

## Robert Mendel's A's and P's

### My 8 A's - Axioms for Assistant Directors:

- 1) Alertness - Attend to what's happening on and off the set RIGHT NOW
- 2) Accuracy - of Action, & Administration - (All Calls / All Details)
- 3) Anticipation -or- 3 AD self-inquiries to stay Ahead:
  - a) After this shot prints, what will be the next shot?
  - b) Approximately, how many shots remain to complete this sequence?
  - c) Are we ready for the next sequence?
- 4) Alacrity - Time is of the essence - Concise & efficient, yes, but never careless — Always Allow Ample time for Safety on the Set.
- 5) Adherence to the "Three Rules of Production" (You can't break one rule, without simultaneously breaking the other two)
  - a) Never Assume Anything
  - b) When in doubt - Ask
  - c) Cover Your Ass
- 6) Accommodation - Accept, Adjust , and Alert others to those inevitable changes in shooting circumstances. Prompt transmission of Information to the crew.
- 7) Attitude - Stay Positive, Informative, Enthusiastic & Diplomatic
- 8) Authority - Respect it in those above you. Deserve the respect of the cast and crew by being a consistently knowledgeable, kind, courteous & earnest hard worker.

### My 14 P's for Location Managing:

- 1) PARKING - Crew/Trucks/Cast/Extras/Clients/Car Haulers/Caterers - Courteous Guards with efficient Parking Plans for all.
- 2) PAYMENT - Precise, Prescient & Prudently Padded Budgets, Parsimoniously Negotiated Agreements . "How much? By When? For What? To Who?"
- 3) PERMISSION - Protect all Parties w/ sensible contracts & agreements / Insurance / Contingencies. (Know who has the Power to say "Yes.") "Who wields the Pen?"
- 4) PERMITS - "Cover Your Ass" Permits w/ Prudent Posting that Anticipate the Director's needs. Early In? Late Out? Prep Crew Activities?
- 5) POINTERS - MAPS / Directions / Parking Arrow Signs. Deployed early. Visible. Redundant. Numerous.
- 6) POLICE - Off-duty Peace Officers & Guards scheduled / On - Duty Officers as required / Double team CHP at Night Posts (\$)
- 7) PREP - Art Dept. / Set Decorating Early Access / Prep arrangements / Support areas / Holding Areas / Permit Notations as needed
- 8) POTTIES - Toilets on location - Owner's ? Rented? Placed? Pumpers. Maintained. Dumpsters / Trash Pickup / Catering Trash / Breakfast Pile / Lunch Pile.
- 9) POWER - Electric Generator Placement / Cable paths / Tie- Ins / AC outlets / Breaker Box location / Battery charging stations / Trailers Power Plants - Noise sensitivities? Permit Notations?
- 10) PERSEVERANCE - Persist with a Positive attitude to Pick the Perfect Places & Promptly Provide Panoramic Photography for Presentation to the Production Designer &

Director.

11) PLANNING - PLIABILITY, PRECISION - "Plan the Shoot & Shoot the Plan" but remember - "All Things are Subject to Change." — Stay balanced, flexible and Prepared to change.

12) PUBLIC RELATIONS - Portray Professionalism - Pacify upset People - Promote Goodwill - Play Ombudsman to All.

13) PRESERVATION - Leave locations restored & Location - owners smiling & willing to welcome you back. Cleaning companies, Specialty vendors (painters, furniture restoration, landscapers, plumbers, etc.)

14) POINTS OF SAFETY - Safety Program compliance - Safety Representatives walk-throughs, Hazardous substance abatements, safety signage / lighting of walkways, etc.