

JIB OR DIE TRYIN

A HIP HOP INSPIRED GUIDE TO MASTERING
THE ART OF **SPECIALTY CAMERA WORK** AND
VISUAL STORYTELLING



VOL. 1

WRITTEN BY:
GERARD "GRIPP" RICHARDSON
AKA "THE HIP HOP JIB OP"



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**tone +
tune =
harmony**



"Who's Gonna Take The Weight"?

GANG STARR

CHAPTER ONE

Hustlin' Hard: The Mindset You Need to Succeed as a Jib Operator

To become a professional jib operator today you need a certain kind of mindset in order to succeed. In this line of work you must be determined, focused, and prepared to be looked upon as the life saver. It's gonna take the will to learn, adapt, and navigate this forever-changing world of crane operation.

Look at it like this, without the passion for what you want to do in life, then the return on your lack of passion results in your output. I truly honestly feel that Jibbin isn't just a job - it's a way of life.

How did I perfect my craft as a jib operator and took my skills to the next level? Well I was willing to put in the extra effort and time without being asked. I was so passionate about learning, I worked harder to make it happen, which is just what I did.

But passion alone wasn't gonna be enough. I also had to gain some type of discipline to stay focused and hungry for that thing I was going after. You see, jibbin' is a competitive job type, and there's always someone out there working' harder than you believe that.

So to me that meant I had to be willing to hustle nonstop until I got what I came here to get. Even if it cost me the extra hours in a day, by taking on extra work that came my way I did it without questions. At times I would go above and beyond by studying the craft for consecutive days in a row nonstop.

-THHJO

A DJ is performing at an outdoor event. The DJ is wearing a black shirt and a black cap, and is standing on a stage with large speakers. The background is filled with colorful stage lights and smoke. In the foreground, a person is seen from behind, wearing a black jacket and a black cap, looking towards the DJ. The ground is sandy and there are some cables and equipment visible.

"Today Was A Good Day"

ICE CUBE

I remember searching for videos on YouTube about jib operators and then binge watching them all day. Then I would take notes when I would see certain shots and moves I would find of interest.

Even when I would find a video with a new type of jib being used, I would take notes because I never knew if I would end up operating that jib one day. However, for me when it came to learning the jib, I didn't let nothing stop me from putting in the hard work and long hours to learn it.

At the same time, I was always willing to learn and grow from my mistakes. Jibbin is a forever-evolving art form, and there's always gonna be new techniques, equipment, and trends to keep up with.

What this means is that I had to be open to feedback from others, receptive to new ideas, and always looking for ways to improve my skills.

Whether it was learning how to use a new piece of equipment or experimenting with a new style, I was willing to step out of my comfort zone and kept on pushing myself to become better.

Lastly, you gotta have the confidence to believe in yourself and your abilities. Jibbin' can be a high-pressure job, with clients, artists, and directors all looking for you to deliver the perfect shot.

That sometimes means you gotta be cool under pressure, confident in your skills, and ready to take on any challenge that comes your way. When you have confidence in yourself, you're able to stay focused and deliver your best work, even when the stakes are high trust me I know.

"Yeah, jump
out boys, that's
Nike Boys,
hoppin' out
coupes"

TRAVIS SCOTT



Essentially, in order to succeed as a jib operator, you must possess a hustler's mentality. You gotta be passionate, disciplined, growth-oriented, and confident about your skills and responsibilities.

So if you're ready to hustle hard like I did and make your mark in the world of jibbin. Then let's get ready for chapter two and learn about the tools of the trade that helped me start livin my dream. Let's go!



CHAPTER TWO

Tools of the Trade: Mastering the Jib Equipment and Set-Up

Before I became “The Hip Hop Jib Op” I am today, I needed to know the gear by memory like I could memorize my rhymes. That meant not just understanding the basics of jib equipment, but being able to fine-tune and optimize my setup for maximum performance and creativity.

Take it from me first, I felt it to be important to know the different components of the jib and how it all works together. I needed to know how to troubleshoot and fix any problem that could arise while on set.

I felt I needed to know how to set up and break down the jib quickly and efficiently, also how to pack it up for transport in preparation for the next job.

On the other hand it wasn't just about the jib itself, you see I needed to know how the support gear worked and a little about the electronics. I found out I needed to understand the different types of tripods, mounts, any hardware and remote heads that will be used to support my jib.

Also I needed to know how to choose the right gear for a specific job. I learned quickly how to adjust my gear on the fly to adapt to instant changes of conditions that would normally occur on a production because anything will and can happen on set.

And since we're talking about jib equipment, I needed to know how to control my equipment with precision and finesse without hurting anyone or damaging anything on set.



CASH RULES
EVERYTHING
AROUND ME

"C.R.E.A.M."

WU-TANG CLAN

I had to understand how to balance and counterbalance my jib, and to adjust the speed and angle of my movements without notice with ease. I quickly learned how to use the different control systems that come with the different jib types on the market.

You will find that most operators will have two of the main types of jibs on the market: the first type is CamMate Systems the brand I first learned on and the second type is the Jimmy Jib by Stanton.

I suggest that you learn how to be comfortable using both types of jib controls when you first start out. You gotta be able to make quick adjustments in real time, and know how to work with your team to get the best shot you need while working on any type of jib.

To me, when it comes to jibbin - it's also important to stay on top of the latest developments and trends in the field.



"Love Yourz"

J COLE

This means staying up to date with new equipment and technology that helps you do a better job, attending industry events and workshops, and networking with other jib operators to share knowledge and ideas.

In short, mastering the tools of the trade is not just about knowing your gear - but more so about having a deep understanding of how it all works together and how to be recognized as the professional you truly are.

With the right mindset and dedication, I became a true master of the jib and that alone took me to 4 different countries in less than 5 years as a professional jib operator.



"Fight The Power"

PUBLIC ENEMY

CHAPTER THREE

Setting Up for Success: How to Properly Rig and Position Your Jib

You can be the most skilled jib operator in the world, but if you don't know how to properly rig and position your equipment correctly, then you're not going to get the best shots you've been called to produce.

That's why understanding how to set up your jib is absolutely critical to your success as a jib op. First things first, I needed to make sure I had the correct equipment and gear for each job.

That meant always checking my jib arms for any defects, making sure the camera platform is not bent, counterweights are not cracked. I would check all other gear to ensure they're all in full working condition and ready to go.

You don't want any surprises when you're on set, so do your due diligence and make sure everything is in tip top shape before you leave your house if you own your gear or the rental house you may be renting it from.

Next, let's talk about rigging up your jib. I've seen operators including myself place extra sand bags on our base for extra stability.

A jib always needs to be securely anchored to a stable base, whether it's a tripod, a dolly, or any other support structure.

You'll also need to ensure that your jib is properly balanced, with the counterweights and camera positioned in such a way that they're not putting undue stress on the system.

