



Masterclass
2025

How to produce your shoot abroad



Lead Tutor: Jeremy McWilliams | Original Branded Entertainment

Lead Tutor: Andrew Levene | Stink

Service Co: Andrej Caruso | Bas Productions



A tropical beach scene with a person relaxing in a wooden chair under a thatched roof. The person is wearing a white hat and is looking out at the turquoise ocean. In the background, there is a green island under a blue sky with some clouds. The text "HOW TO PRODUCE YOUR SHOOT ABROAD" is overlaid in the center of the image.

HOW TO PRODUCE YOUR SHOOT ABROAD

ACTION!



**IT MAY
SOUND LIKE
A HOLIDAY...**

BUT SADLY THAT
ISN'T ALWAYS THE
CASE...



THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TAKING YOUR SHOOT ABROAD

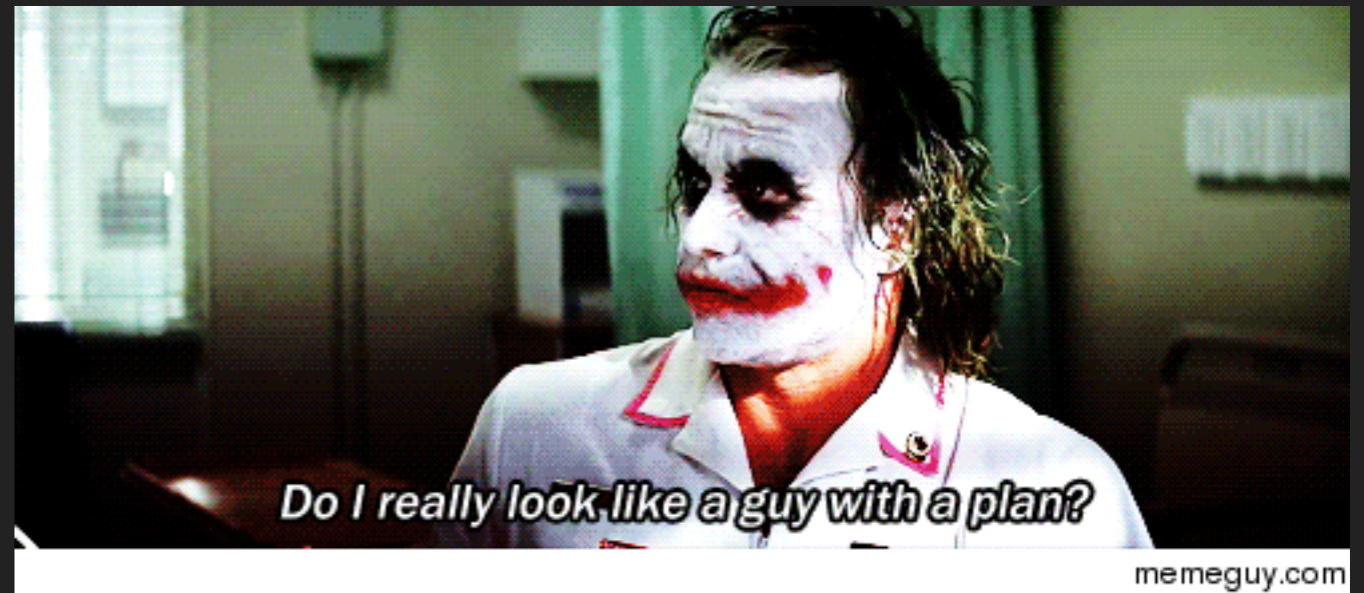
ADVANTAGES

- ▶ PRODUCTION COSTS (NOT THAT IT'S ALWAYS CHEAPER TO SHOOT ABROAD)
- ▶ CHEAPER CAST (AGAIN, IT'S NOT ALWAYS CHEAPER!)
- ▶ FINDING THE LOCATION YOU SIMPLY CAN'T FIND IN THE UK
- ▶ WEATHER AND DAYLIGHT HOURS
- ▶ TRAVEL (SOMEWHERE NEW FOR AGENCIES AND CLIENTS)
- ▶ LESS STRESS?

