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Chapter 6 – Act One – Quiz

1. What is one of the most important qualities in a successful writer/director?

One of the most important qualities in a successful writer/director is having the ability to take criticism. They need to be able to take on any type of criticism, learn from them and use it to help guide them through improving their ideas for the film. The writers/directors need to also have the capability of admitting that someone else may be right. Having a big ego and not letting others place in their suggestions and ideas for the film is not a great aspect to have when wanting to become a successful writer/director.

1. What do Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity have in common? How were their creative problems solved? How would you have attempted to solve the creative differences on set?

Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity movies that were both unsuccessful. The main reason for that is because there were problems on the set with the director and actor, especially since the main actors did not want to continuing their respective roles.

In Blade Trinity, the director, David S. Goyer and main actor, Wesley Snipes did not agree with the direction that installment of the movie was taking place. Although Snipes had many opposing ideas with the director, he was required to reprise his role as Blade due to his contractual obligation. The end result for the film was unsuccessful, and that was due to the fact that in the movie, it showed how everyone was uncomfortable while filming.

In Highlander 2: The Quickening, there was also that conflict with contractual obligation that required the main actor, Christopher Lambert to return to filming. A large part in the failure of this film was because the financing for the film fell through while they were halfway through the production. Due to that occurrence, the producers used whatever footage they shot and managed to come out with some sort of a film.

1. What is so unique about Highlander: The Renegade Cut?

Highlander: The Renegade Cut was created and became unique in and of itself because the director, Russell Mulcahy refused to be defeated and decided that he was going to fix Highlander 2: The Quickening. With his determination, he hired back a couple of the actors and shot a few new scenes for the film. Christopher Lambert also returned to film the Renegade Cut of Highlander even though he was not obligated to do so. After the new scenes were shot, Mulcahy took the footage he created and the old shots from Highlander 2 and placed together this Renegade Cut. It was not as successful as it could have been, but his new version was better than the first version.

1. What lessons can be learned from the tumultuous production of Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity?

A couple lessons could be taken from the tumultuous production of Highlander 2 and Blade Trinity. One is that even though there is a contract between the production and the actors, it does not mean that the film will turn out a success as it may have previously. Yes, there are contracts that those who have signed it need to abide by, but it is a waste of time, money and resources if the crew on set cannot work together, especially the director and actor(s). Just because a film was created, it does not mean it will be an automatic success just like its predecessors. The audience are able to see and sense when a film is not working well. A contractual obligation may sometimes make the films worse than they should have been and bring down that franchise which once was successful.

Another lesson to learn is that, even though the first attempt in creating a sequel was a failure, it does not mean you cannot give it another try. It may not be a complete success, but it may end up better than what was created beforehand. Highlander 2 is a good example of that with what Russell Mulcahy did in not wanting to give up on his film. It was not a completely successful transformation, but he gave it a new direction and made the second installment better than the first Highlander 2 that was shot.

1. Why is being able to take criticism an important attribute of any filmmaker?

Being able to take criticism is an important attribute of any filmmaker because not everyone is going to like your particular idea for the film, nor will everyone like the direction you may be going. Filmmakers need to take on the criticism of others and use their critiques to improve and better their ideas. Those giving the critiques are, for the most part, trying to help improve the ideas for your film. It is not easy to accept criticism from others, but if you are able to be open minded and see what someone else sees and try to understand their points of view, then there is that high chance that you would become a successful filmmaker.

This industry is all about working together and collaborating with others. If you are not open to that idea, then you need to think about changing that aspect of yourself, or going into another profession, because unable to take on someone else’s criticism may ruin your chance in becoming successful.