08/18/15 Loan Nguyen

Chapter 16 – Directing Two: Working with Actors – Quiz

1. What should be your process to find the strongest actors for your project?

A good way to find a great actor is to see how they work and act during their audition. The audition process is a good way for the director’s to see how well or how bad that actor will take instructions. This step shows how an actor will react towards any possible criticism or how they adjust themselves in doing what the director has asked. A strong actor should be able to adjust accordingly and do their homework on what they are auditioning for. The good actors may do research on who they are auditioning for to better understand and be better prepared for their audition. A director wants someone who will take their own initiative to know more about their character.

1. What is the job of the casting director?

The casting director goes through hundreds of applicants to find and narrow down a select few actors that would be perfect for the roles that need to be filled in the film. Casting directors choose a handful of people for callbacks in which the director will sit in the audition process and determine whether that person would be good for the role or not.

1. What is the best way to handle the audition process?

The best way to handle the audition process is to be positive and open-minded. Director’s need to give the actors their chance to show them what they can do before instructing them to do something else. During the audition process, actors are given their chance to demonstrate their talent and why they would be good for that particular role in the film.

1. What is the purpose of a table read?

The purpose of a table read is to have the entire cast and director in one spot to go through the script and get to meet each other for the first time before shooting begins. It is a good way for everyone to introduce themselves, get to know each other and learn more about their characters.

1. What type of language is most useful when directing actors on-set, and why?

When directing actors on-set, the best kind of language to use are action words (verbs) rather than adjectives, because characters in films do things (action) and do not explain things (describing what they are doing). By using action words, directors give the actors a chance to figure out how their characters will be reacting and how his/her emotions will be portrayed. By instructing actors this way, directors will be able to achieve the more dramatic compelling performances rather than having a one-dimensional act.

1. Why is it important to understand the purpose of a scene BEFORE discussing it with your actors?

Directors need to understand the purpose of the scenes because they need to have a clear idea of what they want it to look like. Good actors want the action verbs from the directors in order to provide a good performance. It is frustrating for actors who have to work with a director that does not have an idea of where that scene is going. Directors need to know what is going on in that scene in preparation for the next one. Preparation is the main key in being a good director and that means being prepared for anything, knowing what will be shot, how their characters will be portrayed and what the overall film will appear.

1. What is the purpose of Uta Hagen’s “six questions a director must be able to answer?”

Uta Hagen’s six question that a director must be able to answer provide the actors a keen idea of what their characters are going to be like. It gives background to who the characters are and what actors will need to know and be able to do in order to bring out that particular role. Actors will have a sense of what they may need to learn more about and do their research to have a better understand of where their characters are coming from.

1. Why is it important that you as the director, as well as the actor, understand a character’s background when playing a scene, even if that background is not explicitly stated in the script?

It is important for the director and actor to learn and understand a character’s background because that information will make that character more realistic. Even if the background is not stated in the script, it is important to have an idea of where this character is coming from. Without understanding how that particular character is and knowing what his/her background was, the director and actor will not be able to bring out a great performance for the film. It is about telling a story and understanding where these characters come from.

1. How do you keep actors from getting bored of doing the same thing over and over again?

In order to keep actors from getting bored of doing the same shots over and over again, is to give them early and on-going breaks. By doing this, they are able to go back get something to eat and drink and not have to stand idly by getting more bored on set. It is good to have stand-ins to prevent having the actors standing by for a long period of time.