DISADVANTAGES

- ▶ SERVICE CO FEES
- ▶ TIME DIFFERENCE AND TRAVEL DISTANCES
- ▶ QUALITY OF CREW, EQUIPMENT ETC
- ▶ CUSTOMS/VISAS
- ▶ 'HOLIDAY'
- ▶ CURRENCY CONVERSIONS
- ▶ WORKING HOURS/COUNTRY HOLIDAYS

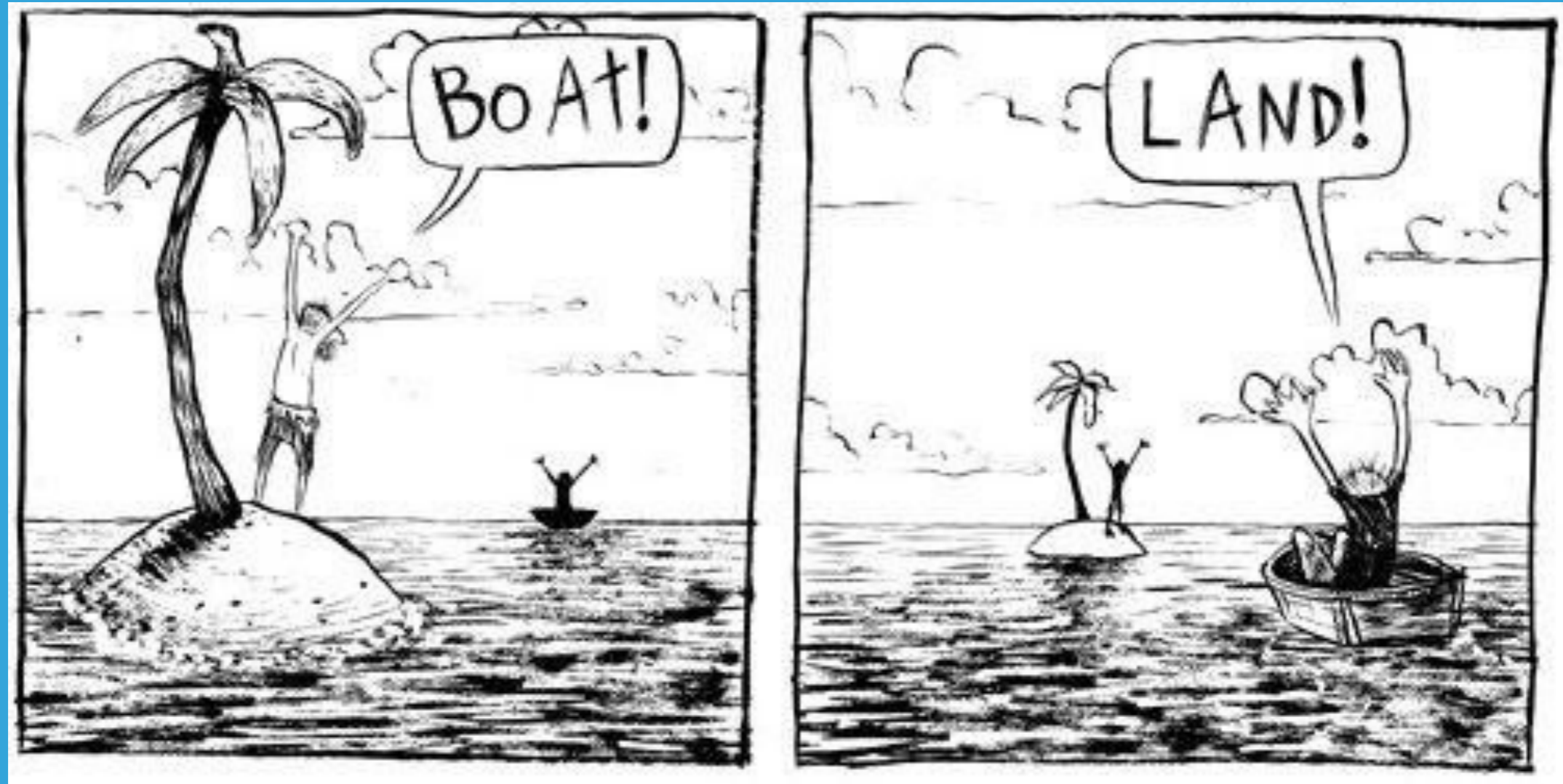
HOW DO YOU BRIEF YOUR SERVICE COMPANY?



