



Five Things to Know About the Future of Work in Film and Television

In February, more than 100 alumni, parents, students, and friends gathered in Los Angeles for the “Future of Work in Film and Television,” a symposium of insightful and inspiring panels on the challenges and opportunities of work in today’s entertainment industry. After the panels, attendees stayed to network with key alumni and parent leaders from across multiple media industries.

Check out [photos from the event](#) and read on to learn what you need to know about the future of work.

#1: Every job—regardless of level—will teach you something

Maurissa Horwitz '98, editor at DreamWorks Animation, says it’s important to learn from every job. “Of course, you won’t be hired for your dream job as your first job but find things to learn wherever you’re working and whatever you’re doing. It will all pay off later.” If you find yourself clerking in the mailroom or starting out as a personal assistant fetching coffee, find the learning opportunities. “Entertainment is not the most straightforward business,” says Tana Jamieson P’22. The executive vice president of A+E Studios adds, “You will have to learn as you go along as to what is the correct way to do all kinds of things.”

#2: You’re going to need a thick skin

Creative executive, show-creator, producer and writer J.J. Jamieson '86 P’22 notes, “This is not a business of coy, passive, cautious delicacy.” To find success, you need to be relentless in the pursuit of your goals and ideas. Adds Jamieson, “Develop a thick skin. You must become impervious to *no*.” Ayla Glass '09, actress and associate producer at Stoopid Buddy Studios stresses the importance of being persistent in the face of adversity or rejection. “Just because someone is saying no to you right now, doesn’t mean they are saying no to you forever.”

#3: Be your own advocate

Particularly for those just starting out, it’s critical to show confidence and focus and to tell your story to others. “Believe in yourself, because no one else will if you don’t,” advises Tracey Deer '00. Deer, a successful writer and director, knew at the age of 12 she would be a filmmaker, but others were not as certain. Deer pursued her career goals and sought opportunities to demonstrate to others her skills and value. “Look for opportunities to showcase what you have to offer and make sure that effort is noticed.”



#4: Work hard, and then work harder

“Your entertainment career is not a sprint, it is a marathon,” shares Sam Dickerman P’21, executive vice president, Walt Disney Studios. “Make your goal in every job to be thoughtful, hard-working, responsive, and ethical and you will move ahead.” Andrew Singer ’00, president, Broadway Video Film and Television, agrees, “Success isn’t so much about getting the right opportunity but rather working hard day-in day out.” Put in the hours, get into the office first, be positive.

#5: Relationships are (nearly) everything

More so than in any other industry, networks and friendships are crucial to getting ahead and being successful. It’s important to “get out to social events and join as many clubs as you can,” advises Tana Jamieson. “These friendships will make the business more fun but will also be instrumental as you rise in the business.” Cultivate relationships wherever you go, and *when* you go. Horwitz cautions, “Don’t burn any bridges if/when you decide to leave a job. It’s a small industry. You will be shocked at how many people continue to reappear in your work life or are friends of people you’ve worked with in the past.” Ultimately, notes J.J. Jamieson, “Be good to people. The fuel of this business, more than anything, is relationships.”

Check out more Future of Work events and content at dartgo.org/fow.