

DOX 93: THE MORE WE NEED

SATIRE: A listing of crew member archetypes **By Boris Mitić**

Working alone is the best, not the least for all the silence, hard learning, artistic integrity, ego feeds, incommunicado alibis, budget diets and easy exit strategies. You can work your brains unchallenged, sleep anywhere anytime, risk it all and win it all. But as a director, everything that you do other than filming is taking your energy away, and that energy gets more and more consumable over time. Also, the people who spend their lifetime doing one single task sometimes happen to do that specific thing better than you. Here's a list of assistants to choose from.



FILM CREW ARCHETYPES

1. HYPED STAR 2. KNOW-IT-ALL AMATEUR 3. I-TOLD-YOU-SO SARCASTOID 4. NERVOUS JINXTER 5. REALLY-GOTTA-GO BUSY-BEE 6. SPELL-BUSTING SMOKER 7. FLIRTING SABOTEUR
8. INCESTUOUS LOVEBIRDS 9. BIO-MISMATCHER 10. TRUSTED CO-PILOT 11. FAIR SHARE ALTRUIST 12. GOOD LISTENER 13. AVERAGE JOE 14. PROFESSIONAL EXECUTOR 15. EXTRA EX MACHINA

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THE HYPED STAR: By all rumors, usually self-generated, “the” best DoP, editor, soundman or whatever, until you see him/her at work.

THE KNOW-IT-ALL AMATEUR: Like a gypsy street musician, swears to know every song, then either doesn’t, or does clumsily.

THE I-TOLD-YOU-SO SARCASTOID: The destructive grump whose only goal is to confirm his or her destructive grumpiness.

THE NERVOUS JINXTER: Paranoid or rightly worried, but a bad omen in any case.

THE REALLY-GOTTA-GO BUSY-BEE: Always needs to rush somewhere, treating your shooting as his/her last priority.

THE SPELL-BUSTING SMOKER: When film magic finally happens, someone will always need a smoke, a drink or a toilet.

THE FLIRTING SABOTEUR: The crew's Don Juan/ita, always makes untimely moves on team members, cast or passers by.

THE INCESTUOUS LOVEBIRDS: start indiscrete one-film stands with principal staff or other crew members, thus generating corrosive primal jealousy.

THE BIO-MISMATCHER: Has a different working bio-rhythm than the rest of the crew. Usually requires a prime time siesta, can’t wake up before dawn or sustain all-nighters.

THE TRUSTED CO-PILOT: Can take over and execute any given job. And then s/he steals it.

THE FAIR SHARE ALTRUIST: Empathically helps other crew members when done with his/her part, who knows why.

THE GOOD LISTENER: Not so useful, but a great listening bag for directors and frustrated crew members.

THE AVERAGE JOE: Will earn his wage, nothing more, nothing less.

THE PROFESSIONAL EXECUTOR: Will do everything, except smile.

THE EXTRA EX MACHINA: The ideal crew member. Listens in and contributes constructively to real-time developments, especially when not asked.

After making three successful films all by himself, Boris Mitić is now shooting his new documentary about Nothing with seven unknown international crews. boris@dribblingpictures.com

IN THE NEXT EDITION: Documentary genre archetypes.