



A 'boom'ing career

Sounds Good, Doesn't It? Well, Here's All About Your Career As A Boom Operator

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Script. Check. Mic. Check. Sound. Double Check. If you think you can swiftly handle these three, then my friend all you need to do is read this article and know everything about an interesting career option 'Boom Operator'. Does it sound bizarre to you? Please be rest assured, this one's a really good option, read on...

What is the role of a Boom Operator?

Boom operators or First Assistant Sound are the core members of the sound department during film production. Boom Operators mostly work on a freelance basis and report directly to production sound mixers in production sound departments. The motility of actors requires manoeuvring of mics in such a way that the mics don't end up in the camera frame. For this, the mics are usually attached to boom poles (or fish poles) and carefully held and placed to acquire optimal sound effects.

How did it all start?

The first and initial boom mic was invented in 1929 and was nothing but a mic attached to a fishing rod. During the production of 'Beggars for life' in 1928, the movement of two actors posed a problem for the sound crew since the



microphone was static behind the flower vase. The short temper of the director blocked all the arguments and coerced the orders for a motile mic which he moved himself. This gave birth to what we now refer to as boom mics.

What are the qualifications required?

A certificate of sound engineering is considered useful for getting the job of a boom operator, even though there are no set educational qualifications. Senior

level knowledge of subjects such as math or physics comes handy, too. A diploma in creative and media industries and certification from film and TV training institutes in areas of sound mixing and sound design are added advantages.

What are the skills required?

More than qualification, what is more important is that one understands the skill sets associated with this job. Boom operators are expected to move along with the actors which means that they have to be thorough with the script. Knowledge of various types of microphones and their applications, camera lenses and overall technical understanding of all the varied equipment that modern sound departments use is necessary. They also need to have good people skills along with good level of physical fitness, strength and stamina.

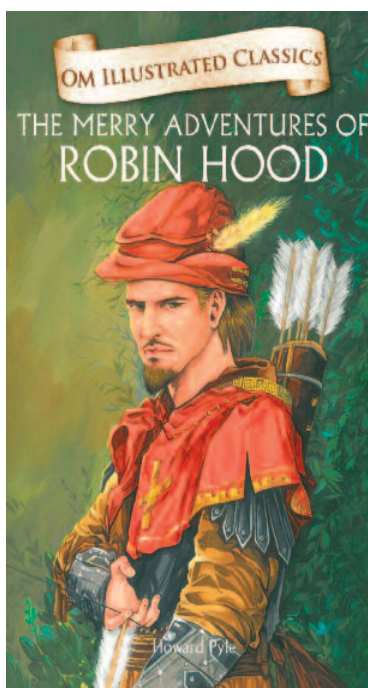
How do you climb the ladder?

Boom operator is an entry-level job on most sound teams, so you don't need to have work experience in order to be considered, though some experience as a production assistant or sound trainee wouldn't hurt. An entry level microphone boom operator (1-3 years of experience) earns an average salary of 5,14,628 INR per annum. On the other end, a senior level microphone boom operator (8+ years of experience) earns an average salary of 8,89,970 INR per annum. Once you find work as a boom operator, you can use the experience to work your way up to the level of production sound mixer. There are chances of becoming the sound editor, sound designer or studio manager, too. 🇮🇳

Book Review

Rake in that review

Book: The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
Author: Howard Pyle
Published in: 1883
Genre: Children's Literature, Historical Fiction



Synopsis: Set in the 12th century during King Richard's reign, this British folklore begins with King Richard's brother King John and the Sheriff of Nottingham taxing people unjustly and harshly in the true king's absence who is off to fight in a war. The protagonist of the story is a young man named Robin whose family suffers one such injustice. The plot follows Robin as he becomes an outlaw through his many adventures and run-ins with the law. Each chapter tells a different tale of Robin as he recruits 'Merry Men', namely Little John, Will Scarlet, Allan a Dale and Friar Truck, who resist the authorities and help the poor and needy in every possible way.

Why is it worth reading: The character of Robin Hood symbolises the spirit of the common man and is also a symbol of hope for those weak and downtrodden. Moreover, this immortal tale of fighting injustice and tyranny to create a fairer world has inspired

writers, artists and filmmakers throughout the later centuries. One of them being the world famous artist Vincent van Gogh, who in a letter to his brother talks about how "[Pyle's work] struck me dumb with admiration."

Iconic Quote: "Act with a conscience and be prepared to help those in difficulty or less fortunate than ourselves."

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by: Arnav Kukreja
 AIS Gurugram 46, V H

No shortcut to success

The word 'Entrance exam' is self-sufficient to make one feel nervous because it brings along an array of questions popping in your mind. Well, how about you get to listen from someone who has experienced it already? To all the young aspirants, GT brings to you a special column 'Amity Alumnus', where star performers from AICE share tips and tricks to put an end to all the nervousness and fear associated with entrance exams. Read on...

How did your journey for IIT-JEE begin?

I was studying in Class X in a boarding school in Ooty when I began to think of pursuing the science stream. I began to research different options and found that engineering interested me the most. My aim then became to get into one of the top engineering institutes and so, I started my preparations for the same.

How did you prepare for IIT-JEE?

I joined the Synchro programme that had been launched by Amity at that time. That, according to me, acted as a huge contributor to my overall competitive exam preparation.

What role did AICE play to help you crack the competitive exams?

There were two things in which AICE helped me. One was access to subject matter experts and highly experienced faculty members. They helped me at every step and explained the concepts in a crystal-clear manner. The second was access to resources, i.e., past year question papers, modules, questions with varying levels of difficulty and solutions, as well as knowledge nuggets that used to come as part of the package material.

How did you manage regular studies and prep-ups for competitive exams?

There was no major distinction between the two. I used to think of prep-



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self designing an iPhone.

Are there some preparation strategies to crack IIT-JEE?

First, get your fundamentals right; spend enough time in exploring the depth of any concept. Second, persevere, because there

is no shortcut to success. Third, practice as much as you can. The exam papers evolve and over the years, different patterns have been experimented with. So, attempt mock tests, analyse your performance and get your timing right.

According to you, when should an aspirant start preparing for competitive exams?

The apt time to start is in Class XI-XII when students are mature enough to understand all aspects of their future path and goals. Starting too early can be detrimental to their overall personality development.

Rapid fire

One word to describe...

Your alma mater: Heart-warming

The motto of your life: Give your best and don't regret

Your passion: Technology for social impact

Yourself: Proactive