



TIME TRAX 1993 Warner Brothers (Gold Coast)
[I'm behind the girl with the slate]

LIFE ON SET

by Katharina Keil

Welcome to ...**Eyes on Script** the first newsletter of this brand new service that will help you take your script to that next level.

Now, if you expect to read about how to....write or plot or make your **HERO** likeable and edgy at the same time....I'm going to disappoint you.

I might throw in a tip here or there, but mainly it's my intention to write about **life on set** and what happens behind the scenes of film and TV drama production so you can get insight into how production affects **storytelling**...

....which in turn starts with **writing the script**.

My professional script services will help you develop a script worth **producing**, drawing on my experience of reading over **1000 scripts** in Australia and overseas.

Ask yourself **Why** this film or TV show? **What** is it about your story that needs to be told....and **why now**? And who is going to watch it? **Who** is your audience?

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**Dont' give up
trying to do
what you
really want to
do.
Where there is
love and
inspiration, I
don't think you
can go wrong.
- Ella
Fitzgerald**

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My first gig as a runner on Time Trax 1993

My love to entertain has been evident as long as I can remember . I was 4 years old when I started to re-enact commercials I saw on TV. We are talking **late 60s, early 70s in Germany**. Black and White early on and here I was singing and dancing in the kitchen of my family pretending to be "Meister Proper" (Mr Clean) who cleans everything and makes everything shiny.

I enrolled in every theatre group when growing up and by the time I finished high school I scored my first role in a professional theatre playing a young woman prostituting herself to Americans after WW2 ("Das Alte Land" by Klaus Pohl, Staatstheater Darmstadt). Once I moved to Australia though I quickly realised I didn't want to be the actor with the German accent playing the stereotypes that come with it.

I also found my deep interest in film and television and enrolled in Film & Media in Brisbane in 1990. While at Uni I was able to write, direct and produce several short films and documentaries. I also started my work experience on several commercials and caught the bug of **life on set**.

But before you think or say it...there is nothing **glamorous** about being on set. Early starts and long hours in whatever weather is nothing one gets excited about. However, **what fires one up** and makes you get up at 4 or 5 am and work ridiculous long hours...is the contentment and satisfaction **working with other creatives** who are incredibly talented doing their thing to achieve as a team a great show.

There is **no 'I' in Team** and no film or TV show is achieved by one alone. What excites me every time I step on set, is that collaboration and nearly 'child' play together. And at the end we created something that hopefully entertains the intended audience and makes them smile or cry or react in any way or just offer an **escape** for a few hours from their every day world.

My first professional paid job as a runner on "Time Trax", an American series shot at Warner Brothers in 1993, taught me how every department works together and how essential everyone's role is. From the runners to the production office, catering, unit department, the grips and electrics, the ADs and camera department, make up, costumes, stunts, the directors, animal wranglers, armourers, editors, sound, and the many producers. If you aspire to work in film or TV and get a chance to work as a **Production Assistant/Runner** on any production....**do it!** It's the best apprenticeship you can wish for. I met people then who I still work with today and some who have become friends over the years. You often hear **the film and TV industry is like a family** and this becomes especially true when you work closely together for 60 plus hours a week and see your crew mates more than your own family at home.

You gotta love it!

When you know your why.....**nothing will stop you**. Your script will reflect that and with my professional help you'll have the best chance getting it one step closer to being produced.

If you enjoyed this read....please **subscribe to my Blog** and tell your friends about me.

If there is anything in particular you wanna ask, have **a question about behind the scenes** and never had the chance to do so....here it is.

Email me and I'll answer it in my next newsletter.

Love

Katharina