

Questionnaire for Each Student of Class 3175.
Answer each question (as applicable) to best of your ability.
Value: 5%
There will be no reminders.

TITLE OF PRODUCTION(S) YOU WORKD ON: *Heightened Feeling*

SHOOT DATES: March 14-17, 2014

YOUR NAME: Scott Morrison

ROLE(s): Production Manager

Answer in succinct point form (one word answers are sometimes appropriate!). Most important: Be VERY detailed! DON'T generalize -- much more useful to have very specific stories of things that happened.

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

PREP

What was the best thing you did in prep?

- Organizing the locations. They were the most fundamental part of this script as they were very specific. The script called for two swimming pools.

What did you forget to do in prep?

- I didn't necessarily forget to do this, but I decided not to get location agreements signed by the people in charge at the locations for our production. This is mostly because they did not want to sign out document as it scared them (the template we were given) and we subsequently would not get the location if we made signing our location agreement mandatory. I would rather we got the location than have to find an alternative location due to that document.

What software did you use for scheduling, budgeting, script breakdowns?

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel

Anything you should have done on the tech scout but didn't?

- We covered everything on the tech scout.

Any specific insurance issues?

- York University Tait McKenzie Centre swimming pool had concerns about the insurance policy we had as they were concerned there was no coverage for actors as they were not York University students. We were able to get around this with York's Risk Management.

BUDGETS & COST REPORT

What was your projected budget: \$4000.00

What were your final costs: \$5506.70

What was the division of the finance:

- Director: 65%, PM: 17.5%, Cinematographer: 17.5%

Anything you forgot to budget for? This is crucial – make this a definitive list.

Underestimated the amount of money it would cost for:

- Props
- Wardrobe
- Make up

*The script covered approximately 9 days, subsequently meaning more wardrobe changes for many characters.

Biggest regret, budget-wise?

- Wanting to find better deals on pool locations. There were not many who were interested or had the time to give so we were put in a position where we had to start taking what we could get over the shooting weekend.

With parking tickets by cast/crew, who paid?

- I did.

CREW

Which crew positions were hardest to fill?

- Location Sound. We hired 2 different sound guys.

York Crew: any specific crew members who did a fantastic job and who you'd recommend?

- Ryan McIntyre (Gaffer)
- Cleo Tellier (Continuity)
- Robert Murdoch (Key Grip)
- Jill Dobson (Production Design)
- Oliver Whitfield-Smith (2nd AC)

In hindsight, which crew members were you missing?

- We were missing a 2nd AD, but we got one for the last 2 nights of shooting.

Which departments were strong? Which were weak?

- The key crew was strong, Grips were strong.
- Production design and PA's could have used more help.

Describe 2 specific crew/production conflicts/problems/mess-ups (major, minor) and how they were resolved? And... in hindsight, how you'd help to resolve it differently next time.

- The crew was always pressed for time, especially at the Tait McKenzie Centre location. We utilized a lot of that space with scenes occurring in the swimming pool, locker room, a second locker room, office, and exterior to the building. We knew we were going to be behind on the first night, which meant we needed to add more time to the second night were at the location. It was a Sunday morning and I had to contact the people in charge that I had been corresponding with for weeks hoping they would answer their work emails, which were the only contacts I had. Fortunately, they got the email and gave us 2.5 extra hours at the space allowing us to finish up all the scenes.

What made the crew efficient?

- Warren Goodwin was a great 1st AD and kept the crew going.
- The craft was also absolutely amazing.

What made the crew slow down?

- The Sound Recordist on the 2nd night of shooting was a new hired guy and he was slowing the crew down. He was replaced with someone else the second night that I hired.

What made the crew grumpy?

- The time running out to get scenes done.

What made them happy?

- Great moments on set, good acting, cooperation with one another, fun with the pool, good food.

EQUIPMENT

Best equipment decision.

- The track was used for dolly shots along the pool side and it created some great shots.

Worst equipment decision.

- Not aware of any terrible equipment decisions.

What got broken? Lost? Stolen?

- Nothing broke.

Night exteriors: equipment advice?

- Extension cables for lights!

