

Chapter 5 Paper

What is an AD? An AD is short for assistant director. On a film set, there is more than one assistant director, there can be up to five. As an assistant director, you may have many roles. What are these roles exactly? Why are these assistant directors so vital to a production?

The first assistant director has overall assistant responsibilities. This role, in the end, are non-creative. This includes Keeping the production on schedule throughout the day, communicate with the crew, and maintain the safety of the staff and shoot itself. They must be good at estimating how long a scene will take. While doing all of this, they also supervise the second assistant director. The first assistant director is directly responsible to the director and they “run” the floor or set. The assistant director is also one of the highest “below the line” technical roles in filmmaking.

The second assistant director creates the daily call sheets based off of the production schedule. The second assistant director serves as the “backstage manager” liaising with actors and putting cast through makeup and wardrobe. They also supervise the third assistant director and the setting of extras. Another type of assistant director is called the

second second assistant director. This person deals with helping the second assistant director with an increased workload especially if there is a large number of cast members.

The third assistant director, while there may not be a clear line between titles, works with the first and second assistant directors. They mainly help move actors from the basecamp, supervise production assistants, and organize crowd scenes.

You may be wondering why all of these assistant directors are important. If one person is missing from a production, it could either cause the production to come to a halt or fall apart completely. Assistant directors keep the production moving and flowing smoothly.