



Veteran First AD for Spielberg and Scott Shares Insights

Description

On November 27, Oscar-nominated producer Adam Somner succumbed to anaplastic thyroid cancer at the age of 57. Renowned as one of the preeminent first assistant directors across several decades, Somner's influence on the film industry was profound.

He established himself as the preferred AD for a remarkable roster of directors, including Steven Spielberg, with whom he collaborated on ten films, Paul Thomas Anderson on six, and Ridley Scott on an equal number. His extensive portfolio also includes multiple projects with Tony Scott, Alejandro G. Iñárritu, and James Mangold. Among his recent works are Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*, Steve McQueen's *Blitz*, and an upcoming untitled film by Anderson featuring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Having accrued over 75 credits as an assistant director on feature films, shorts, and music videos, Somner earned an Oscar nomination alongside producer Sara Murphy for their contributions to Anderson's *Licorice Pizza* in 2022.

Among the notable films to benefit from Somner's expertise are Best Picture Oscar winners such as *Birdman* and *Gladiator*, as well as iconic works by Spielberg including *West Side Story*, *Lincoln*, and *Indiana Jones* sequels. His other collaborations spanned celebrated directors like Mangold, Redford, and Branagh, encompassing a diverse cinematic landscape.

Spielberg characterized Somner's contributions as transcending the limitations of the title 'assistant director,' praising his blend of organizational acumen and creative vision. He described him as pivotal to the collaborative process, asserting that his ability to unite teams and diffuse tension was unparalleled.

Creatively, Somner was lauded for his exceptional handling of intricate scenes, exemplified by his meticulous choreography in the notorious airplane sequence from *The Wolf of Wall Street*. His skill in preparation allowed chaos to unfold within a controlled atmosphere, showcasing his adeptness in managing set dynamics.

A DGA scholarship honoring Somner's legacy is set to be established, with details to be announced shortly. He is survived by his wife, Carmen Ruiz de Huidobro, their children Olivia and Bosco, and his brother Mark Somner.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Succumbed** /sə'kʌm/ (verb): To fail to resist pressure temptation or some other negative force.
2. **Preeminent** /pri:'ɛmɪnənt/ (adjective): Surpassing all others; very distinguished in some way.
3. **Acclaimed** /ə'kleɪmd/ (adjective): Publicly recognized with approval or praise.
4. **Choreography** /ˌkɔːr.i'ɒɡ.rə.fi/ (noun): The sequence of steps and movements in dance or performance.



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5. **Transcending** /træn'sɛndɪŋ/ (verb): To go beyond the limits of; to exceed.
6. **Meticulous** /mə'tɪk.jə.ləs/ (adjective): Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term for designing and arranging dance movements?
Option: Succumbed
Option: Preeminent
Option: Choreography
Option: Meticulous
2. Which word means forbidden or not allowed?
Option: Colluded
Option: Prohibited
Option: Instigated
Option: Philanthropic
3. Which word describes something causing a marked change or alteration?
Option: Recuperating
Option: Criticism
Option: Transformative
Option: Ardent
4. Which term refers to feelings of worry or unease about something?
Option: Intriguing
Option: Choreography
Option: Acclaimed
Option: Concerns
5. What is the term for handling or controlling something in a skillful manner often unfairly or dishonestly?
Option: Emotional
Option: Orchestrating
Option: Manipulate
Option: Anticipated
6. Which word means peaceful or calm?
Option: Dubious
Option: Constraints
Option: Tranquil



Option: Viability

7. What term describes gradual development or change over time?

- Option: Evolving
- Option: Complicated
- Option: Succumbed
- Option: Alleging

8. Which word refers to recovering health strength or balance after illness or hardship?

- Option: Arduous
- Option: Portrayed
- Option: Recuperating
- Option: Substantial

9. What word means of considerable importance size or worth?

- Option: Transported
- Option: Prohibited
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Alleging

10. Which term refers to the ability to work or be successful?

- Option: Ardent
- Option: Prohibited
- Option: Viability
- Option: Transformative

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The team _____ the opponent's strategy and prepared for a strong defense.
12. The elderly couple enjoyed each other's _____ during their daily walks in the park.
13. His _____ about the project's timeline led him to request additional resources.
14. Despite facing harsh _____ the artist continued to push the boundaries of creativity.
15. The movie's ending left the audience feeling deeply _____.
16. Some politicians try to _____ public opinion through misleading statements.
17. The billionaire's _____ efforts have positively impacted many communities.



18. After the surgery she spent weeks _____ at home before returning to work.
19. Despite the medical team's efforts the patient eventually _____ to the illness.
20. The new technology had a _____ impact on how businesses operated.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. She was known for her attention to detail when designing costumes for the play.
22. Completing the marathon was an task that required months of training.
23. The journalist was accused of falsely corruption within the government.
24. The company's sudden success raised among industry analysts.
25. The rumors were deliberately spread to unrest among the employees.
26. The social media campaign was successful due to the efforts of the marketing team.
27. The legal case became more as new evidence emerged.
28. He was an supporter of environmental conservation and spent weekends volunteering at wildlife reserves.
29. The artist's latest painting was widely for its unique style and emotional depth.
30. The actor skillfully the inner turmoil of the character through subtle gestures and expressions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Choreography 2. Prohibited 3. Transformative 4. Concerns 5. Manipulate 6. Tranquil 7. Evolving 8. Recuperating 9. Substantial 10. Viability

Gap-Fill: 11. Anticipated 12. Companionship 13. Concerns 14. Criticism 15. Emotional 16. Manipulate 17. Philanthropic 18. Recuperating 19. Succumbed 20. Transformative

Matching sentence: 1. Meticulous 2. Arduous 3. Alleging 4. Dubious 5. Instigated 6. Orchestrating 7. Complicated 8. Ardent 9. Acclaimed 10. Portrayed

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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