

Kim:

Pre-planning and preparation for the day was key. All of the shots and scenes were planned out in advance so that when we were ready to start filming, it was an efficient process.

Pre-assigning roles to the children worked well to as we were able to organize each of the parts or groups of characters onto separate blankets and keep them there until we needed with the help of snacks.

I was unsure which would go better: filming the scenes in order that they will be seen, or trying to group shots together to have the different characters be able to be done their parts all at once. We ended up filming it in order, and I think that it ended up going so smoothly that the kids weren't too terribly bored as they waited.

## Dianna-

- while planning to film both the nativity and the interviews at the same time seemed like a good idea. In retrospect not using the same children would have made production more efficient as they were often busy in the nativity outside. On the other hand, the nativity is a big deal and using the same kids prevented us from having disappointed kiddos witnessing what they were not included in. Perhaps hosting them consecutively instead of simultaneously would be more effective. (might also eliminate the second point)
- new recruits should not be left on their own second shift in. Some things were missed that would have easily been caught by the veterans. I also suggest creating a checklist for set up procedures for future use.
- An hour for set up felt a little tight to me.
- If true distancing is to be maintained then a better system ( We had actors sorted into groups and blankets laid out 6' apart as stations) may be required for keeping the kids further distanced and entertained.

Suggestions: assigned parent group leaders

Planned games or activities to engage in quietly in small space

# Tyler

- 1 hour preparation is barely enough!
- I was B-roll camera operator. My 200mm lens was just barely long enough for facial expressions, don't be afraid to get in close! I used a video rig to hold the camera. Next time I will also bring a monopod to help stability.
- The 80-200 lens I used was big, but the kids don't mind! Don't be shy with a big camera!
- At f/2.8, the manual focus with a focus collar was a treat! Could try f/3.2 maybe, but no smaller. The most fun was when actors were walking away, focus was following them then it just trails off...
- I forgot to check that every actor was filmed, but it probably happened anyway. Ideally the video will have a quick closeup of every actor's face!!
- Patient kids can be shot when nothing else is happening. Nervous / distracted kids have great expressions when the director is speaking.
- Take long shots to capture a moment, not for fill footage. As soon as the moment is captured, move on. It will be edited to about 2 seconds anyway.