Beijing, China

2022

**"You
Gots To
Chill"**

EPMD

OLYVA

This might require some trial and error, but it's worth taking the time to get it right, ya dig it! Next, you'll need to properly balance your jib arm and camera platform.

This is crucial for achieving smooth, stable shots, and can take some time to get it just right.

Be patient and don't rush the process - it's better to spend a few extra minutes tweaking your rigging than to have to reshoot because your shot wasn't up to par, so make sure you time it correctly and not cost production.

Once you've got your jib rigged up, it's time to think about positioning. The goal here is to get your camera in the perfect spot to capture the action.

This might mean adjusting the height of your jib, moving it closer or farther away from the subject, or changing the angle at which it's positioned.



"Just To Get a Rep"

GANG STARR

You'll also need to consider factors like lighting, sound, and other elements of the set to make sure you're not in their way but also you can get the shot you need.

You'll want to make sure you're positioned in a spot that gives you the best vantage point for the shot you're trying to achieve.

This will vary depending on the specifics of the scene, but sometimes you have general principles to apply.

For example, you'll want to avoid placing the jib in a spot where it will cast shadows on the talent or the set.

As this can be distracting in the final footage, or even having your jib placed in a high traffic area where people are constantly walking around.



"My Philosophy"

BOOGIE DOWN PRODUCTIONS

Of course, positioning your jib isn't just about technical considerations. It's also about understanding the story you're trying to tell and how to use your jib to help convey that narrative.

Whether you're shooting a music video, a commercial for TV, or a feature film, you will need to think about how your jib can help enhance and tell the story by producing dynamic shots that bring it to life.

At the end of the day, setting up your jib for success is all about understanding the technical and creative aspects of the craft.

By mastering the rigging and positioning of your equipment, and by staying attuned to the story you're trying to tell, you'll be able to capture the perfect shot every time.

So there you have it - some key tips and tricks for setting up your jib for success. And with a lot of practice and paying attention to detail, you'll be well on your way to capturing some truly stunning footage that will have being recognized as a professional jib operator.

The key is keeping it real with yourself and keep the hustle moving forward nonstop! Ya Dig!



"Don't Sweat The Technique"

ERIC B. & RAKIM

CHAPTER FOUR

From the Ground Up: Techniques for Getting the Best Shot

As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", my job is to capture the perfect shot. This means the shot that captures the emotion, drama, and action of the scene in a way that truly captivates my clients and audiences.

But getting that shot is not always as easy as it may sound. It takes skills, techniques, and a deep understanding of my jib equipment, its capabilities and my overall ability to produce those type of shot. In this chapter, we'll explore some of my key techniques for getting the best shots possible, from the ground up.

First off, you gotta have a solid foundation starting with what I call "Base In Yo Face". This simply means that when I build my jib I make sure the base is solid and balanced first before adding anything else to it.

That means making sure my jib is properly set up and balanced correctly, with all the necessary weights and counterweights in place. Because a properly balanced jib is essential for smooth, stable shots, and It helps me avoid camera shakes and other unwanted movement.

This is what helps me to be safe while on set. Because rushing to build a jib on set makes it easier for you to forget to add something or overlooking the attachment of a piece of hardware which can later on cause damage to your equipment and or even harm yourself or others. SO DON'T RUSH!

But once I've gotten my jib set up, balanced, and ready to go, it's now time to start thinking about framing and composition. If you don't understand what the "Rule of Thirds" means I suggest researching it on YouTube and come back to this part.



"Keep Ya Head Up"

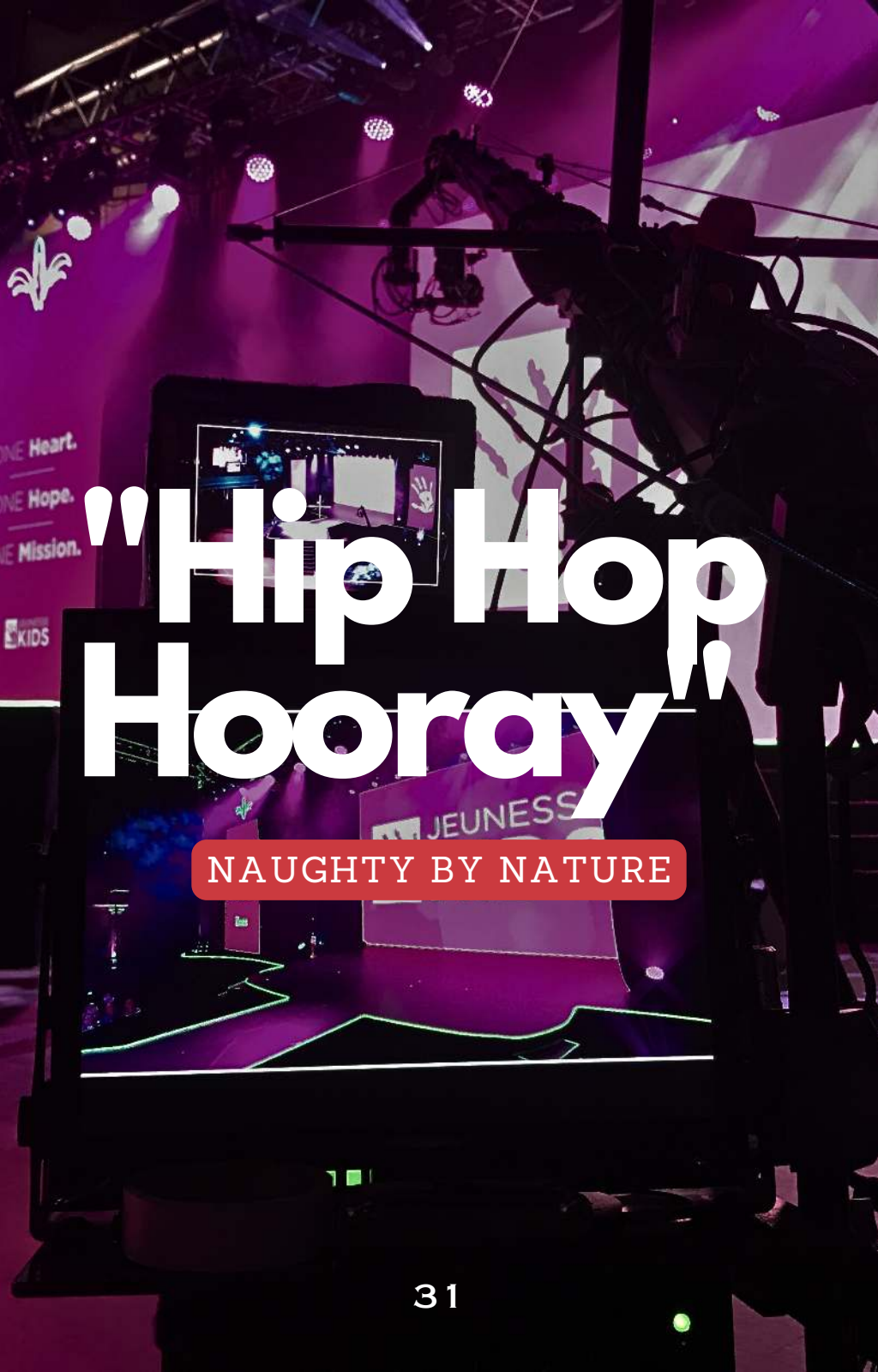
TUPAC SHAKUR

However, I will always consider the rule of thirds, and how to use any foreground objects, to create dynamic shots that are well-balanced and visually appealing to my client and audience.

