

# Runner

## Description:

The term 'runner' was coined in the film industry, and it is recognised as a key entry level role. Runners help everything on set to run smoothly and provide a range of support in every area of film production.

Most runners start in the Production Office. If they prove their worth they will either become more senior there, laying the foundations for Production Co-ordinator or Production Manager careers, or become a Floor Runner (studio and location). Work as a Floor Runner can open the door to the 3rd, 2nd and 1st Assistant Director route or establish connections to other departments.

## Personal testimony:

There's a serious amount of work, often in quite extreme conditions and you have to film despite any weather, so sometimes in torrential rain. It can be really, really, really, tough. The actors and crew can really go through a lot; I remember Jason Fleming ('Clash of the Titans', 'Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels') did a scene where he was strapped to the back of a 4 x 4 going round and round in the rain and he kept on having to fall off, so he was covered in bruises and soaking wet. He and all the crew really put in some hard work against the odds then. You do 14 hour days, five or six days a week, so it's exhausting. The idea that to do all that, and then have the budget cut for the next series or next job because people have watched it but haven't paid to see it – that is disheartening.

Alana Hurd was a Floor Runner for ITV's 'Primeval'.

## Industry facts

Runners often start out their careers working for free, and are reliant on new films being made to gain more opportunities to secure a career in the film industry. Copyright infringement reduces the amount of revenue a film or TV show makes, making it harder to invest in future content and therefore more difficult for people to build their careers in the industry.

