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10/20/17

Chapter 16 Question #10

Acting is a very unique art form. Actors need to be clear with their intentions when it comes to playing a character, especially a very complex character. They study, live, and breath the character so that they can give their best performance. It is an overwhelming and intense process, but it can also be an extremely rewarding and fun experience. That is also what make filmmaking so interesting and being able to work with such creative people and being a part of the process, and by being a director I also have a huge influence on how I want the character to be portrayed, and that’s where the director’s process comes into play.

My process of working with the actors will be to explain to them how I see the character and listen to them explain how they see the character and try to compare ideas. Hopefully can see eye to eye on our ideas and come to a compromise to decide what we both want for the character. I’m thinking I could also provide visuals so that we can both get a sense of the character and see how we can implement those visuals into the scene. What also really matters is tone, both in how we speak and the feeling of the movie. When the text book describes how to talk to the actors, it matters how we speak to them. We have to be firm yet encouraging so that it can be a positive experience for everyone.

When it comes to the tone of the film we need to explain what we want from the actor regarding the atmosphere of the film. Though it is not solely the actors that have to focus on the atmosphere, it is also the everyone else on set including the director. But with the other factors of the set we need to also communicate that to the actor. I also remember the text book talking about using action verbs instead of adjectives and how adjectives lead to false behavior when they are acting. Since I want my film to be great I want it to be realistic in terms of emotions and character. I don’t want it to appear as if they are not being true to the character.

It’s all essentially about effective communication when it comes to making a film. If the I know how to communicate with the actors as well as the other people on set, it will definitely help with my reputation with other filmmakers and actors knowing that I am easy to work with. It will also give me more opportunities as a filmmaker and help to grow my career. Also, I think that being open-minded when it comes to dealing with the actors as well, because I know some are going to want more room to be creative. But at the same time, they want to give you their best performance and take on the character so they try not to disappoint you. So, I need to give them positive affirmations but at the same time I would like them to be open-minded as well when it comes to me explaining how I see the character, that way we won’t clash when it comes to our ideas. It can ruin production and just make a terrible film, like the film that the text book mentioned about Wesley Snipes in one of the Blade films and how he and the director didn’t get along. And I definitely do not want that. I will continue to practice how I will communicate to the actors so that I can be a great filmmaker and someone who everybody would like to work with.