This also means considering the movement of the scene, and adjusting my jib movements to keep my subject in frame as The talent move I will follow the action. Continuity plays a very important part to filmmaking, so the framing of a character in one scene needs to continue in the next.

Another key technique for getting the best shot is to use the right lens to capture the essence of the moment. Different lenses can create vastly different looks and feels to the viewer, and it's up to you as the jib operator to choose the right lens for the scene.

Sometimes the director or cinematographer may already have an idea of what lens they want to use but it is always in your favor to know the best angles and perspectives of a lens to make a professional suggestion.



"Hip Hop Hooray"

NAUGHTY BY NATURE

Most of the time they will ask for your expert opinion. A wide-angle lens can create a sense of spaciousness and depth, while a telephoto lens can create a sense of intimacy and closeness. So I suggest experimenting with different types of lenses to find the one that works best for a scene you're shooting.

With that being said it's not just about the technical aspects of framing a shot, or the best camera lens to use while jib operation - but it's also important to be creative and ready to utilize your pro vision.

As a professional jib operator, I always think outside the box and come up with innovative shots that truly capture the essence of a scene. This means that I play with different camera angles, experimenting with movement and framing, and take risks to create shots that truly stand out.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man with a beard and a dark hoodie, looking upwards towards a clear blue sky. In the background, the complex metal scaffolding of a large outdoor festival stage is visible, with some people and equipment at its base. The overall mood is bright and energetic.

"Hip Hop Junkies"

NICE & SMOOTH

And of course, communication is key. As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", I constantly communicate with the director and cinematographer, making sure I understand their vision.

This also helps them to see I am working collaboratively to achieve the perfect shot for them. This means being receptive to feedback, and adjusting my jib movements as needed to capture the desired shot.

In short, getting the best shot is all about technique, creativity, and collaboration. With a solid understanding of jib operation, framing and composition, lens selection, and communication, you can capture shots that will truly captivate your client and audience and solidify you as a professional in the business.

CHAPTER FIVE

Hip Hop Roots: Incorporating the Culture into Your Jib Operations

Hip Hop Culture is more than just about music and dance - it's more of a way of life that has permeated many aspects of our society. As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", I seamlessly incorporate elements of hip hop culture into my work, creating a unique and memorable experience for my clients and audiences.

In this chapter, we'll explore some ways that you can infuse hip hop into your jib operations, bringing a fresh and dynamic perspective to your work.

First and foremost, it's really important to understand the elements of hip hop culture and how you can incorporate them into your jib operations.

A man with a mustache, wearing a red jacket, a grey scarf, and dark sunglasses, is looking towards the camera. He is wearing a black cap with a gold star and the word "POW" in gold letters. Behind him is a large, yellow smiley face with a black outline, set against a red background. To the left of the smiley face is a large, dark, textured object that looks like a giant hand or a piece of fabric. The overall scene appears to be a promotional photo for a music video or album.

"The World Is Yours"

NAS

These elements include the use of rhythm and movement, the emphasis on creativity and improvisation also known as free styling and the focus on storytelling and expression.

By incorporating these elements into your jib operations, you can create a dynamic and engaging experience for your client and audience. One way to infuse hip hop into your jib operations is through the use of music.

Hip hop music is known for its distinctive beats and rhythms, and for certain productions I like to listen to hip hop tracks to help set a certain tone that will create a powerful emotional impact for that production.



"Looking Out The Front Door"

MAIN SOURCE

I sometimes experiment with different camera angles and movements, using techniques like zooms, pans, and tracking shots to create a sense of movement and rhythm that echoes the flow of hip hop music I was listening to before the shoot.

Another way to incorporate hip hop into your jib operations is through visual elements. Using items in the foreground of your shot to reveal the main character in a scene can help tell your audience what to look at next in a scene.

You could also experiment with lighting and color schemes, using bold and vibrant colors to capture the energy and vibrancy of a mood in a scene.

For the most part the lighting and mood setting of a scene is left up to the cinematographer or director so here I suggest using these elements as motivation to create dynamic "cine-magic" shots .



"Rock The Bells"

LL COOL J

Ultimately, incorporating hip hop into your jib operations is all about creativity and authenticity. Hip hop culture is a dynamic and evolving force, and using it in a shallow or exploitative way can come off as inauthentic and disrespectful. Instead,

I strive to understand and honor the culture, and find creative ways to incorporate its elements into my jib operations in a way that feels true to the production I'm working on.

In summary, incorporating hip hop into your jib operations can help you create a unique and dynamic experience for your client and audience.

By understanding the elements of hip hop culture, and experimenting with music and visual elements, you can create jib shots that truly capture the essence of any production.



"Ready Or Not"

THE FUGEES

CHAPTER SIX

Collaboration is Key: Working with Directors, Producers, and Talent

As “The Hip Hop Jib Op”, I learned I am an essential part of the production team, and I’ll be collaborating with a lot of different people, including directors, producers, and talent.

In this chapter, we're going to break down how to work effectively with these key players to make sure you're all on the same page and getting the best shots you need.

First up, let's talk about working with directors. Directors are the visionaries behind the project, and they'll be the ones guiding the creative direction of the shoot.

As a jib operator, it's your job to understand the director's vision and make it a reality.

