

Trophy Directors, Cocktail Producers and Lifestyle Filmmakers—Part 2

by James A. Barry & Martin Denham

Trophy Directors

These are individuals seeking the kudos of having made a film, without actually making a film worth watching. In fact it's not even about the film they made, it's the recognition for having made a film so they can announce this achievement at industry events and be in the "feature film director's club".

There's always a desperate attempt by trophy directors to bluff anyone who can invest (who can make it happen for them), and a deluded hope that they can get their film shot & finished before anyone either questions how the money was spent, or worse, realises the director doesn't actually know what they're doing! They desperately want to 'live the dream' and hope no one will stop them from achieving that goal.



There are thousands and thousands of these people, spread throughout the country, looking to make "their film" and not "a film" that reflects everyone involved, including the investors.

Filmmaking for the big screen or for television, is a collaboration between the crew, actors, producers and the director. Far too many directors are the 'writer-producer-director' type, who can't write a script to save their lives, who can't producer a budget which is feasible and correct and who insist on creating their "vision" ... which they don't have.

Sure, they join the right organisations, such as BAFTA, and can be seen at the BFI bar with their Mac-Book's open clearly exhibiting the 'very important' script they're writing. However from experience, the vast majority don't have the experience required.

Those who have made a film, usually a short film, then go to film festival after film festival, hoping to and sometimes even garnering "awards", making themselves look like award-winning filmmakers.

The top film festivals that actually matter, with awards are truly worth winning are Cannes, Berlin and Venice. This is where the business of film and television gets done. Others of note include Sundance, TIFF (Toronto) and SXSW (South By South West).

The vast majority of film festivals are just that; film festivals where no business is done, including the BFI London Film Festival.

These are your 'Trophy Directors', collecting trophies but not the experience or honing their craft to mastery.

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