

## Chapter Three

### Your Role as *The* Movie Director

As a movie director, you use a camera to film the stories living in your imagination. Next, you show your movie to an audience. If you hear their applause, you will know you've succeeded as a movie director. (Let's not even think about an unhappy audience!).

What is a movie director? This is the person in charge of bringing a movie to life - from the pages of the script to the screen at the movie theater. The director uses his or her actors, along with the props, costumes and locations to tell a complete story.

The director is responsible for everything that makes a movie successful. If you are the movie director, then you are the boss.

#### ***A great movie is:***

A movie audiences will want to watch.

17

A movie they will recommend to their friends and family.

A movie that critics will adore.

A movie that will win you an award or two!

***A great movie director is:***

Someone with a clear vision of how their movie should look, sound and feel.

Someone who enjoys working with people.

Someone who appreciates the talents of others.

Someone who stays organized and can multi-task never giving up.

AND someone who knows how to talk!

You will be talking more than any other task you have as a movie director.

To be a great movie director you will

18

need to be a great communicator. This means knowing how to explain your vision to your cast and crew. Listen to their ideas. Give them positive feedback. And when problems or disagreements arise, it is your job to step in and

solve them as fairly and quickly as possible.

Movies are filled with people both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. The better your people skills, the better chance your movie will come alive. This means respecting everyone contributing to the movie. Whether they are the lead actress or the script girl, listen to their ideas so they feel valued. This will ensure that your instruction to them will be welcomed, not ignored.

### **Hot Tip!**

Movie Directors must rely on the talents of their cast and crew to bring their vision to life. Your number one talent will be how you use your voice when talking to the people on your movie set. For the best results, be supportive, compassionate and complimentary.

### 19

After the shooting is over, the movie director will shout, “Cut, that’s a wrap!” Then the next stage of movie making begins: editing. Whether you work with an editor or do the editing yourself, this is a time consuming, technical process.

Today’s computers and software make movie editing easier than ever. Using Apple’s iMovie,

Final Cut Pro or another program, you will organize all your shot footage into a sequence, add music, effects and titles. This is where you watch the vision of your movie flow from your imagination to the reality of the computer screen.

Now, are you ready to be a movie director? Find out by asking yourself these questions:

*Do I understand the story I wish to tell to MY AUDIENCE?*

*Do I know what an audience will enjoy watching?*

*Am I a leader people will respond to?*

20

*Do I have the time and patience to shoot a movie?*

*Can I choose the right people to play the right characters?*

*Can I learn from my mistakes to make the next day's shoot better?*

*Am I ready to tackle the technical challenges of movie making?*

## **Hot Tip!**

Imagine you are sitting in a movie theater waiting for the lights to dim and the movie to start - your movie. But you are not you. You are a member of the audience who is only interested in sitting back, and being entertained. Will your movie give your audience an emotional experience? Will your movie keep an audience spellbound? Wanting more when the lights come back on? As you plan and produce your movie, never forget about your audience and their expectations.