Assistant Director

An Assistant Director provides the structural support of the film with what seems to consist of a limitless amount of responsibilities. The AD is needed during the 3 key processes in making a film which is pre-production, production, and post-production. He or she is the Directors right hand man who is there to ensure all goes smoothly and successfully. The assistant director must be able to multitask and able to adapt to all situations to continue filming.

In pre-production the assistant director helps gather information and organizes a plan to film efficiently and effectively. Responsibilities include assisting in storyboarding, casting, financial tracking and maintenance, location scouting, equipment management, and continuous effort into establishing all the elements needed in preparing for making a film. The AD should be the directors second set of eyes providing the director with like-minded support. Preparing for the film is as important as shooting, any hiccups may throw your whole project off track and affect the whole operations flow including financing. The AD must provide that needed support in pre-production to leave nothing overlooked.

During production the AD acts as the link from Director to all of the operations. He/she continues to maintain a sense of organization and structure between all processes, and communicate effectively across the board. Continuing to support the director with like-minded assistance, the major importance of the AD’s role during production is ensuring all departments maintain organization and work effectively together. The departments include anything below the line of the AD but are not limited to Art dept., costume design, sound mixing, production line etc.

During post production the Assistant Director continues to act as the backbone to the Director preserving the communication and stability between the end processes. Video editing, effects, soundtrack creation, and any mastering additions are only some of the elements the AD continues to assist in handling. Budgeting expenses and financing also continue to be a responsibility as well as post production deadlines. Though the director gets a final decision in all aspects, the AD is there assist all aspects are taken care of as communicated.

The duties seem infinite for this role, as they should. They are an important piece in the filmmaking process, the muscle you can say. He or she is there to ensure everything gets done well and in a timely manner. The chain that helps hold the link between a wheel of operations that drive film making. They adapt to the director’s visions and keeps an open mind with the needs of the film. All duties fall upon the AD indirectly. He must synchronize with Director and cast/crew all at once consistently.

Louie Vargas