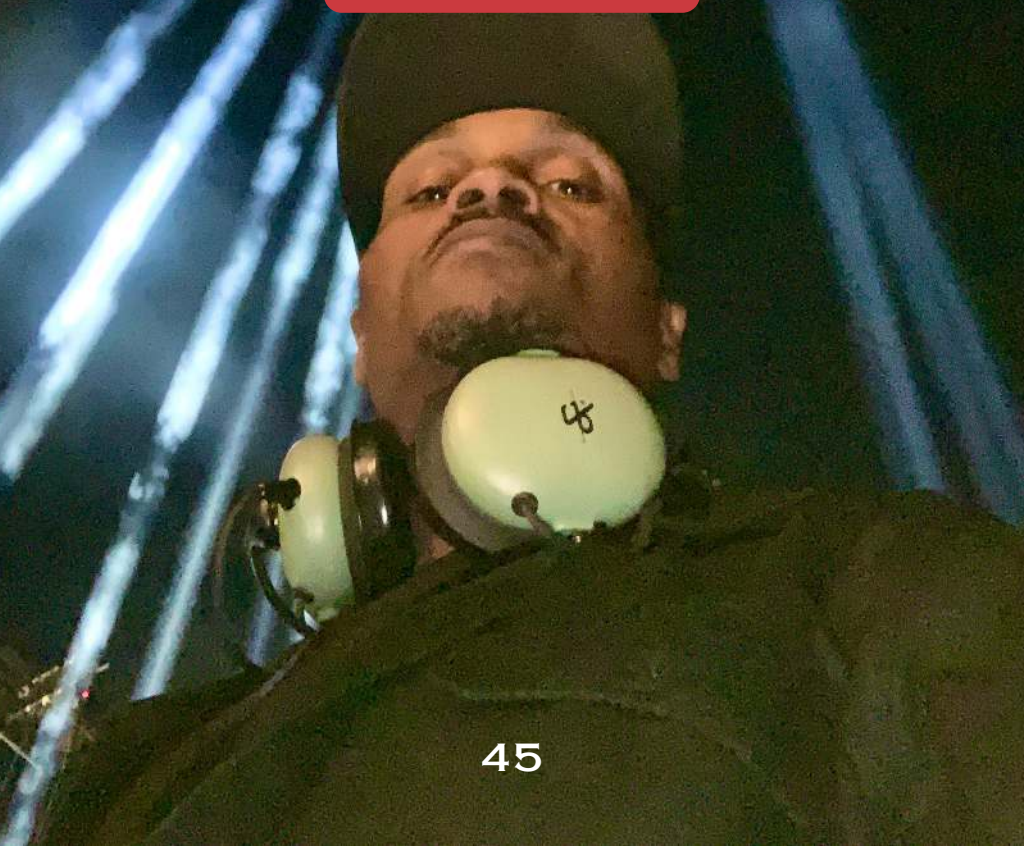
This means taking the time to sit down with the director and discuss their ideas, so you can create shots that fit their vision. Another essential part of working with directors is communication.

You need to be able to communicate with the director effectively to ensure that you're getting the shots they want. This means being open to feedback and adjusting your shots accordingly.

Remember, it's a collaborative effort, and you're there to bring the director's vision to life.

"Just Hanging Out"

MAIN SOURCE



Next, let's talk about producers. Producers are responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly on set, and they'll be the ones overseeing the logistics of the shoot but let's not forget that will be the ones paying you.

When working with producers, it's important to understand their priorities and how you fit into the larger picture.

You'll need to work closely with the producer to make sure you're staying on schedule and getting the shots they need. I've learned to make great relationships with the producer because like mentioned earlier.

They are the ones overseeing the project from top to bottom and If you as the jib operator was professional, efficient, graceful to work with then you stand the chance to work with them again.



"Back In The Day"

AHMAD

In addition to working with directors and producers, you'll also be working with talent. Whether it's actors, musicians, or models, talent is a crucial part of any shoot.

When working with talent, it's important to establish a good rapport and make them feel comfortable on set. This means taking the time to build relationships with the talent and creating a positive atmosphere on set.

Remember, the better the talent feels, the better their performance will be, which means better shots for you.

The last thing talent, director, or producer needs to feel is that you are unprofessional and unsafe and that my friend can end up with that production and sometimes it can end your career period!

Overall, collaboration is key to becoming a successful jib operator. By working closely with directors, producers, and talent, you can ensure that you're creating shots that fit the overall vision of the project.

Remember to communicate effectively, be open to feedback, and establish positive relationships with everyone on set to produce those dynamic shots. With a little bit of collaboration and teamwork, you can create some truly cine-magical shots. Can Ya Dig It!

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Business Side: Contracts, Rates, and Negotiation Skills

In this chapter we will take a look at the business side of being a jib operator: contracts, rates, and negotiation skills. As an independent contractor, it's important to understand the business side of things to make sure you're getting paid fairly and protecting yourself legally. So let's dive in!

First things first: contracts. A contract is a legally binding agreement between you and the client that outlines the scope of work, payment terms, and other important details. It's essential to have a contract in place for every job you do to protect yourself from any misunderstandings or disputes.

Make sure you have a clear understanding of the scope of work, payment schedule, and any other important details before you sign anything. And always read the contract carefully before signing!

A person wearing a brown beanie and a dark jacket is looking upwards. In the background, a large, translucent, tent-like structure is illuminated from within, set against a cloudy sky. The structure has a complex frame and is partially covered in white material.

"I Got To Have It"

ED O.G. & DA BULLDOGS

Next, let's talk about rates. As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", my rates will vary depending on the type of job, or the equipment I'm using, with that being said, I have a standard base rate I charge my clients but I won't disclose that information here in this book...Gotcha!!

However it's important to do your research and understand the industry standard rates in your area so you can price yourself accordingly.

Don't be afraid to negotiate your rates with clients, but always make sure you're being compensated for your time and expertise.

ORACLE PARK



"It's Bigger Than Hip Hop!"

DEAD PREZ

Negotiation skills are also essential in this business of jib operation so make sure to know the business and what is expected of you on set. When negotiating, it's important to be assertive but also be very respectful.

Listen to the client's needs and concerns, but also make sure you're advocating for yourself and your work. Don't be afraid to ask for what you're worth and stand your ground when necessary.

In addition to contracts, rates, and negotiation skills, it's also important to have a solid understanding of taxes, insurance, and other legal requirements.

Make sure you're keeping accurate records of your income and expenses and consult with a tax professional to ensure you're meeting all your tax obligations.

Consider investing in liability insurance to protect yourself from any accidents or injuries that may occur on set. Finally, remember that building and maintaining relationships is key to success in any business.

Treat your clients with respect and professionalism, and always follow through on your commitments. By establishing a reputation as a reliable and skilled jib operator, you'll be more likely to land repeat business and referrals like me "The Hip Hop Jib Op".



"Hard Knock Life"

JAY-Z

In summary, the business side of being a jib operator can seem overwhelming, but it's essential to protect yourself legally and ensure you're being compensated fairly for your work.

Understand the importance of contracts, do your research on rates, "get ah gripp" on your negotiation skills, and maintain professional relationships with your clients. With these skills and a bit of hustle, you'll be able to build a successful and rewarding career as a professional jib operator.

