

Takeaways from Actors' Think Tank, January 25, 2023

Staci Hagenbaugh - Location Manager

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Jeff Neckonoff

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Staci Hagenbaugh was quite an enlightening guest.

I learned so much about what goes on behind the scenes in the life of a successful location manager. Loved the story about Stallone! Thanks!

Sandra Bulk

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I think the most important message I took from Staci was to appreciate and respect all of the planning and pieces and people that go into creating that space for you to perform. The location team is the first on set and the last to leave, ensuring everything is ready for crew and cast.

Rich Henkels

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Staci's mention of meditation and finding ways to find relaxation, or an outlet, in the course of a day made a ton of sense. When the finger is always going to be pointed at you when things go wrong, I have to think finding a way to channel the resulting stress is essential to not just success, but survival!

Kaitlyn Diehl

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Overall, I just came away with a newfound respect for another position on set. The more I learn about set life, the more I learn that each of us has a part to play, long hours to work, and we all must take a weird, meandering path to follow our dreams to the set. This industry is wacky, but we stick with it because we love it.

Shauna Hurley-Hansen

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When Staci first started talking about all of the many things her job requires and all of the long hours, I jotted down that she is calm, even and peaceful. She made me feel calm! With all of those ever changing multiple hats that she has to wear I was struck by the healthy way she handles herself when there is tension on the set. Walk away. Take a breath. Meditate. Go into a corner for a few minutes or grab a coffee and come back. The joy and rewards of the job are so great, but it is important to know when you need to give yourself a moment.

Jackie Diehl

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I think my overall takeaway is just that there is SO MUCH that goes into being a location manager and I really have a lot of respect for how much work you and all of the other location managers do to keep the film world moving along. It's gotta be hard being the first one on set and the last one to leave. Thank you for all that you do and have done, Staci!!

Stacey Marie Keba

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My takeaway is to list my address with the film commission to use it as a potential location.

Mike Provenzano

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Loved learning about your location scouting process and starting with photos to share with Production Designers before going further to make sure you are hitting the type of location they are looking for. So smart to start this way before doing a deep dive into the location(s). Of course like everyone else, loved the Rocky story too!! Thanks for sharing and best wishes for a successful break for you!!

Roz Jamal

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Staci opened our eyes to the complexity of the Location Manager's job. My takeaway is that "reputation and relationships" have been key to Staci's success, per Staci, and that the life of the Rocky fan was changed when his home was used as a location for the "Rocky Balboa" movie.

Thomas M. Harding

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So many insights into such a fascinating and complex aspect of the business. I thought Staci summed it up best as "team". I was fascinated by film when I took up acting as a hobby when I retired before getting serious about it. I got into Stand In work for a greater appreciation of all the intricacies behind the camera and how the components work together. My time on set has given me even greater respect for people such as Staci that keep a turbulent environment running smoothly by doing a million different things at once enabling all other departments to function in their ever changing needs. As she said we're all in it with the same goal to make the best production possible. Team.

Shelley Brietling

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There was so much to learn from Staci. Truly, not really knowing the amount of work that goes into a Location Manager was learned today.

When asked in our slate, what we thought the responsibilities are, I responded with the idea that a Location Manager is like a big puzzle and their primary job is to take all the puzzle pieces and put them together and make everything fit.

Staci, mentioned in our session today, that that is how she describes her job to others, so they can understand the intensity, importance and complexity of what she does on a daily basis. I thought that was pretty cool that I described her work with a metaphor she also uses.

Knowing that Staci's job can be a 24/7 15 hour a day job, totally puts a perspective on the understanding that her line of work is extremely demanding... and that is probably an understatement.

I honestly respect Staci for what she does. It is not a job that comes with many kudos and awards, but it does sound like she has had some positive experiences that keeps her going and loving what she does everyday.

Parker Damm

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Staci reminded me of the local ladder of growth. I didn't realize many location managers become producers on projects. It shows how important every single role on a production is.

Joelle Denise

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I now have a real appreciation for the layout attachment that accompanies the call sheet. I never bothered to look at them before, but I definitely will now. And I loved Staci's mentioning that this really is a team effort and everyone should all have the same end goal.

Luca Cundo

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"In this industry everybody will check references"

Shelby Hightower

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I'm a Philly girl, so how can I NOT say the Rocky Balboa story, oh my gosh! I literally cried for that guy with all the posters. Go birds! "I do not have control over the universe" - favorite Staci quote.

Lindsay Michelle Reed

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Working with the location managing team is the best way to see a project from beginning to end. They are first to a location and last to leave.

Paul Blumenthal

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Staci is remarkable. As the location manager she works tirelessly behind and in front of a movie production to ensure that all of the logistics and legalities for a movie get done properly. When planning to work in a community setting she sends scouting letters to neighbors as part of a feasibility survey, she goes to the proposed area to see if the filming would be practical at that location, and to insure that the proposed filming does not have the appearance of soliciting, she goes to the local government offices and checks in with permitting offices when necessary.

Jeannette Nina

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I learned so much about the role of the Location Manager, wow! It was particularly interesting to learn the process of scouting and how some productions get involved in community.