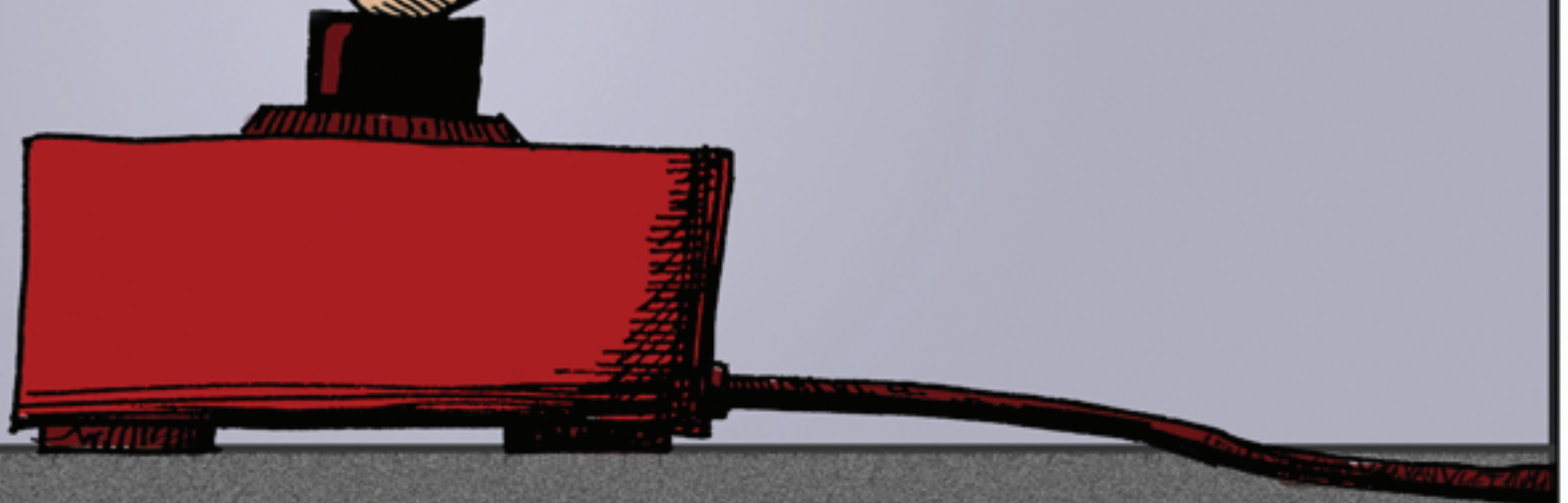


Pre-Production Starting the Machine



Every Journey Begins with the First Step

...And Sometimes it's Barefoot on Broken Glass

Pre-production is supposedly the time when the show is carefully planned out, the strategies formulated and all of the parts of that well oiled production machine are selected and put into place. Sure...

The reality is that pre-production time costs money and it's the first thing that gets squeezed to satisfy the budget requirements. So now pre-production is a very short event, often happening on a Tuesday, usually sometime after lunch.

During pre-production, the producers will take in bids and estimates of what it will take to actually complete the project. They will then take those numbers and compare them to their own secret fantasy budget. All of the bids and estimates will then be rejected, mercilessly hammered and quickly chiseled down until they match the secret fantasy budget.

Unfortunately, nothing short of cosmic intervention will make it realistically possible to accomplish the work with this new budget. But the producer's belief in fantasy budgets, like a child's belief in Santa Claus is both blind and fierce, so it will stand unchallenged. They will then present this budget to the production crew and dare them to actually make the picture.

The production crew will then happily take the fantasy budget and start working. The results of the restricted time and budget will quickly start to manifest themselves as the shooting progresses, but that's ok, because everyone doing the work *knew* this was going to happen. So, whenever something looks like crap or fails on set, everyone will look at each other knowingly and utter that famous phrase; "Don't worry, they'll fix it in post."



VAN VLIET

The Production →

You →

The
Schedule &
Budget.

