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Ch 5 Chapter Review

An Assistant Director tracks the progress of the film, film crew, and production schedule. The Assistant Director checks call sheets, cast and crew, and makes sure that nothing goes wrong on set. They make sure that the set is in order to avoid problems. Assistant Directors are also in charge of all on-set, day-to-day tasks. The job can be so much that Assistant Directors can even require a second assistant director. The second assistant director is a liaison between the director and the rest of the crew. The assistant director and second assistant director’s responsibilities are to take care of time cards, call sheets, tracking daily progress, production schedule, and of course, keeping order on the set.

The assistant director and the second assistant director work together and have similar jobs, but each can have different responsibilities. For example, the first assistant director schedules the film and make sure that he or she sees the schedule through. The first AD collaborates with both the director and producer. The first AD helps create the directors vision, while making sure that the budget of the film is on track with the producer. Once again, the first AD makes sure that the set, crew, and cast are all in order for the director. At times, the assistant directors do even more work than the director. The assistant director runs the whole set.

The second director makes sure to create a daily schedule on the main schedule that first AD has done. The second AD is the planner. While the first AD is working on what is currently happening on set, the second AD thinks ahead of what will happen on set. This means that they plan the next shot, the next scene, and what will happen on the set the next day. The second AD can even be in charge of extras and backgrounds. The job is so big that sometimes even the second assistant director needs assistants. This person is called the second, second AD, or third AD. They are the ones usually in charge of backgrounds and extras. They also help the first AD with current tasks on set. The third AD makes sure that the actors go through hair, makeup, and wardrobe

When the director wants something done creatively, the AD’s set in to make sure it happens technically. The director says what he wants to see and the AD translates that to the crew and lets them know what the director wants. The first AD is the right hand to the director, and the second AD is the right hand to the first AD. Any changes that go through the first AD will then go through the second AD. Once the second Ad knows of the changes, the second AD makes phone calls to let everyone know. The third AD then prepares the actors for the director by making sure they are all in costume.

Whether if it’s the second AD or third AD, an assistant director is incredibly important. Before researching for this assignment, I always through that the producers and directors were the captains of the ship. However, it turns out that the first assistant director is the real captain of the ship. The writer makes the blueprint (the screenplay), the producers give the money for the film, the director, in some ways is the captain, but is more of a navigator, and the first assistant director (the captain) makes sure everything is done and done correctly. Assistant Directors are critical for the set. Without them, the set would be chaos. Things wouldn’t get done and everything would be a mess. Assistant Directors keep everything together. They see to it that the directors vision is made, that the actors are ready, backgrounds are ready, extras, and that all changes are dealt with. When I work with any assistant director, whether if it’s the first, second, or third, I’ll make sure to treat them with respect and thank them every day.

2. Below the line is a term that refers to a crew member who is not a producer, writer, or director. Someone below the line is someone that skills include lighting, art design, audio, VFX, PA, and so on. The producer, writer, and director have the vision of the film, and the people below the line make the vision happen.

3. PA’s can personal assistants for UPM’s or supervisors. PA’s should always be Punctual (early), flexible, have communication, be calm, listen, professional, resourceful, etc. PA’s must be vigilant by helping their boss so that nothing can be ruined during production.