There are many jobs and functions that take place on set and behind the scenes of a film. All very important and necessary to achieve the final goal of a film production. Of course you have the producers, actors and Director, The main roles that come to mind when thinking of a production. All good and important roles, however another equally importantly role that sometimes goes under appreciated is the role of the Assistant Director, 1st asstant Director, or commonly know as 1st AD.

The first AD is important for many reason, including Time management, Behaviors, and liaison to production office. The AD oversees time management, which means they are responsible for keeping the production on time. The AD has a shot sheet or schedule that has to be followed. That shot sheet includes how long they are allotted to spend on each scene. Too much time spent on a scene can cost the production company a lot of money, that means time literally is money, and too much money on late scenes can shut down a production or stall the production. Another item in their shot sheet is on of the most important parts of production, Meal time. That’s right, it’s the AD that schedules the meal. Its hard to work on an empty stomach. The AD makes sure the catering company is notified and arrives, sets up, and is ready for those hungry bodies when it is time to make the lunch, and dinner calls. Meal call is important but, ensuring that behaviors are met is just as important.

The AD is responsible for making sure, in short that, everyone behaves. They are the one that tells everyone where to go and is, as stated before on time for production. If Lighting is not where they are supposed to be or if one of the actors is late or un cooperating, it leads to the stalling of the production, which as previously stated, cost the company money. No one wants the production put on hold or shut down, but like in any business there are going to be people that are late or that don’t get along, So it is the AD’s job to take care of the situation and keep production on schedule. Keeping everything on schedule is how you reduce production cost and keep everyone including the executive happy. At the end of the day while its time for everyone to go home, The AD stays behind and takes everyone’s punch cards and information for the day and sends them off to the production office. That includes taking the time card and reports to ensure everyone gets paid for the day. Sending off the time reports and shot sheets for the scenes completed that day and or any scenes not finished or stated that must be scheduled in for another time. Another responsibility for the AD is to set schedules for the next day and have them approved. Once approved they will send the schedules out to the cast and crew, and yes the catering company.

In conclusion, the Assistant director is the master of time and making sure that production stay on schedule. They ensure production cost are on point by staying on time. They are the unsung heroes of the production.