



Behind the Scenes:

By: Hannah Rogers

A glance into the job of a t.v. director.

Job description

A t.v. show director is in charge of making sure the process of production runs smoothly. They are also in charge of making sure the episode follows the vision for the show (Lindsay). Some of the responsibilities of a t.v. show director include:

- Plan certain aspects for the episode like camera angles, music, and the setting.
- Communicate with all departments on set for filming (Nawrocki).
- Work with actors on how they should portray their character in a scene.
- Arrange and conduct rehearsals of the episode.
- Work with the editors to piece together scenes for the episode.

A typical day on set

Typically, a director is hired on a per- episode basis (Full Sail). On a typical day, the director works very closely with all departments and their role in the episode. The director is in charge of the majority of creative decisions. Before they start shooting a scene, they must plan out the technicalities of the scene. For example, the director needs to determine how much lighting they want and how the lighting can heighten their emotions in a scene. Then, the director may conduct rehearsals with the actors and departments and shoot many takes of a scene ("Stage, Motion Pictures..."). After the director shoots all scenes, then they work closely with the editors to bring the episode together. At this point, the director can pick their best takes for the show and add any technical enhancements to make the show more engaging. Lastly, the director is in charge of delivering the final product to the studio.



Skills and qualifications

- A bachelor's degree from a four- year university in film or t.v. production (Full Sail).
- Previous experience or credit in the field.
- Preferably, has a background in theatre or acting (Full Sail).
- The ability to easily adapt to any given situation (Tomashoff).



Engaging the audience

Every creative decision that a t.v. director makes, regarding the show, will either be a hit or miss with the audience. Since the director is only shooting one episode, it is the director's job to make sure that the episode is on track with the show's direction. To keep the episode in the theme of the series, the director needs to use creative license to do so.

Some aspects that directors need to consider while shooting are:

- **Camera angles:** The angle from which a shot is filmed could empathise the emotion in a scene (Jones). For example, shooting from a low point on the person's side, could help show the drama in a scene.
- **Color:** Are the colors in the background bright, dull, or dark? Is the scene tinted a little? The colors in the background help set the tone for the story, and help bring the setting to life.
- **Music:** Is there music playing during the scene? Music can be used to help heighten the emotions in the scene or can give clues about what is happening next.
- **Motion:** Is the camera still, moving slow, or moving fast? The motion of the camera can be used to enhance what is going on in the scene and how the character feels (Bays).

Difficulty to get this job

It is hard to get a job in this field. This is not like other jobs where one can look on a job website, fill out an application, and send in a resumé. Instead, this field requires a person to start at the bottom and work their way up the ladder. One who wants to be a t.v. show director should start by getting an entry-level job on a t.v. set. They also need to get a name for themselves by networking and individual work (Lindsay).

Salary

The salary of a television show director will depend on many factors such as their experience in the industry, the company they work for, and their education background.

- On average, t.v. show directors make about \$89,840 a year.
- Directors with little or no experience previously make in the range of \$34,450- \$48,520 a year.
- Directors who are more experienced make about \$110,350 a year ("Stage, Motion Pictures...")

References

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