Small interiors: equipment advice?

- Minimal equipment and skeleton crew.

Dolly: advice?

- Track laid down on the ground was a great use for dolly shots.

CATERING & CRAFT

What did you budget for lunches? (# of people X cost per person X # of days)

20 people x \$15 x 4 days at half price discount (family friend of Spencer's mother)

Who cooked lunch? How did they shop? How did they get the food to set? How did they keep it hot?

- The director's mother got the food catered by Pickle Barrel and craft table food from Loblaw's.

Any pre-cooked lunches? (e.g. Loblaw's frozen lasagna)?

- All catered by Pickle Barrel.

Was there vegetarian option? Was there salad?

- There was salad, finger sandwiches, lasagna, potato salad etc.

Was there dessert?

- Fruit platter, Chips, Candy, Cookies, Chocolate covered strawberries, Cupcakes etc.

Best lunch you served your crew:

- Pickle Barrel never let us down with great sandwiches.

Worst lunch:

- Trust me when I say the food was never bad.

What did you provide for breakfast?

- There were no morning shoots.

Did you have one dedicated person doing craft?

- The director's mother organized the craft.

ACTORS

Any advice/anecdotes about working with ACTRA?

- All of our actors were non-union.

On set, did director rehearse with actors while DOP was lighting?

- Yes.

Directing them on set, did Directors use motivations/action verbs, adverb adjustments, as-ifs – or were there scenes/shots where there was result-based direction? (sometimes you have to!)

- Director had actors give their impression of how the scene should play out and gave his advise and intuition in addition.

In production, how did your actors travel to set?

- Some got picked up and some drove themselves.

Any nightmares/headaches? Parents of child actors?

- No nightmares.

DESIGN SETS & PROPS

Where did you find your designer?

- The Director of Photography, Gordie Rogers, knew Jill Dobson who had done production design before, so he asked her if she would do it and she agreed.

How many people on the art dept crew (list positions)?

- Jill Dobson filled all roles of wardrobe, props, and make up.

How many would have been best?

- Jill could have definitely used some PA's. I sent my PA's to help her when they could, but Jill was very determined and had a vision, implementing it well.

Where did you get your props/set dec? (%): Your own: 25%, Borrowed: 25%, Rented: 25%, Bought: 25%.

Favourite art dept stories: at least one happy and one sad.

- Favourite art dept story: My blue zip up sweater is in the film and is worn by both the leads.
- Sad art dept story: I don't think I'm ever getting my blue zip up sweater back (haha ☹).

Favourite clever art department tricks

- The lead actor needs to have a black eye at one point in the film. He then needs to swim with the black eye. Jill used this make up that is water proof to keep the black eye on even when he has been swimming and wearing goggles. It's crazy.

Things which didn't work technically.

- Technically I would say things generally worked out.

Things which didn't work aesthetically.

- Night exterior shots looked really cold with cold breath, but actors wore sweater and light jackets.

COSTUME, HAIR & MAKEUP

Where did you find make-up, hair, costume crew?

- Jill Dobson did it all. (4th Year York Student).

Did you need more people? Less?

- Jill could have used more people to help her, but managed fine.

Costumes: where did you get your rentals?

- Did not rent any costumes.

Where did you purchase any costumes?

- Many of the costumes were purchased at Old Navy.

Best tip for sourcing costumes:

- Cheap stores that sell clothes with no branding. (Polos with no logo, solid coloured shirts etc).

Did you create/build any costumes? Details please.

- Did not create/build any costumes.

What sort of change room on set?

- Washroom or locker room depending on location.

Any hair/makeup/costume triumphs?

- The black eye that the lead character Austin had looked great through many conditions.

Disasters?

- No disasters.

Continuity mess-ups?

- To my knowledge, no continuity mess-ups (fingers crossed).

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

I learned so much from my experience in the Production Management class and from being a PM for the first time on set. It was extremely beneficial to have a course director who has first hand industry experience. The documents we received were documents one would not naturally be able to find, saving us a lot of time to compose such legal and organizational forms. I truly appreciate all the help, knowledge, and guidance I received. Thank you for a great year!