Film Connection

Chapter 17

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1. In your own words, why is a creative spirit the most important quality in a director?

The creative spirit is what will push the industry to it limits. The stories over the years will remain the same, but the way they are told will evolve and become more creative. A combination of being creative and staying true to yourself and the vision is the most important qualities.

1. Were you prepared enough? What part of pre-production would you focus more on next time?

I felt prepared on-set. My main concern was having the proper equipment to get the shots I wanted. We used a Canon C100 with an array of lenses. We also had an Dji Ronin on-set as well. One thing I would focus more on the next time is the actual shot list. Having all the equipment and missing one shot is quite annoying.

1. Communication on-set was great. If I had to single out one department it would be the sound department. I was able to have a tascom digital recorder available to pull sound directly from the soundboard. It was important to relay when I wanted the device recording and when not to.
2. Were you able to communicate clear directions to your actors? Could you answer the six questions for them?

On a separate set there was a need for directing and working hands on with the actors. In one case my actor was portraying a character that was from a different part of the country. For example, someone from the south place in an Ohio setting. It was important to me to really make the character feel out of place because his mannerism, posture, and language would be different from the others. I only had to answer the first four questions for my actor and he was able to give me what I was looking for.

1. Were you satisfied with your choice of location?

Simply put, Yes. It was free and filled with resources. Need I say more.

1. What was the most difficult decision to make on your feet?

Preparation really allowed for a smooth shoot. I think the only decision that was difficult was the call to wrap and be comfortable with the footage we got.

1. What aspect of production went smoothest?

Lighting the scene was a team effort. I think it went smooth because people where willing to listen and also shoot out helpful suggestions. Shaping light is something I hope to get better at during my journey.

1. Give an example of Murphy’s Law in action during production

In a setting where I was doing more of a run and gun or guerilla style shooting. I forgot to attach the external microphone to my camera so I got footage with no sound. The same time that was going on I ran out of memory on a Sd card I thought had been cleared. It was a rough time.

1. Why do you think the scene you shot is the best representation of your script?

I believe the scene I shoot captivate the hunger of my character. Its shows how far one is willing to go to achieve a goal and it in later scenes I can draw on people emotions by showing the characters’ experiences.

1. Do you feel confident about your performance on set? What do you think was your strongest trait? Weakest?

I’m an overachiever so anything I would like to master anything I set out to do. My performance as a director on sets will grow the more I surround myself with other talented directors.