

Assistant Director Best Practices

Last Modified on 01/28/2026 9:40 am EST



Assistant Directing Best Practices

This document describes some best practices for assistant directors (ADs) to follow throughout the production of a short film. The exact needs of each project will vary, so it's important to evaluate and adapt as needed.

Overview

The Assistant Director (AD) is primarily in charge of the logistics of running a set. They liaise and coordinate between the director and all department heads to ensure that everything gets filmed. On a very small production, the AD may serve as an all around production assistant, sometimes even doubling as continuity supervisor.

Assistant Director Responsibilities

The AD's responsibilities typically include:

Prior to arriving on set: