensure that the sound is right before we wrap the day.

All together the experience was amazing. I learned a lot and had a blast.