

# Studio Roles for PSA

In general, we'll break the roles up into what we call "Above the Line" (ATL) and "Below the Line" (BTL). The ATL portion of is "in charge" of the production – they know all of the key elements and produce all key components of the production. They are the Deciders, and they do most of the key jobs in the day-to-day running of the production. They produce all paperwork (who does what paperwork is covered in a moment), and they print out and provide paperwork for the necessary individuals both ATL and BTL. The BTL portion is supervised by the ATL portion, and they follow the instructions, paperwork, and so forth produced by the ATL team. In this class, you'll be ATL and BTL at least once for the production cycle. Depending on class size and/or production complexity, some of these positions may be doubled up or omitted.

## ATL Team Components

**Director** – In charge of the shoot. It's this person's "vision" that guides the production work. Determines blocking, movement, shot choice, and so forth. Sets the tone for the production, and approves the key decisions of the production team. They are the unifying force of the production. During the shoot, they literally call the shots. Produces the annotated script (if required), storyboard (if required), the master shot sheet, the camera shot sheet.

**Technical Director** – Runs the switcher. In charge of paying attention to pace and energy. Follows the director's cues. Coordinates the lower thirds, graphics, and other video inputs available to the production team. Note the possibility of additional work for the TD based on the CG/Graphics role.

## BTL Team Components

**Talent** – Performs the script, following the instructions of the director. In most non-journalistic environments or cases in which this person doesn't have power, this person is BTL.

**Camera Operators** – (Camera 2 / Camera 3) Follows the camera shot sheet. Works with the Director to make sure shots are correct and works with the FD to make sure the camera is in the correct position.

**Audio Assistant** – Works with the Director to make sure all mics are working correctly. May trigger and sequence particular sounds for the production.

**Teleprompter/Recorder** – Presses record on the recorder. Runs the teleprompter. Playback – Plays any pre-recorded elements as cued by the director.