

# Crash Course: Directing, Assistant Directing

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What makes a good Director, and what are the responsibilities of the 1st Assistant Director?

## 1. Directing

- a. Put yourself in the character's shoes.  
What do they want and where are they going?
- b. Do not pay attention to lighting, set up, etc. You have people whose jobs are to do that for you.
- c. Ensure that actors aren't nervous on set.
  - i. You are to greet them and prep them beforehand.
- d. Always have something to say.
  - i. Give helpful notes: when giving direction, avoid general emotional cues. Instead of saying to an actor "show that you are sad" give more constructive, creative notes such as "imagine your dog just got hit by a car."
  - ii. Use your "director's voice"

## 2. AD-ing

- a. *Vigilance*.
  - i. Eyes on all departments. Nobody should be idle unless they're waiting on another department.
  - ii. Always look for the best workflow.
  - iii. Use your 2nd AD & your PAs to get things done
- b. Accountability
  - i. Time.
  - ii. An AD must be focused and outspoken; you are allowed to
- c. "Sound, Camera, Slate"

- i. Director will cue you in when you will go for a take. You call "Pictures up" to warn the crew that the set is about to start rolling. Call "Roll Camera" to prep the camera crew. Call "Roll Sound" to prep the sound crew. Once you hear "Camera Speed" (video is recording), "Sound Speed" (Sound is recording), "Marker" (the 2nd AC clapping the clapboard) and "Camera Set" (The first AC has pulled focus) get ready to call ACTION.
- d. Call lunch.