

# intheir shoes

## Filmmaker builds Hollywood career with hustle and skills

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*The conclusion of a 2-part story.*

While one thing has led inevitably to another throughout his career, Richie Keen, an emerging Hollywood multi-hyphenate, has always known where he was headed.

“When I was a kid, my father had a connection at Paramount, and on a vacation to Los Angeles we were allowed to watch a rehearsal for ‘Laverne & Shirley’

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on the lot.... I watched the show’s rehearsal and was immediately positive I had to be a part of that someday,” Keen recounted.

Now involved in almost every aspect of production, Keen hasn’t shied away from such due diligence as networking, getting on-set experience and honing his craft. He encourages those looking to emulate his multilateral approach to do the same. “Heath [Corson, his writing partner] and I write every day,” he explained.

“We are incredibly disciplined about getting better at our craft. We are currently writing our second pilot and have a movie outlined. I just finished shooting a two-minute commercial for Google which, to date, is the biggest budget directing job I’ve had. I spent three months

shadowing directors on two of my favorite shows, ‘Scrubs’ and ‘Desperate Housewives,’ which was an invaluable experience,” he said.

A natural coach, Keen encourages those trying to advance in the industry to push past their boundaries. “You will only get as good as the people around you are. So push your peers — and be pushed. Keep making, writing, creating,” he said. “There will always be more to achieve because, to me, you are never done. No true artist ever stops and says ‘I’m done.’ Otherwise, we would have lost [Martin] Scorsese after ‘Taxi Driver.’”

He continued by alluding to a key factor that is the driving force for many creative professionals: “If I don’t keep mak-

ing things and getting better, I have no career.”

According to Keen, there’s no single path to getting into filmmaking. “There are students at top film schools who have an education in writing screenplays and directing that I envy,” he said. “But I’m someone who came to directing through a totally different route.”

Asked to offer advice, he outlined the importance of being creative with resources. “Find what you have that is special and use it. If your friend has a glass elevator, use it in your shoot. If you’re a music geek, incorporate that.... Always try and bring something unique to the table. With 24p cameras and iMovie and Final



Richie Keen directed, co-wrote and costarred in the short film “Hooked,” which is available at [www.hookedthemovie.com](http://www.hookedthemovie.com).

Cut Pro, it’s very easy to shoot, edit and ultimately tell a story and put it online these days.

“Learn by doing. Put projects together. It doesn’t have to cost more than the cost of a tape. Then when you’re ready, you can put a little money and equipment behind the thing you want to make at a bigger level.”