

Self-reflective report on my individual production role as director

As director of our first piece, I was not entirely sure what this role entailed therefore for me it was a process of learning as I went along. This was a bit tricky because I wanted to look professional as well give the sense that I knew what was going on especially in front of the actors so that they would not get the impression that we were just wasting their time. I think it helped that the roles assigned to each of us were not extremely rigid because it allowed everyone (including the actors) to offer input and ideas as we went along which turned out to be beneficial in the end. I personally found that being flexible and open to other people's interpretations worked much better than it would have if I had been the only one telling everyone what to do. Having worked at a production company during my third year internship last year, I was under the impression that a director is strictly the boss, the one who 'calls the shots', the one who controls everything and the one who makes all the decisions thus it was interesting to discover that a director in actual fact directs the attention of the crew and is not necessarily the boss.

Over the three days that it took us to shoot, as director this is what I did:

- Took everyone (the crew and actors) through the script so the crew knew which direction the shoot was going to take and the actors knew what was expected of them
- Familiarized the actors with the route of the chase sequence and the places we would be shooting
- Liaised with the rest of the crew especially the cameraman as to what shots we needed from each scene
- Answered any questions regarding uncertainties from the actors

I referred to the script in the beginning as a guideline but because we had not put a great deal of detail in the script, I discovered I had to be creative at times and improvise when it looked like something was not going to work out.

I also found that sometimes I had to trust the cameraman when it came to judging what would be effective because being behind the camera, he was the one who had insight to our footage and could really tell if a shot would work or not.

In essence, being a director is being a guide. I found that at times when I did not tell everyone what was happening next and where we were headed, there would be slight confusion. Therefore the role entails ensuring everyone is on the same page.

This was also my first time working with Jans and Amanda and after having spent time getting to know them, I now know to expect that just as I have my own way of leading, so they will each have a different leadership style because of our different personalities. This means being open-minded, accommodating and respecting.