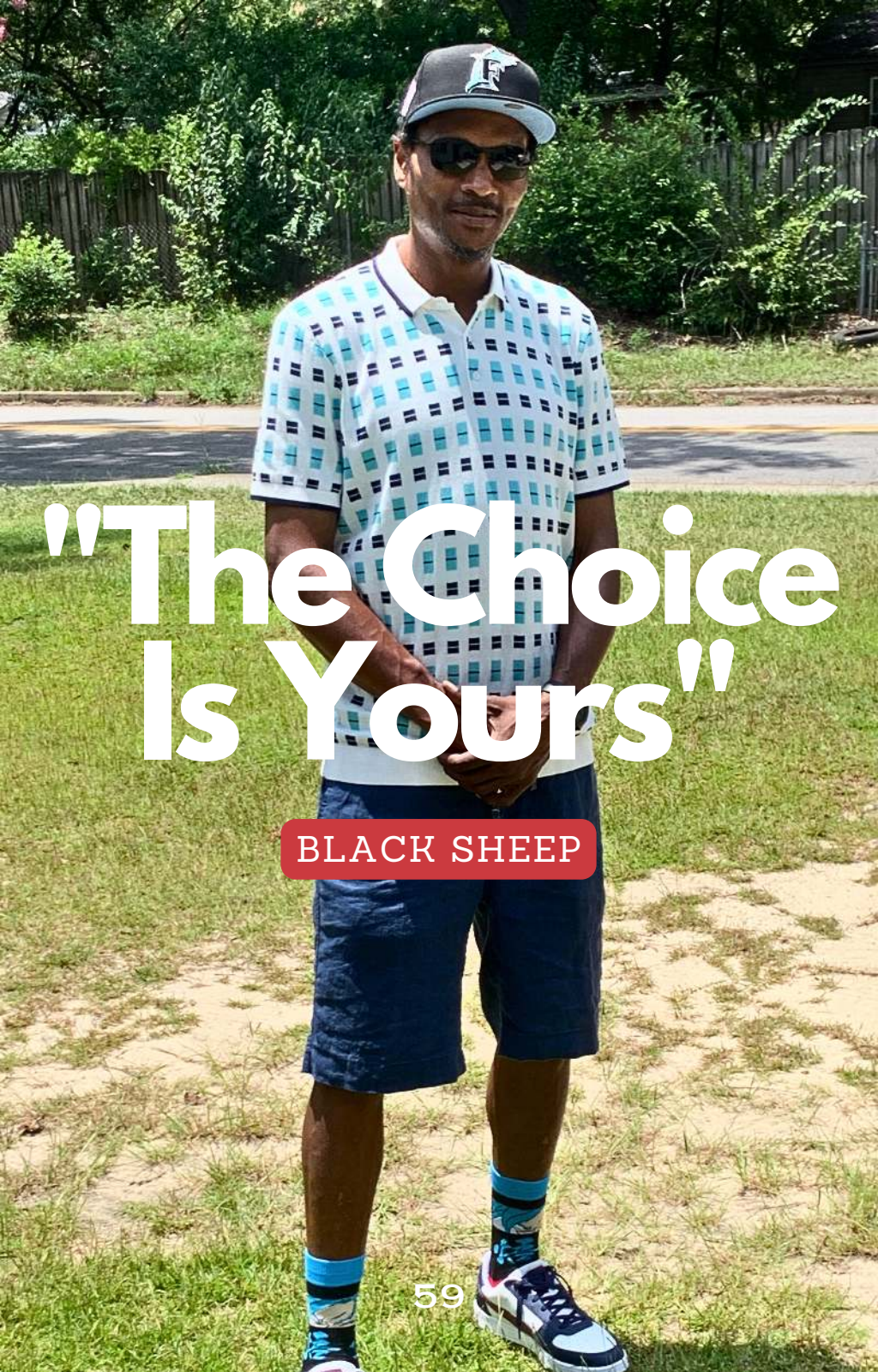
CHAPTER EIGHT

Troubleshooting' on Set: Overcoming' Common Jib Operator Challenges

As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", I inevitably ran into many challenges while on set. Whether it was dealing with technical issues or unexpected changes in the shot list, it was that important for me to be able to troubleshoot these challenges quickly and effectively to have the reputation I have today.

One of the most common challenges jib operators face is dealing with weight and balance issues. If the camera and lens are too heavy for the jib arm, it can become difficult to balance and control.

This can result in shaky shots or even equipment failure. To avoid these issues, it's important to properly balance the jib arm and make sure the camera and lens are within the weight limit of the equipment.



"The Choice Is Yours"

BLACK SHEEP

Another common challenge is dealing with wind or other weather conditions. If the jib arm is not properly secured, it can be affected by even the slightest breeze, resulting in shaky shots.

To avoid this, it's important to secure the jib base with sandbags or other weights and to always be aware of weather conditions on set.

Technical issues can also arise, such as problems with cables, servo motors or the jib remote head. It's important to be familiar with the equipment and to have a backup plan in case of equipment failure.

Keeping spare parts and tools on hand can also be helpful in quickly resolving technical issues.



"Get At Me Dog"

DMX

In addition to technical challenges, jib operators may also face unexpected changes in the shot list. For example, the director may request a last-minute change in camera angle or movement. In these situations, it's important to be adaptable and able to quickly adjust the jib arm to achieve the desired shot.

Good communication skills are also essential when troubleshooting on set. As a jib operator, you will need to work closely with the director, cinematographer, and other members of the crew to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that the shot is executed as desired. Clear communication can help to avoid misunderstandings and ensure that everyone is working towards the same goal.

In summary, troubleshooting on set is an essential skill for any jib operator. By being familiar with the equipment, having a backup plan, and being adaptable and communicative, you can overcome common challenges and ensure that your shots are smooth and effective.



"Check The Rhime"

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

CHAPTER NINE

Stand Out from the Crowd: Creating' Your Own Style and Brand as a Jib Operator

Alright let's get straight to it, in this chapter, we're gonna talk about how you can stand out from the crowd and create your own style and brand as a jib operator.

First off, let's start with the basics of standing out of the crowd. In my early years I attempted to master the fundamentals of jib operating before I started experimenting with my own style.

That meant getting comfortable with the equipment, understanding camera movement and choreography, and knowing how to get the best shot from the ground up.

Then once I got a solid foundation of those principles, it was time for me to start thinking about how I could differentiate myself from all other jib operators.

And fortunately the one way I did so was by finding my niche which was Hip Hop therefore I gave myself the name "The Hip Hop Jib Op".

Maybe you specialize in music videos or sports broadcasting, or maybe you have a unique approach to camera movement that sets you apart.

Whatever it is, lean into it and make it your own like I did. My passion was and still is to this day music production so with that I incorporated my production skills into me learning how to operate a jib and now I'm the best at what I do.



Stakes Is High"

DE LA SOUL



Another way to stand out is by creating a strong brand identity. This includes things like having a memorable logo, developing a consistent visual style, and crafting a strong social media presence. When potential clients see your work, they should be able to recognize it as uniquely yours.

I remember showing up to a job I got and this gaffer I worked with in the past referred me and the producer of the shoot told me He hired me simply because of my name "The Hip Hop Jib Op" because of how unique it was. Even though I had to prove it at work, the name alone got me in the door. So choose wisely what you want to represent you to potential clients.

Of course, creating your own style and brand isn't just about aesthetics. It's also about developing a reputation for reliability and professionalism. This means showing up on time, communicating clearly with your clients and collaborators, and delivering high-quality work every time.

"Protect Ya Neck"

WU-TANG CLAN



One way to build your reputation is by seeking out collaborations with other creatives in your field. This not only helps you develop your skills and network, but it also exposes you to new ideas and approaches that can help inform your own work.

