

THE PEOPLE'S FILM SCHOOL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Draft date: 1/1/25

EPISODIC TELEVISION DIRECTING MASTERCLASS [25 hour intensive program]

Course Description: Episodic television directing is a delicate balance of storytelling, communication, collaboration and politics. Learn the process of prep and collaboration through workshoping a recent episodic script. Participants gain access to script drafts, director's plan, location photos and will experience the prep process of TV directing.

PREPPING & SHADOWING Requirements: Have directed a short, feature film, web series or TV episode or taken Dr. Raimist's INTRO TO DIRECTING course via TPFS or on the Sundance Collab platform. OBSERVERS can be at any level as a director or creative.

Suggested Software: Scriptation & Keynote/ppt or software for blocking & shot listing

Course Meetings: Saturdays from 9A-12P PST on Zoom as noted in schedule below

Provided Course Materials:

- Script Drafts including:
 - Studio/Network Draft
 - Production Draft
 - Colored page revisions: blue, pink, green, yellow, buff, gold
- Design Concepts Boards
- One-Liners
- Location Scout Packet
- Tech Pack for Tech Scout
- Wardrobe Boards & Fitting Photos
- Prop Concept Boards
- Directors Plans for stages and all locations
- Location Scout Photos and Videos
- Call Sheet Examples
- Software Tutorials
- Templates

COURSE SCHEDULE

SAT. JAN 25 - SESSION 1: [3 hours]

Topic: The Politics of Guest Directing in Episodic Television

- The politics and power players of episodic television directing
- The guest director's relationship and communication with the showrunner(s)
- Collaboration with episode writer(s) and the hierarchy of the writer's room
- Collaboration with key department heads: DP, AD and Production Designer
- The role of the producing director & why shows have or don't have PD's
- Understanding the prep schedule and the types of prep meetings
- Annotating your script draft with Scriptation (ipad or imac only, no PC)
- Schedules for Drama (1hr) vs Single Camera (½ hr) vs Multi-Camera (½)

Script Draft: StudioNetwork Draft & Materials: Design Concepts (pdf)

Assignment: Annotate script, review concepts & prepare for concept mtg

SAT. FEB 1 - SESSION 2: [3 hours]

Topic: The Process of Director's Prep

- Production Paperwork: Understanding the (Timed) One Liner
- Casting: Process & Politics
- Location Scouting: Tips, Tricks & Tools
- Mock Concept Meeting

Script Draft: ProductionDraft

Materials: Revised Concept, Tech Pack, Location photos/videos & casting materials

Assignment: Prep a scene - blocking, shot list, coverage & shooting order

NOTE: NO CLASS meeting on SAT. FEB 8

SAT. FEB 15 - SESSION 3: [3 hours]

Topic: Blocking, Shot Listing & Scheduling

- Blocking & Shot listing using digital tools
- Planning shooting order
- Timed One-Liner and the timing discussion w/1st AD + DP

Script Draft: Blue

Assignments: Read new script draft, update your script annotations using Scriptation & Prep a scene: blocking, shot list & shooting order (Prepping & Shadowing Directors)

THE PEOPLE'S FILM SCHOOL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

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SAT. FEB 22 - SESSION 4: [3 hours]

Topic: Blocking Bootcamp

- Prepping Director Shares: blocking & shot listing
- Feedback: Prepping Director's shooting plans
- Lessons in creativity, efficiency & how to make your day

Script Drafts: Pink & Yellow

Assignment: Prepare approach to directing actors. Make notes for scene(s).

SAT. MARCH 1 - SESSION 5: [3 hours]

Topic: Directing Actors, Stunts, Action and Set Piece Scenes

- Wardrobe Fittings & Feedback
- Tables Reads
- Rehearsals
- Tips for Directing Actors
- Directing Intimacy
- Directing Stunts, Actions, VFX, etc

Script Draft: Green & Yellow

*Assignment: Prepare blocking, shot list for the most *challenging* scenes.*

SAT. MARCH 8 - SESSION 6: [3 hours]

Topic: Advanced Blocking Bootcamp

- Prepping Director Shares: Blocking & Shot listing hardest scene
- Prepping Director Feedback

Script Draft: Buff

Materials: Tech Pack, Timed One-Liner & Call Sheet

Assignment: Prepare approach to directing actors. Make notes for scene(s).

