

Roles in Movie Making

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Movie Making

The Process of Making Movies

Making a movie is a long and complicated process. It is a **collaborative** effort, involving many people with different skills.

An actor's role in the movie-making process is well known, as actors are the people who play the characters. Actors are the ones who usually become famous. But there are other people with important roles in the movie-making process, from those who write the words that the actors speak to the people who design and make the costumes.



Actors like Viola Davis are famous because people see them on-screen, unlike the people who work behind the camera.

The movie-making process can be broken down into three stages:

- pre-production, which is everything that happens before filming starts
- production, or what happens during filming
- post-production, or what happens after filming is finished.

Only a few people work on a movie all the way through, but many others are involved during the different stages. Their roles cover a wide range of tasks and responsibilities.



Workers set up cameras and lighting for a movie.



Many people doing different jobs work together to create the movies people enjoy in cinemas.

Overall Control

There are some key people who are involved in every stage of the movie-making process. These people have overall responsibility and control over the movie.

Executive Producer

The executive producer is responsible for raising the money that is needed to make the movie.

Sometimes, the executive producer provides the money to fund the movie themselves. But most of the time, they will source the money from a movie studio, a production company or a film investment firm.

The bulk of the executive producer's work is completed before pre-production even starts. From then on, they keep an eye on every stage, making sure things stay within the budget, but they are not heavily involved in the movie-making process.

Often, more than one person will fill the role of executive producer.



Executive producers hold many business meetings to source the money for a movie.

Producer

The producer also oversees all the stages of the movie-making process.

A major part of a producer's role is to manage the budget, which means working out how much money is needed to make the movie and what the money will be spent on. The role also involves hiring other people who will work on the movie, such as the director and scriptwriter, and then supervising all those people.

Sometimes, more than one person will fill the role of producer. Although they have a very important role, producers rarely become famous in the way that other people who work on movies can.

Producer Brian Grazer (right) and famous director Ron Howard (left) have made more than 20 movies together.



Director

The director oversees the creative side of the whole movie-making process.

The director's main role is to guide the actors and help them shape their performances as the movie is being filmed. But the director also does much more, from helping the scriptwriter to develop the story to deciding what **scenes** to film and how to film them. The director also helps to make decisions about **editing** and music.

Because the role is so vast, the director will usually have an assistant director, and sometimes even a second assistant director.

Storyboards

Directors will often use storyboards to help plan out the details of each scene that needs to be created. A storyboard is similar to a comic book, with drawings that show all the movement in a scene. Storyboards are particularly useful for planning out action sequences where lots of things are happening at once.

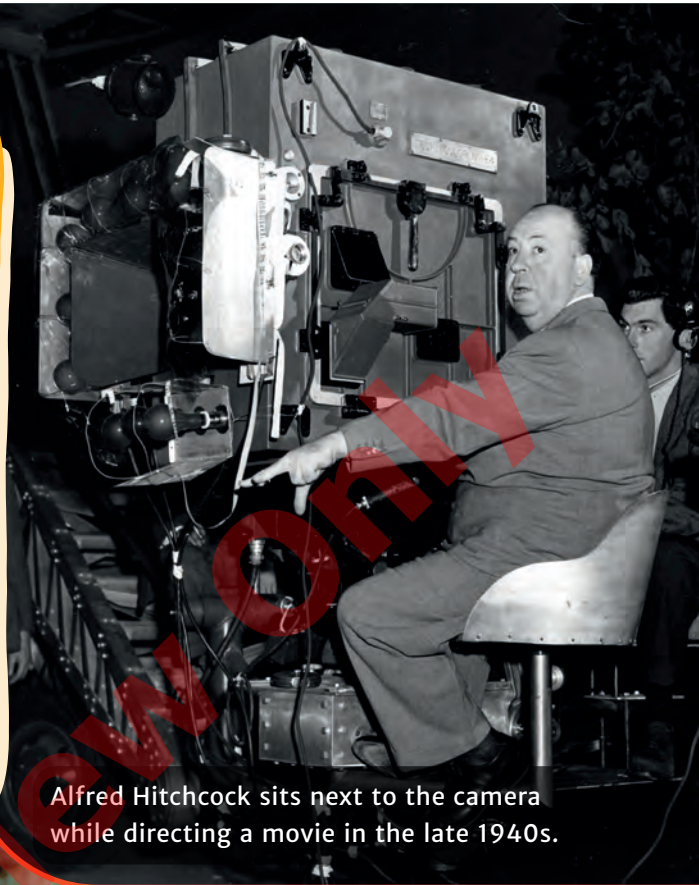
Director Chris Wedge looks at a storyboard for the movie *Ice Age*.



Famous Directors

Some directors are as famous as actors.

- Alfred Hitchcock directed over 50 movies between 1922 and 1976. He is known for appearing in most of his movies, if only briefly and never in a speaking role.
- Steven Spielberg has directed many popular movies, including *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, the first two *Jurassic Park* movies and most of the *Indiana Jones* movies.



Alfred Hitchcock sits next to the camera while directing a movie in the late 1940s.



Steven Spielberg crouches next to a fake dinosaur as he directs *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*.