Another important aspect of creating your own style and brand is keeping up with the latest trends and technology in the industry.

This means staying informed about new camera systems, software updates, and emerging techniques for camera movement and choreography.

The more you know, the better equipped you'll be to offer your clients something fresh and innovative.

In conclusion, standing out as a jib operator requires a combination of technical skill, creativity, and professionalism.

By finding your niche, developing a strong brand identity, collaborating with others, and staying up-to-date with the latest trends and technology, you can create a style and brand that sets you apart from the crowd ask "The Hip Hop Jib Op".

So keep on pushin and hustlin, and before you know it, you'll be the go-to jib operator in your city. Can Ya Dig It!

CHAPTER TEN

Keepin' it Real: The Importance of Working Hard, Staying Humble.

You've learned a lot about the technical aspects of jib operation and how hip hop has helped me build my name in the business. But there's one more thing you need to know if you want to make it in this game and that is none other than how to keep it real with yourself.

First and foremost, you need to be willing to work hard in this industry and remember that nothing comes overnight as a jib operator. Jib operation is not for the faint of heart - it really requires long hours on set, physical endurance, and a sharp mind to perform at your best.

As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", I often be on set for long hours, and sometimes in challenging conditions. For instance in 2022 when I shot the Winter Olympics in Beijing, there were days that reached -16 degrees.



"Duel of The Iron Mic"

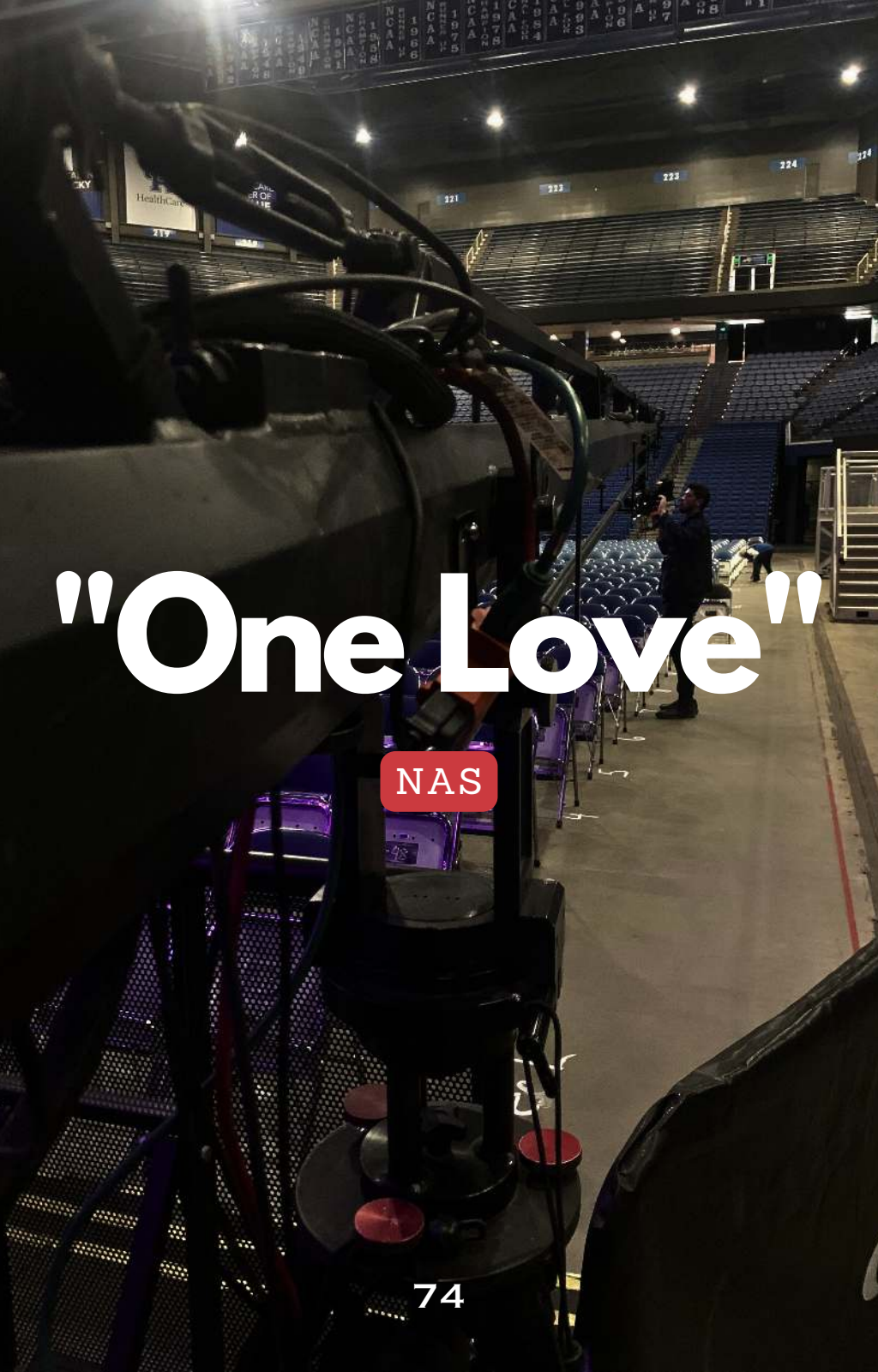
GZA

So I ended up dancing in place to generate my own heat and that became contagious to anyone that walked by my jib. That would automatically cause them to start dancing also which then created viral videos of me and them that circulate Beijing today...Lol!

Well of course you will need to have stamina and focus to make it through a long production day. You'll need to be able to keep up with the demands of the job as things like location or climate change.

But only if you're willing to put in the work, you'll be rewarded with the satisfaction of knowing that you helped bring a project to life locally or worldwide.

Next, let's talk about humility. Even if you're the best jib operator on set, you're still part of a team, and everyone's contribution to a production is valuable.

A large arena with blue seats and a camera rig in the foreground. The arena is mostly empty, with a few people visible in the distance. The camera rig is a complex structure with various cables and lenses, mounted on a stand. The arena floor is a light-colored material, and the seats are arranged in rows. The lighting is dim, with some bright spots from the arena's lights.

"One Love"

NAS

Always be willing to take feedback and criticism from others on your team, and be gracious with your colleagues.

Remember that everyone has something to teach you, whether it's a seasoned director or a first-time grip, because the rewards can be huge.

There are some jib operators I personally know that have worked with some of the biggest names in the business however their attitude and character is one that people don't want to be around.

But as you work hard and rise through the ranks, it's important to stay humble, not necessarily quiet but humble. Don't let success go to your head - remember that you're part of a team, and everyone's contributions are valuable.

Be gracious with your colleagues, take feedback with an open mind, and always be willing to lend a hand when needed.

"Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Can See"

BUSTA RHYMES



Keep on hustlin til you reach your goals! In the end, it all comes down to staying true to yourself, working hard, and remaining humble. With these principles in mind, you'll be well on your way to a successful career as a jib operator. So just get out of your own way of success and make it happen!

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Flowin' with the Beat: Understanding Camera Movement and Choreography

As "The Hip Hop Jib Op", I learned to flow with the beat and choreography of a scene.

But what that means is not just knowing how to move your jib left, right, up and down but also having understanding of how your camera movement can enhance the story and emotion of that scene.

Remember I mentioned earlier in chapter five that music production was my niche and how I incorporate hip hop music into my jib operation is why everything to me happens on a beat.

So I rapidly started to understand the basic types of camera moves by knowing we all have a heartbeat and to me your heart is what you operate the jib with and not your mind.



"Times Up"

O.C.

You got your pan, tilt, dolly, zoom, and of course, jib movements which are motor related activities and the mind doesn't control those actions.

So I learned how to time every jib move to my internal beat. I also learned that each of these movements has a unique effect on the viewer.

So I took it upon myself to apply my learning these types of moves to a beat because it's up to you as the operator to use them effectively to tell the story.

However, that is the main reason I needed to know how the controls work in order to achieve any shot for any scene I would shoot.

Next, I needed to understand the rhythm and choreography of the scene. .



This means that you need to have an understanding of the characters and their movements, their motivation, and the overall flow of the scene.

Once I understood these elements, I could determine where to place your jib in order to begin to design my camera movements to enhance the emotions that would help tell the story of a scene. When it comes to jib movements, there are a few key techniques that you can really do to make your shots stand out.

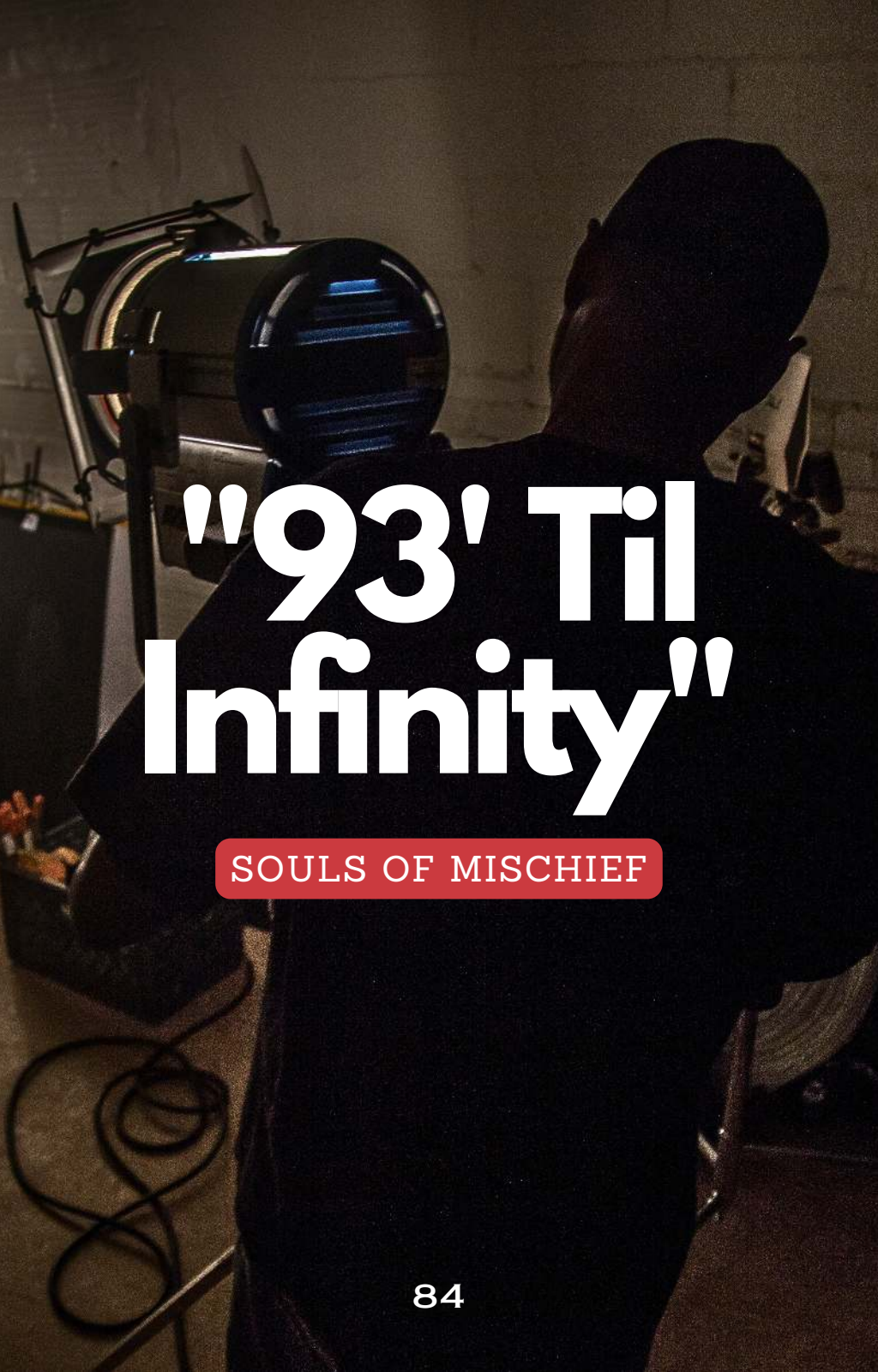
For example, a jib rise can create a sense of tension and anticipation, while a jib drop can create a sense of release and resolution.

The secret I would like to explain here is if I know the start and end shot then I can time the beat in my heart that will give me a sense of how fast or slow to move the jib.

Similarly, a jib sweep can create a sense of motion and excitement, while a jib tilt can create a sense of drama and intensity which all these shots are dealing with time on a beat.

But it's not just about the jib movements themselves - it's also about how you combine them with other camera movements to create a cohesive and dynamic shot.

For instance, using pans and tilts to follow the action will keep your viewer engaged, and using dollies and zooms to create depth and perspective can be used to keep the viewers attention for what's coming next.

A person is shown from the back, in silhouette, working on a large, complex mechanical device. The device has a prominent glowing blue circular component. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the blue glow from the device. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt.

"'93' Til Infinity"

SOULS OF MISCHIEF

And when it comes to choreography, you gotta be able to work closely with your director and cinematographer to create a seamless and cohesive shot.

In other words, having some type of understanding about the story and vision of the scene, will only allow you to create a shot that captures the emotion and drama of the moment which again involves your internal clock or beat.

In short, flowin' with the beat is all about understanding how camera movement can enhance the story and emotion of the scene.

With a deep understanding of camera movement and choreography, you can create shots that truly captivate your audience and have you working nonstop like a metronome.



