

Managing Weekly Cost Reports

Managing Film Production Series

Like it or not, your performance is measured to some degree by how well you control the money. It's like "Directing", only you're "Directing" the money.



Managing Film Production Series:

Managing Film Budgets, Managing \$ Control Points, Film Accounting 101

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Managing the Film Production -The Weekly Cost Report

GENERAL SUMMARY:

The Confidential Weekly Cost Report measures how the Film Production, location, departments, etc. are doing in comparison to the “Approved Budget” Knowing how to read, influence, defend or challenge the film production’s Weekly Cost Report is key to surviving and expanding in today’s very budget oriented Film Industry. It is safe to say that for a Producer, Line Producer or Production Manager, the Weekly Cost Report is a career maker or breaker. In most cases, only the Studios, Financiers, veteran Producers and experienced Unit Production Managers ever get to see this report.

NOTE: All schedules in this course are fictitious examples created for your understanding and practice. They are not taken from actual film productions.

PURPOSE:

- a) The primary purpose of this lecture/course is to train a novice Film Producer, Line Producer, Unit Production Manager or Department Head how to manage the film production with the Weekly Cost Report. These practical applications to real-life Cost Reporting situations are not available in Film Schools nor to most crew working in the business.
- b) The secondary purpose of this lecture/course is to help a Director, Assistant Director, or any film crewmember to have more control over their artistic creativity through participation in the Weekly Cost Report process. By knowing the rules of reporting actual costs to the Studio/Financiers, the course graduate can defend challenges to his/her creative decisions, as well as make intelligent proposals for cost trade-offs (that is, utilize a cost-savings for an interesting shot previously not budgeted for. Better costumes etc.)

Note: This course is applicable to any budget above a ‘shoestring’ budget.

END RESULT OF THE COURSE:

A course graduate who can read, influence, defend or challenge actual cost variances to the Approved Budget, as presented by the Weekly Cost Report (sent to all Executives, Producers, Financiers associated with the Film Production).

*** PREREQUISITE:**

Those who do this course must have been exposed to Professional Film Budgets, or be a Graduate of: **Managing the Film Production - Film Budgeting Course.**