

## Production Roles

**Producer:** Has control over the entire production of a motion picture and is ultimately held responsible for the success or failure of the motion picture project; this person is involved with the project from start to finish. The producer's tasks are to:

- organize and guide the project into a successful motion picture;
- organize the development of the film, and be quite active in the pre-production phase; and
- supervise and give suggestions to be taken seriously by those creating the film.

**Director:** The director is primarily responsible for overseeing the shooting and assembly of a film. The director's tasks are to:

- be directly responsible for the picture's final appearance;
- work at the center of film production; and
- be inextricably linked with dozens of other people to get the job done.

**Screenwriter:** The screenwriter provides more than the dialogue for the actors. The screenwriter's tasks are to:

- be responsible for organizing the sequence of events in a film to ensure that one scene leads logically to the next;
- write descriptions of settings; and
- suggest movements or gestures for the actors.
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**Production Designer/Art Director:** The production designer is the first to translate the script into visual form. The production/art director's tasks are to:

- create a series of storyboards (a series of sketches to show the visual progression of the story from one scene to the next); and
- determine the palette of colors to be used and often provides other important suggestions about the composition of individual shots.

**Cinematographer:** The cinematographer is also known as the director of photography (DP). The DP's tasks are to:

- be an expert in photographic processes, lighting and the camera's technical capabilities;
- achieve the director's vision of certain visual or atmospheric qualities through his or her choice of lighting, film filters, and careful manipulation of the camera; and
- refer to storyboards created by the production designer as a guide.

**Editor:** Even in a single scene, dozens of different shots may have to be made to ensure the overall vision is captured. The editor has a profound effect on the appearance of the final film. The editor's tasks are to:

- organize the footage and arrange individual shots into one continuous sequence shortly after shooting begins; and
- choose which shots to use and the order in which to place them.

**Location Manager:** The tasks of the location manager are to:

- scout out locations for shooting; and
- arrange for permission to shoot in specific places.

**Set Designer:** A set is any scenery or environment built indoors or outdoors for use in a motion picture.

The set designer's tasks are to:

- be a draftsman to sketch plans and make lists specifications for building sets based on the verbal descriptions or rough sketches provided by the art director; and
- plan to build only what lies within the camera's field of view.
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**Sound Designer & Composer:** Music has been an integral part of movies since their invention in the 1890s. Even the simplest silent films were accompanied by a piano or organ player. The composer's tasks are to:

- write music and design sound for the cinematic work; and
- procure the musical instruments or found objects to compose the music/sound.

**Sound Recordist:** The task of the sound recordist is to:

- operate the sound-recording equipment on a set.

**Boom Operator:** The boom is a long, adjustable bar used to position a microphone during filming. On the boom, the microphone can be positioned above the actor's head, picking up dialog while remaining out of the camera's field of view. The task of the boom operator is to:

- correctly position the boom microphone to record all the actors, which means pointing the microphone at the actor who is talking, anticipating when the next actor will speak, and swiveling the microphone over to him or her.

**Set Decorator:** The set decorator is someone who often has interior design experience. The tasks of the set decorator are to:

- find the appropriate objects to place within a set to make it look real, according to need; and
- physically place the objects and furnishings (furniture, rugs, lamps, paintings, books, etc.) on the set, making it ready for shooting.

**Costume Designer:** The tasks of the costume designer are to:

- conceive and draw designs for the costumes to be worn by the actors in the movie; and
- work with the art director, director, and producer to approve costume designs before going to the seamstress, the person who actually makes the costumes.

**Seamstress:** The task of the seamstress is to:

- make the costumes based on the approved costume designs.

**Casting Director:** The casting director's tasks are to:

- suggest and evaluate potential actors appropriate for the film;
- sets up meetings with the actor and the producer and/or director; and
- negotiates the terms of a proposed contract between the actor's agent or attorney and the producer.

**Actors:** For the audience, actors are the most visible part of the production. The actor's tasks are to:

- learn the script, provide feedback, and be believable; and
- take direction from: the director, the cinematographer who creates the perfect light, the screenwriter who provides the plot and dialogue, the art director who designs the physical environment, and the costume designer who provides the proper attire.

**Make-up Artist:** The make-up artist is in charge of make-up applied directly on the skin of an actor for cosmetic or artistic effect. The actor is made up before filming, but sometimes the make-up wears off during filming and new make-up must be reapplied. The task of the make-up artist is to:

- maintain the appearance of the actor's make-up throughout the filming.