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Getting It Done: The Ultimate Production Assistant Guide



Synopsis

Only a fool would enter a film set without having first read this production manual. There is no faster way up the ladder than being prepared and no faster way out the door than by screwing up. This manual was created by a working PA as a tutorial for those starting out, or a reference guide for seasoned filmmakers. Getting It Done offers information on the many departments involved in a film production, the day-to-day operations of the set, the paperwork involved, and much more. This is the book that will get you started and keep you working at your very best.

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Customer Reviews

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Joshua A. Friedman is a working Production Assistant in New York City. Born in Stamford, Connecticut, he moved to the state of Georgia at the age of 12 when he became interested in theatre and film working on many productions and documentaries before studying theatre at the University of Maryland. After graduating in 2005, he moved to New York City where he currently resides. Over the past three years Mr. Friedman has worked on Law & Order: Criminal Intent,

Fringe, Gossip Girl.

I read this before my first professional TV job for TLC. I was nervous of course because I don't know a lot and didn't know what to expect. This book was extremely helpful with that. It really gives you info you would never get from other production books. For example, I read about walkie-talkie etiquette in the book, but I didn't think a lot of it until I my first day on set and was given a walkie. Since I bought the kindle version of the book and read that section again during a break. Huge help. I was helping one of the producers figure it out by day two. The only negative is that the search on the kindle is not great. It was hard to find things that I was searching for. If I had time I would probably go back and read the printed version and take tons of notes. If you are starting out in the industry, even if you went to film school, pick up this book. It really helps with the small details people do not usually tell you about, but if you do them they will remember how helpful you were.

This is rated with 5 stars because I love how Mr. Friedman outlines the inter-workings of the filming business especially from the view of an active P.A. His work to share and outline the work in a form that details the layers of the business from the so called "underside" have detailed for me a lot of the workings hidden in the other books shared. The perspectives of Joshua have also allowed me many layer ideas hidden from other books. It's great because the outline of the work, the business, and the growth prospects and potentials in the industry are often avoided in the work of other authors. The personal experiences shared also provide a lot of useful practical wisdom for me.

This book is perfect for those brave souls who want to jump head first into the world of the production assistant, which is the lowest rung on the Hollywood production ladder. Joshua Friedman gives the readers an excellent walk through of everything a production assistant will EVER go through on a typical show or movie. I have read different film production how-to books in the past, but Josh does something that those books never properly explained: he shows how every production department is intertwined with one another, which departments interact with the PA the most, and how each of those departments affect the PA's job for the day. Every department is touched upon, from escorting the actors/actresses to hair and make up to asking the Teamsters for a ride to Starbucks for a coffee run, to getting tricked by the Grip department to helping them lift and pull heavy items. Josh goes into so much detail for the entire world of film production in this book, he even has appendixes dedicated to the different production reports you will look at on a daily basis! He gives you sample call sheets, petty cash vouchers, and production reports to study so that way,

when you first walk on set, you already know what you're doing. My favorite section of the book was the career section, where he shows you everything you need to know about getting a PA job and keeping it. This section was valuable to me because it showed me the different pay rates, realistic time line to move up the production ladder, and the proper way to create a resume for a PA. This section, along with the various appendixes he has of sample reports, was worth the money alone. This book is an excellent tool for anyone who wants to enter the production world as a PA. Josh will show you proper etiquette on set, how to work a walkie talkie, even how to act around talent! This book has really helped me out in my search for a PA position in Hollywood and I would recommend this book for anyone who is serious about entering this world. My journey into this PA world is about to begin, and I will keep this book by my side as a roadmap through the crazy world of production.

This book was absolutely fantastic. I have a long history of working in the theatre and have always been hesitant of transitioning to working in film production. I mean, with all those different titles in the credits how could anyone keep it straight? This book outlines everything for you if you're interested in starting a career in the video production world! I'm not an avid reader overall, but I tore through this book. I especially liked how Friedman uses personal experiences and interviews to show how his lessons pertain to real life situations. Once completed, the book has familiarized the reader with all the roles in film and specifically in depth of the multitude of PA positions. It makes you feel as if you have already been working in the industry for a few months and already know the ins and outs. I also found his "How to Find a Job" section particularly helpful with the multitude of online resources he provides. I hope that Josh continues to share his perspectives and knowledge on working in the film industry. I would consider this a MUST READ for anyone interested in the production aspects of Television and Film.

As a production assistant, I must say this book is incredible! There is such a wealth of information in this book, and it is chalk full of helpful advice for any current PA, and also anyone wishing to become a PA! I would absolutely recommend it. I read this book and was left with no questions at all! Any question I had was answered in full. The book has a very structured setup, and is very easy to follow and understand, even if you have no prior experience as a Production Assistant. I feel so much more prepared after reading this book, and I absolutely recommend it to anyone interested in becoming a PA, for this book gives you a very detailed account of what exactly the job is, and what it takes as well.

I read this after having it recommended to me by a professional 1st AD. It is a good read, got through it in half a day. The general message is pay attention, stay alert, be nice, know your job and do it well. It will be on my shelf as a reference book, worth reading through, but too detailed to absorb from one read through. Highly recommended if you want to learn the basics of how a set operates, and great overviews of the departments. One of the best on set reference books I've seen, of course you'll learn more being a set!

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