THE FILM CREW

You can’t make a movie all by yourself; remember filmmaking is a collaborative effort: you need a crew! Having an understanding of what the other people in your crew do will result in a better film. To decide what role you want to assume, think about what you enjoy doing most (doing the least amount of work IS NOT acceptable!). Maybe you are an “auteur,” a filmmaker who has complete control over all aspects of production with his or her recognizable feel...

1) producer - Runs the business end of a film project and is responsible for putting the project together; involved in all phases of the filmmaking process from development to completion

2) director – responsible for making all the creative elements come together; the heart of the movie; makes sure that his/her vision is successfully communicated to the crew

3) writer – creates and shapes an original story or adapts another source (i.e. a book) for the big screen

4) assistant director - Helps the director by planning the filming timeline and managing the set, the crew, and the extras; creates call sheets and gets the set ready to start filming

5) script supervisor (continuity person) – must know the script inside and out to ensure that wardrobe, props, and make-up match from shot to shot; takes digital pictures to remember what the set was like last time the camera rolled; helps correct flubbed lines from the script

6) director of photography (cinematographer) – helps the director envision the film from script to screen, including shots, lighting, and set design; known as the D.P. (for our purposes, the D.P. will also be the camera operator)

7) gaffer – sets up the lighting on set and works closely with the D.P.; head of electrical department

8) grip – the film set’s manpower: moves equipment and help set-up lighting according to gaffer and D.P.; key grip – chief grip on set; dolly grip – operates the dolly

9) best boys – primary assistants to gaffer and grip

10) editor – cuts the film images to create a visual story that flows well; works with the director to capture his vision
11) sound mixer – responsible for recording dialogue and sound on set; blends musical selections for the film’s soundtrack (for our purposes, the sound mixer and boom operator will be the same person)

12) boom operator – positions the microphone at the right distance to get clear dialogue while at the same time not letting the mic and boom appear in the shot

13) foley artist – creates sound effects for the film

14) costume designer – in charge of costumes/wardrobe to create the right look for the characters; ensures that the actors are wearing the correct wardrobe in each scene to match continuity; checks wardrobe in and out each day to ensure that actors do not forget them at home and makes sure wardrobe is kept clean (or dirty!)

15) make-up artist – in charge of hair and make-up to create the right look for the characters; must know how to work with different skin types to make actors seem older, younger, larger, etc.

16) production assistant (“gopher”) – the production’s do-boy; must be a hard worker, energetic, and reliable

17) casting director – breaks down the script with the director and suggests actors suitable for each role

18) location scout – breaks down all the locations in the script with the director and finds the locations to shoot in that are suitable for each scene

19) still photographer – documents the production for publicity, DVD art, memories, etc.

Verbal Orders (a.k.a. “The Call”)

1) “Lock it up!” – everyone be quiet (asst. director)

2) A - “Roll sound!” – is sound ready? (asst. director)
   B - “Speed!” – sound equipment is ready (sound mixer)

3) A - “Roll camera!” – start filming (asst. director)
   B - “Rolling!” – camera is filming (camera operator)

4) “Action!” – actors start acting (director)

5) “Cut!” – shot is finished (director)

6) “Back to one!” – retake (director)

7) “Moving on!” – shot is done; time for the next one (asst. dir.)

8) “That’s a location wrap!” - move to the next location (asst. dir.) or “That’s a wrap!” - that’s it for the day (asst. dir.)