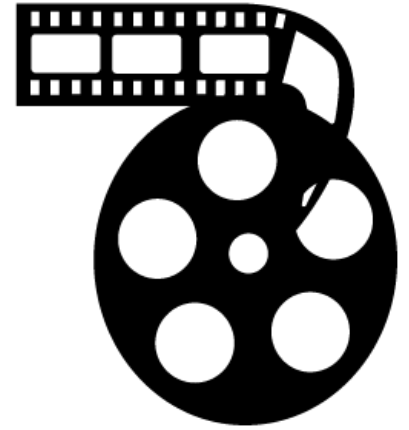


Making Movies



Car chases, heroes and villains dangling from buildings, or enormous explosions keep movie viewers on the edge of their seats and make for top-selling movies. The magic of movies is that their creation is done by movie magicians who are experts at creating enormous illusions through the use of special effects. It only appears that the action on the screen actually occurred.

Many people are involved in the creation of a movie; the entire group of people involved in making the movie is called the film crew. The film crew includes the two top individuals involved in the film: the producer, who raises the money needed to make the movie, and the director, who is in charge of what the actors and the rest of the film crew do. The film crew includes many talented people who work as camera operators, make-up artists or create special effects.

Camera operators have a complex task and must be experts at using sophisticated camera equipment. Their expertise must be capable of getting good close-up shots of actors' faces as well as handling panoramic scenes of major disasters.

Bluescreen technology is the technique that movie makers utilize to create those breathtaking scenes of actors hanging precipitously from ledges. The illusion is created in several stages. In one step, camera operators film the background, such as the cliffs or side of the building. In another step, inside a film studio the actors provide the action for the scene in a safe and controlled environment. The filming is done with a blue or green screen as background. Finally, computer technology is used to remove the plain colored background and replace it with background filmed for the scene.

On those occasions when an action scene is filmed as live action, stunt doubles often perform the live action instead of actor. A stunt actor is highly experienced at performing dangerous tricks for movies. The stunt actor does the action with filming at a distance so movie goers don't see the face. When the film is edited, the scenes performed by the actor are inserted. The illusion is that the movie character was performing all the action.