- ▶ WHAT'S THE KEY INFORMATION YOU NEED TO SHARE WITH YOUR SERVICE COMPANY?
- ▶ SCOUTING & LOCATIONS, CASTING, CREW, EQUIPMENT, ART DEPT, CONSTRUCTION, WARDROBE, ENCODING/RUSHES ETC (BUDGET ORDER)
- ▶ SO WHAT SHOULD YOU BE ALLOWING FOR ON YOUR SIDE?
- ▶ DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, KEY CREW, TRAVEL, HOTELS, SUBSISTENCE, EDIT ETC
- ▶ YOU DON'T BUILD A RELATIONSHIP OVER WHATSAPP & EMAILS... CALL PEOPLE, GET TO KNOW THEM

SO, BEARING OUR DISCUSSIONS IN MIND, WHERE WOULD YOU GO...

- ▶ SCRIPT 1: BEACH & OCEAN IN NOVEMBER, WITH SCENES ON A BOAT AND JETSKIING/SURFING
- ▶ SCRIPT 2: MOUNTAINS & DESERT IN MARCH, WITH A MEDIUM SIZED BUDGET
- ▶ SCRIPT 3: SKIING & SNOW IN OCTOBER, WITH DRONE SHOTS
- ▶ SCRIPT 4: COMPLICATED SET BUILD ON A TIGHT BUDGET, WITH A REQUIREMENT FOR DIVERSE CAST



THE SERVICE CO
POINT OF VIEW



- ▶ GIVE AS DETAILED A BRIEF AS POSSIBLE
- ▶ DON'T SEND 23 VERSIONS OF 30-PAGE IMAGE-RICH TREATMENTS WITH IMPORTANT INFO PRINTED IN PALE BLUE ON A WHITE BACKGROUND OVERLAID WITH A CAMO PATTERN FILTER ON PAGE 27
- ▶ DON'T EXPECT ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION FROM A SERVICE COMPANY

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- ▶ IF IT'S ILLEGAL/AGAINST HEALTH & SAFETY IN YOUR COUNTRY, CHANCES ARE IT IS FOR US TOO.
 - ▶ DON'T FEEL EMBARRASSED THAT YOU'RE ASKING MORE THAN ONE COMPANY TO QUOTE... JUST MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR INFO... "ALL CAST MUST BE LOCAL TO UZBEKISTAN".
 - ▶ TELL US ABOUT YOUR TEAM... WHAT THEY NEED, WHAT THEY LIKE, HELP US MANAGE AND UNDERSTAND EXPECTATIONS
 - ▶ RUNNING A SERVICE COMPANY IS A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SCREW UP RELATIONSHIPS AS WE LIVE OFF REPEAT BUSINESS.
 - ▶ MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR SERVICE CO PRODUCERS.
 - ▶ HONESTY & TRANSPARENCY - BOTH WAYS. GIVE SERVICE COMPANIES A STRAIGHT BRIEF, AND THEY WON'T SAY THEY CAN DO SOMETHING THEY CAN'T.

“FILM-MAKING IS THE ULTIMATE
TEAM SPORT”

Michael Keaton

“PEOPLE WILL SAY, ‘THERE ARE A MILLION WAYS TO
SHOOT A SCENE’, BUT I DON’T THINK SO. I THINK
THERE’S TWO. MAYBE. AND THE OTHER ONE IS WRONG.”

David Fincher



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