THE CONUNDRUM OF DIRECTING

RESULTS

DETAILS

GRAND VISION

MORALE

I'm known for this.

The Assassin

Pros
- ❏ If you like genre pictures, you're in good shape
- ❏ Best potential for success with the studios
- ❏ You always make your day
- ❏ Producers, UPMs and ADS love you

Cons
- ❏ Your work may seem calculated and unsurprising
- ❏ People grumble after you talk to them
- ❏ Micromanagement costs you longtime collaborators
- ❏ You end up pigeon-holed for the one thing you do

The Dictator

Pros
- ❏ People see your work and want to work with you
- ❏ You are an auteur that pushes that art form
- ❏ You inspire passionate responses to your work
- ❏ You draw compelling performances out of your actors

Cons
- ❏ Actors hate you
- ❏ Your set is an unpleasant place
- ❏ You make enemies easily and have few friends at work
- ❏ You quickly develop a reputation for being difficult

Moment by moment, at the instant of communicating your decisions on set, you must choose your method. Giving one type of direction, in that moment, necessarily excludes its opposite. Yes, you can spend time at each extreme, depending, but there may be an aggregated tendency within you — of which to be aware.

The Journeyman

Pros
- ❏ You usually make your day
- ❏ Steady work if you can build a momentum
- ❏ Lifelong collaborations are possible
- ❏ Predictable outcomes, editors love you

Cons
- ❏ You tend to plateau, artistically and professionally
- ❏ No one feels particularly inspired
- ❏ Cynicism can spread like a virus
- ❏ Purists may slowly lose respect for you over time

The Pollyanna

Pros
- ❏ Everyone loves working with you
- ❏ Actors love you
- ❏ Happy accidents are known to save your ass
- ❏ You get the "best" out of people

Cons
- ❏ You work never turns out quite how you expect
- ❏ You get marginalized on set, subject to power grabs
- ❏ People claim to have been succeeding in spite of you
- ❏ Everyone below the line hates your guts

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