

# SHREDDERMAN



## And... ACTION!

### A little Hollywood lingo, just for fun

Illustrations  
Copyright © 2004  
by Brian Biggs

**Action:** “Action” is called to mean “start filming!”

**Art director:** The person who oversees the people who design and build the sets.

**B-Movie:** A low-budget movie.

**Blockbuster:** A hit movie! (Taking in more than \$100 million when released in North America.)

**Blocking:** Figuring out where actors will move and stand, so lighting and cameras can be put in place.

**Call Sheet:** A list of actors that are needed for each scene.

**Cameo:** A small part played by a famous actor.

**Clapper:** Not someone in charge of applause. It is short for clapboard, which is a small board that holds the title, the date and time of the shot.

**Claymation:** Animation of clay or plasticine figures or models.

**Cowboy Shot:** A shot framed from the middle of the thigh up, which is how they commonly filmed cowboys in westerns. A two-shot is a fairly up-close shot of two people, usually from the chest up.

**Dolly:** A small vehicle that rolls a camera and the camera operator along tracks during filming. (Nothing to do with dolls!)

**Dolly Grip:** The person who moves a dolly.

**Flashback:** A scene that shows events that happened in the past.

**Flashforward:** A scene that shows events that happen in the future.

**Freeze Frame:** Repeating a single frame of film to make it look like all the action has stopped.

**Gaffer:** The person who is in charge of lighting on a set. “Gaffer” used to mean the head of any organized group of workers.

**Giraffe:** Not the animal...a microphone on a long pole. Also called a boom mike or a fishpole.

**Greensman:** The person who is in charge of getting any plants (trees, bushes, grass, etc.) on the set.

**Grip:** A person who fine tunes camera movements and lighting. The Key Grip is the chief of all grips!

**Hardtop:** Slang for an indoor theater. Ozoner is slang for a drive-in theater.

**Honeywagon:** A trailer used as a dressing room for stars when they’re not filming at a regular soundstage.

**Location Filming:** Filming at a place not constructed specifically for the show. Like traveling to Cedar Valley to film *The Gecko and Sticky!*

**Location Scout:** The person who finds good locations for filming.

**Lock it down:** (or ‘lock it up’, or ‘a lock up’.) A command that tells everyone on the set to get out of the way, be quiet, and make sure nothing interrupts the shot. If your teacher starts saying “Lock it down!” before a lesson, be quiet, focus on what she’s saying, and don’t let your tablemate shoot spit-wads.

**Oat Opera (or Oater):** This is a Western movie—a movie that takes place in the “Wild West.”

**Opaquer:** The artist who colors the individuals “cells” (panes) of an animated film.

**Outtake:** A scene not used in a movie (that you will probably see on DVD

under “Outtakes”!)

**Pan:** To move the camera right and left. Tilt is to move the camera up and down. To whip pan is to move the camera very fast to the right or left (whip it around). To Dutch tilt is to shoot at an angle not parallel to the horizon.

**Prop:** Anything from a gecko to a hairbrush that an actor touches or uses while being filmed.

**Puppeteer:** A person who operates any kind of puppet—regular, radio-controlled, or cable operated.

**Pyrotechnician:** A person who is in charge of explosives or fire, if needed in the film.

**Rigger:** A person who hangs lights and builds scaffolding for film sets.

**Spaghetti Western:** A cowboy story filmed in Italy of all places!

**Squib:** A small explosive device which will look like a bullet wound when set off. They usually have a container of “blood” which busts open when the squib is detonated.

**Swing Gang:** Carpenters. (They swing hammers...) The swing gang builds and takes down movie sets.

**Voice-Over:** A voice that is heard on the soundtrack, but the speaker is not seen.

**Walla:** Also called rhubarb. It is background conversation. When actors were supposed to be murmuring in the background they were told to mumble the word “rhubarb”.

**Wrangler:** An animal handler. (Hence “gecko wrangler” in *Meet the Gecko*.)

**Wrap:** To finish shooting. The end.

And that’s a wrap!