"The Message"

MELLE MEL

CHAPTER TWELVE

Flowin' with the Music: The Art of Syncing Your Jib Moves with the Beat

Ok now it's time to show you how I mastered the art of syncing my jib moves with my internal energy. The best way I can put it is as "The Hip Hop Jib Op", you are an artist, and the jib my friend is your instrument.

Just like a musician needs to keep rhythm with the music, you need to sync your jib movements with the music to create engaging and dynamic shots.

The first step to mastering this art is understanding the importance of music in filmmaking. As a music producer with over 3 decades of experience I have learned that everything has a GROOVE, RHYTHM, INSTRUMENT, PATTERN & PHRASE.

I feel that the way a scene can best be shot is by finding those 5 elements and matching them with your energy.

We all know how music sets the tone for the scene, and how it creates emotions in the audience.

I also learned how it provides a rhythm that you can use to guide your jib movements. So before you even start moving the jib, take the time to listen to the music in your head and get a feel for its rhythm and dynamics.

Once you have a feel for your internal music, it's time to start incorporating it into your jib movements. One technique is to match the speed and direction of the jib to the rhythm of the music you hear in your head.

For example, if your internal music is slow and mellow, you might want to move the jib slowly and smoothly.

On the other hand, if the music is fast and upbeat, you might want to make quick and snappy jib movements only to keep in mind that it needs to match the scene.

"Straighten It Out!"

PETE ROCK & C.L. SMOOTH

But it's not just about matching the speed and direction of the jib to the music. You also need to consider the dynamics of the scene in order to tell the best story.

Is the scene building up to a crescendo style of acting? Is there a sudden drop in the scene which may call for an abrupt stop in action?

These could be all kinds of cues that you can use to create dynamic and engaging jib movements just by tuning in to your internal music.

Another way to sync your jib movements with the beat is by using your internal metronome by counting the steps an actor may take to get to a specific location in a scene.

This will help you keep a consistent rhythm and beat to avoid any awkward pauses or missed beats.



Recognizes

"Award Tour"

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

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CAN MUSIC SPO
THE CIRCLE

You can also use a visual cue, like an object in the scene or a specific gesture, to indicate when to move the jib.

However, it's important to note that syncing your jib movements with your internal beat isn't always necessary or appropriate.

Sometimes, a slow and steady shot can be just as effective as a fast and dynamic one. It all depends on the scene and the story you're trying to tell.

To truly master the art of syncing your jib moves with the beat, you need to practice and experiment with different techniques.

Try out different movements and rhythms, and see how they impact the scene. Don't be afraid to take risks and try something new.



"Survival of The Fittest"

MOBB DEEP

In conclusion, syncing your jib movements with the beat is an art form that requires careful listening, intentional movement, and an understanding of music dynamics.

By mastering this art, you can create shots that are not just visually stunning, but also emotionally engaging. Keep it real, and keep flowin' with the music, my friends.



"In Da Club"

50 CENTS

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Getting' Your Mind Right: Why Attitude is Everything in Jibbin and Storytelling?

As the one and only "Hip Hop Jib Op", I had to realize that my attitude determined my whole entire experience in this industry. I found out quick you could have all the latest gear and equipment with skills on fleek, but if your attitude sucks, then you might as well beat the streets. Ya Dig!

First let's take a quick dive into why attitude is so important and how you can cultivate a positive and productive mindset to keep a productive attitude while on set.

Let's talk for a second about the power of mindset. Your mindset is like the lens through which you view the world, and it can have a huge impact on your daily operation.



"I Get The Job Done"

BIG DADDY KANE

If you wake up with a negative mindset, you're more likely to give off that vibration of what your mindset is channeling. This can cause you to miss out on so many opportunities.

For instance I recall working on a production in Nashville, TN with a stagehand who was pretty much having a bad day.

He had shown he was wearing his attitude on his shoulder that morning by being very aggressive with moving cases around.

Now production and I where still trying to finalize the placement of my jib on the stage but he was not having it.

So he decides to reach his boiling point and began to slang one of the road cases out of control and it almost knocked my jib base and road cases over.



"Slow Down"

BRAND NUBIAN

So I reacted fast to stop the accident from happening but afterwards I immediately turned to him and asked him "Are you ok my man, seem like something is bothering you"?

And then he looks up at me and says "You know what forgive me brother, I had something on my mind that had nothing to do with you and please forgive me for that"!

I turned and responded "no worries it's all in a days work. The moral of this story is that most of the time a persons reaction towards you is almost never personal.

And most of the time their mindset is coming from a negative place that didn't involve you.

However if I was already on a negative mindset within myself and took his response towards my personally then I could have turned that scenario into something more worse than what took place.

Just remember your mindset is just as important as the next persons mindset because most of the time that person is coming from a place that is not personally directed at you.

So, how did I cultivate a positive mindset? Well, it all started with me realizing that taking care of myself in order to do a job was first and foremost. Of course getting enough sleep, eating well, exercising regularly, and taking breaks when you need them will cultivate a positive attitude.

But I knew in order to operate this equipment and become successful at it that I needed to have the attitude of someone who could not only operate the equipment but also troubleshoot a problem that may occur with the people I'm working with also.



"I Know You Got Soul"

ERIC B. & RAKIM

Another key to cultivating a positive mindset is practicing gratitude for the day you've been given. Take time each day to reflect on what you're grateful for, whether it's your health to be on a job working it, your relationships with people whether at home or on the job be grateful.

I recall every moment I had to get with my mentor and learn about the jibbin I not only made myself available but I would thank him each time for the opportunity to learn from him. This would only help me build a positive attitude towards learning this new skill and to grow as a person.

Focusing on the good things in your life can help you stay positive and motivated, even when things get tough. I would give myself a small celebration every time I would learn something new about jibbin. So each time I would approach the jib my confidence and attitude was growing along with my skill learning.

It's also a way to condition your mindset to grow. A growing mindset is the belief that you can learn and grow from your experiences, and that your abilities and intelligence is not something fixed which us.

This is how we grow at life and how to get better at it. When you have a growth mindset, you're more likely to take more risks, embrace challenges, and learn from failures.

So, how does all of this apply to jibbing and filmmaking? Well, as a jib operator, you're often working in high-pressure situations, with tight deadlines and demanding clients. It can be easy to get overwhelmed and stressed out.

But if you approach each job with a positive and growth-oriented mindset, you'll be better equipped to handle the challenges that come your way.



"Alright"

KENDRICK LAMAR

And when it comes to jibbing and filmmaking, attitude is everything. Jibbin for me is all about confidence, creativity, and self-expression. If you don't have the right attitude, you won't be able to connect with your subjects or capture the essence of the storytellin.

In summary, your attitude is everything in jibbing and filmmaking. Cultivate a positive and growth-oriented mindset, by taking care of yourself, and practicing gratitude as much as possible.

With the right attitude, you'll be able to overcome challenges, attract success, and connect with your audience on a deeper level. Keep it real with self and stay focused, my friends. NOW GO GET TO JIBBIN & DON'T DIE TRYIN!!!