SAT. MARCH 15 - SESSION 7: [3 hours]

Topic: Production & Prepping Director Shares: Blocking & Shot listing

- Feedback on prepping director plans
- Production Meeting, Tech Scout & reviewing call sheet
- Tone meeting

THE PEOPLE'S FILM SCHOOL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

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- Tips for “on the day” & working with the production crew
- Working with your script supervisor
- Prepping for work with the editor

Assignment: Prepare any final questions for our last session

Script Draft: Gold

SAT. MARCH 29 - SESSION 8: [3 hours]

Topic: Post-Production & Developing a Director's Reputation

- The editing timeline & the post-production team
- Working with music, graphics, titles and stock footage
- Tips for getting the job and getting asked back (repeat business!)
- & Ask Anything - final session!

Assignment: PREPPING DIRECTORS - Schedule your 1:1 session before May 30th

Email: ThePeoplesFilmSchool@gmail.com to with best dates/times to meet.

TYPES OF ENROLLMENT / TUITION / BENEFITS:

OPTION 1:

— PREPPING DIRECTOR —

TUITION: \$1250 DISCOUNT RATE [\$1750 rate after 1/15/25]

Enrollment as a **PREPPING DIRECTOR** includes:

- PDF files of the script draft and all new colored drafts
- PDF files of colored page script draft updates
- Access to all paperwork & show materials (concept boards, wardrobe, props, etc)
- COW Handout (from *Directors Tell the Story* by Bethany Rooney & Mary Lou Belli)
- Feedback on Script Breakdown
- Feedback on Scene Blocking, Shot Lists & Prep Plans
- Feedback on Notes for Directing Actors
- Ability to ask questions live in the Zoom sessions
- 1:1 Mtg with Dr. Raimist within 2 months of end of the course
- Link to session recordings
- VIP code to Scriptation Trial
- Access to TPFS Class Recordings that include:
 - Digital Tools for Directors

THE PEOPLE'S FILM SCHOOL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

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- Scriptation Session
- Keynote for Blocking
- Basics of Blocking
- Advanced Blocking

OPTION 2:

— SHADOWING DIRECTORS —

TUITION: \$750 DISCOUNT RATE [\$950 RATE after 1/15/25]

Enrollment as a **SHADOWING DIRECTOR** includes:

- PDF files of the script draft and revised colored drafts
- COW Handout (from *Directors Tell the Story* by Bethany Rooney & Mary Lou Belli)
- Feedback on one scenes's blocking and shot list
- Ability to ask questions live in the Zoom sessions
- Link to session recordings
- VIP code for Scriptation Trial
- Discount for TPFS Coaching at \$100/hr. (Regular Rate: \$200/hr)

OPTION 3:

— OBSERVERS —

TUITION: \$400 DISCOUNT RATE [\$600 RATE AFTER 1/15/25]

Enrollment as a class **OBSERVER** includes:

- PDF files of the script draft and revised colored drafts
- No assignment feedback for observing directors
- No questions answered during class; class observation only
- Live Class attendance, no recordings will be provided
- VIP code to Scriptation Trial
- Discount for TPFS Coaching (\$100/hr. Regular Rate: \$200/hr)

APPLICATION LINK: <https://www.thepeoplesfilmschool.com/tvdirectingmasterclass>

DEADLINES:

PRIORITY APPLICATIONS: January 10

EARLY BIRD TUITION DEADLINE: January 15

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: January 25

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ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: DR. RACHEL RAIMIST

Dr. Rachel Raimist is a working episodic television director and a formerly tenured college professor. Her recent directing credits include ELSBETH (CBS), BEL AIR (Peacock) and THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (Roku). She directs drama, sci fi, family fantasy, action, soapy stories, sexy stories, musicals, comedy and messy family stories.

Raimist currently teaches directing at American Film Institute (AFI) and Sundance Collab. She frequently offers directing workshops at The Directors Guild of America (DGA), The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC), The Television Academy (Emmys) and for Scriptation.

She has taught directing, cinematography, production and industry courses at: NYU, Syracuse University, Temple University, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), The University of Alabama, Elon University, Macalester College, Carleton College, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of California, Irvine.

She is a leader at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) where she was the first woman appointed as Co-Chair of the Special Projects Committee. She is also Co-Chair of the Disability Committee and Alt. Co-Chair of the Women's Steering Committee. She is co-founder of the annual Women's Day at the DGA, and has served as Alt. Co-Chair of the Latino Committee and served on the leadership team of The WSC Squad mentorship.

LEARN MORE:

ThePeoplesFilmSchool.com

RachelMakesMovies.com

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1325497/>