



TV/FILM DIRECTOR

JOB DESCRIPTION

Directors oversee the production of a film or TV show, and make the creative decisions that guide the rest of the crew. They link together experts in various disciplines, including actors, costume and set designers, and camera operators, and are ultimately responsible for developing a vision for the TV show or film by defining its overall shape, structure, and style.



SALARY

Independent director ★★☆☆☆
Experienced director ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

A fast-evolving industry • Corporate production is booming • Rise in independent film-making due to affordable film equipment and more investors

CAREER PATHS

There is no formal route to becoming a director, but experience, reputation, and creative energy are all important. Aspiring directors often work on low-budget independent productions early in their careers, and often come from diverse backgrounds, such as acting or screenwriting.

GRADUATE You can study for a degree in film or cinematography, in which you will be taught technical skills in composition, lighting, and direction and develop your creative instincts.

CAMERA OPERATOR If you start your career as a camera operator, you can progress to the senior position of director of photography. From there, you can go on to direct films and TV shows.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT As a production assistant (or “runner”) on a set, you run errands for the production team. Hard work and dedication may earn you promotion to production-based or creative roles, which may lead to an assistant director position.



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

As the director's second-in-command, you are responsible for all practical tasks, such as managing schedules, allowing the director to fully concentrate on the creative process.

Steven Spielberg and James Cameron, two of the most successful film directors of all time, did not go to film school.

SKILLS GUIDE



Strong leadership skills to take charge of a cast, technical crew, and production teams.



Excellent communication skills to ensure the cast and crew understand what to do.



Creative flair in interpreting a script, framing shots, and giving clear direction to actors.



Endurance and stamina to maintain the fast pace of filming under potentially difficult conditions.



The ability to complete the project, working within the budgets set by the producer.



PRODUCER Steers a TV show or film from its earliest stages—securing funds, rights, and scripts—through production, all the way to release, promotion, and distribution. Not all producers have experience as a director.



TV/FILM DIRECTOR Oversees the entire production of a film or TV show. With experience and success, may take on progressively larger and more ambitious projects. Some choose to move into production—the business end of the industry.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Film • Theater • Drama • Art • Music • English • Mathematics • Languages



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A bachelor's degree or higher in film production or cinematography is helpful but not required.



LIFESTYLE Directors keep regular hours when planning and rehearsing. However, they often work long and irregular hours during shoots.



LOCATION Film directors work in production studios, film-editing suites, on film sets, or at outdoor locations, some of which are far from home.



THE REALITIES This is a highly competitive field. Working on set can be both physically and emotionally demanding.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **FILM OR VIDEO EDITOR** Works closely with the director after the filming has finished to select shot sequences, and arranges them in a order and style that creates a convincing and coherent story.
- ▶ **SCREENWRITER** Creates ideas and writes scripts for films or television shows. Screenwriters may also adapt existing works, such as novels or plays, for the screen.
- ▶ **THEATER DIRECTOR** Interprets a dramatic script or musical score and directs actors and technicians. A theater director is involved at all stages of the creative process, from casting actors and managing rehearsals, through to the final performance.