

JOB PROFILE 2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA (CLAPPER/ LOADER)

The 2nd Assistant Camera (2nd AC, Clapper / Loader) is a distinct role, supporting the 1st Assistant Camera in all technical and organizational tasks. She/He is responsible for ensuring the availability and completeness of equipment on the film set and coordinates transport and storage logistics with the production team.

The role of a 2nd Assistant Camera demands a high degree of organizational and teamwork skills. Therefore, increasingly tight shooting schedules and growing amounts of equipment requirements make the employment of a qualified 2nd Assistant Camera indispensable.

Tasks

The primary responsibility of the 2nd Assistant Camera is managing and organizing camera equipment and accessories. During pre-production, she/he develops an organizational system, including labeling and packing procedures, calculates consumables, storage media, and film stock in consultation with the production team, designs the sync slate, and assists with camera, lens, and filter tests. For traditional film shoots, she/he maintains contact with the film lab; for digital shoots, she/he liaises with post production company and communicates with DIT and Data Wrangler (DAT).

During filming, the 2nd Assistant Camera operates the sync slate, assists with lens and filter changes, sets position markers for actors, assists the 1st Assistant Camera with focus, and manages power supplies (batteries). The 2nd Assistant Camera handles magazine (film stock) and card changes in coordination with Data Wrangler, DIT, and 1st AC; if storage capacity allows, this change occurs only at the end of a scene. Maintaining, preparing, and ensuring the completeness of equipment on set, as well as maintaining and cleaning it, are also among the duties.

When shooting on film, the handling and management of the film material is also involved.

Requirements

The 2nd Assistant Camera is supervised by the 1st Assistant Camera in all technical, organizational, and practical aspects of film, television, and video productions. This requires fundamental knowledge and qualifications in the following areas:

1. Photography
2. Optics and filter science
3. electronic recording and storage formats/systems
4. Video technology and signal transmission
5. Film and television production workflow
6. Camera technology: Handling, functionality, applications, and compatibility of all common camera systems, including accessories
7. Film materials, film processing technology, and film editing
8. Timecode (camera settings, synchronization with multiple cameras)

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA / CLAPPER & LOADER - AREA OF ACTIVITY:

Divided into the production phases of pre-production, filming and post-production, the scope of work of the 2nd Assistant Camera includes:

Pre-Production:

- Coordination with film production company regarding the storage & transportation of equipment & footage (camera truck, insured parking spot)
- Procurement of the necessary consumables
- Receiving of film stock or digital storage media
- Order for sensitometry tests at the film processing lab during film shoots - and question if necessary
- Assisting the 1st AC with lens, camera and equipment tests

Filming:

- Setting up and providing the extensive equipment for the current filming tasks in consultation with the 1st AC and, if necessary, the DIT.
- Handing over and receiving equipment during camera changes
- Assisting the 1st AC with focus pulling by determining distances, placing focus marks, and checking positions during the shot.
- Placing position marks for actors when setting up a scene.
- Supporting the 1st AC in all technical and organizational matters.
- Preparing and clapping the sync slate, labeling according to script/continuity instructions.
- For film shoots: loading and unloading the film stock.
- For film shoots: managing unexposed and exposed film stock, prepare for transport and handover to film production company (for digital recordings, the corresponding task can fall under the responsibility of the DIT or the Data Wrangler, DAT)
- For film shoots: writing negative reports and the lens book, etc.
- For film shoots: regular comparison of the film stock status with the daily report
- Storing equipment for transportation
- Regular charging of the various batteries across of the entire Camera Department
- Maintenance of all camera equipment
- Keeping track of the timesheets for the camera assistant team

Post-Production:

- Ensure the camera equipment is complete
- Checking the camera equipment has been cleaned, and returning it in collaboration with the 1st AC to the camera rental house(s)
- If applicable, material/footage logistics (e.g., handover of footage to post-production, transferring data backups or leftover materials, etc.)

Epilogue

There is currently no established job description for this profession. Therefore, in cooperation with the Austrian Association of Cinematographers, aac, this job description was formulated based on current production processes, see <https://www.aacamera.org/berufsbild-kameraassistent-in/> and Austrian Union <https://www.youunionfilm.at/filmschaffende/berufsbilder/#2Kameraassistent>.