

STAFFING YOUR CREW

As a producer, you will need to staff the crew for your show. You need to determine what roles you are interested in filling, and who you want for them. When looking for your essential crew members, you simply need to find somebody who is willing to learn the responsibilities of the role. This includes certified crew, as well as friends and family who may want to join you.

When determining who to assign to what position, ask volunteers what they are interested in, and what they are comfortable in doing. Do not pressure anyone to do something that they are not comfortable with doing. It is also very important to communicate your vision to crew so that they know what is expected from them.

When staffing for camera operators, you will need to go over camera shots with them. Explain how wide or tight you want your shots to be, and go over camera angles and movements you are thinking of throughout your script. If seeking a jib operator, find out how comfortable he or she is with moving the camera jib. You may find that your camera operator would much rather stay on a floor camera.

When seeking an audio mixer, it is very important for him or her to understand how to set audio levels in the appropriate range. Too hot of a level can cause distortion, while too low of a level can cause a muffled sound. If working with a live band, the audio mixer must be there for sound checks. There is a lot going on with a band on set.

You will find your production will go more smoothly if you follow these staffing guidelines. As a producer, you need to clearly communicate what you are looking for from each role, and all production questions should be handled by you. With clear communication, your crew will feel comfortable and be open to learning new responsibilities.