

The Mount Pleasant Area Television Center

TELEVISION PRODUCTION CREW

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – comes up with the money for the show. Executive producers are often Producers who have promoted themselves because they don't want to deal with the day to day details of running a show.

PRODUCER – comes up with the format of the show. Gets the script, major talent, and the director. The producer is an organizer who is primarily responsible for the content of the show. The producer's job is mostly over as soon as the tape rolls. Many producers used to be writers.

DIRECTOR – sits in the control room and calls the shots. The director is the creative person who is responsible for coming up with a finished program.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR [AD] – helps the director during the show. The AD is also usually responsible for timing the show.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR [TD] -- operates the video switcher.

AUDIO OPERATOR [AO] – operates the audio console. The AO is also responsible for placing microphones on the set, and running cart and tape machines for music and sound effects during the show.

VIDEO CONTROL OPERATOR [VIDEO] – operates the camera control units – shades the cameras to compensate for changing light. Responsible for making sure that all the cameras look good and look the same.

CAMERA OPERATOR -- moves, aims, and focuses the camera to get the shots that the director asks for.

FLOOR MANAGER [STAGE MANAGER] -- responsible for studio traffic and seeing that everything is in the right place at the right time. The floor manager is responsible for maintaining communication between the talent and the control room. The floor manager cues the talent to begin and gives them time cues throughout the show.

CHARACTER GENERATOR OPERATOR [ELECTRONIC GRAPHICS] – operates the character generator to put people's names, show credits, game scores, etc. on the screen.

VIDEOTAPE OPERATOR -- runs the videotape machines to record the program and to play back tape that is needed during a show (news inserts for example).

LIGHTING DIRECTOR -- designs the lighting for the show – may also set the lights.

TALENT -- anyone in front of the camera (talented or not).

MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION CREW

Producers and directors have essentially the same job as in television, except that there is no control room for the director. The director is out on the soundstage or location with the camera, crew, and actors.

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – organizes the production, prepares storyboards, breaks down the script, and prepares a shooting schedule.

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – preparing call sheets, distributing scripts and script changes, scheduling food and lodging, and communicating scheduling to cast members.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY [DP] – creates the “look” of the picture, determines photographic style, and maintains photographic continuity.

CAMERA OPERATOR – aims and moves the camera during filming

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERAPERSON – keeps the camera in focus. This position is also called the “Focus Puller.”

SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERAPERSON – loads film in camera magazines, keeps track of film stock, operates the slate. This position is also called “Clapper Loader,” particularly in England.

GAFFER – responsible for the technical aspects of lighting, as designed by the DP.

BEST BOY – the Gaffer's primary assistant

KEY GRIP – head of the department that moves and keeps track of props, set pieces, and miscellaneous equipment.

BEST BOY GRIP – The Key Grip's primary assistant.

MAJOR UNIONS

AFTRA -- American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

ASC -- American Society of Cinematographers

DGA -- Directors Guild of America

IBEW -- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

NABET -- National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians

SAG -- Screen Actors Guild

WGA -- Writers Guild of America