



Technical Advisor for Film Production

Former NASA Mission Leader | Realism and Decision-Making in High-Stakes Environments

Overview

In high-stakes productions, credibility is often lost in small details. Mike Ciannilli is a former NASA mission leader who advises film production teams on portraying spaceflight and complex operational environments with accuracy and realism. He works across development, production, and post-production to ensure technical details hold up under pressure, helping teams make fast decisions that protect both story integrity and audience trust. He regularly analyzes developments involving the future of human space-flight and the evolving architecture of lunar missions.



Production Support

Script and Story Development

- Flags technical assumptions that would not hold under real-world mission conditions
- Aligns mission sequences with how decisions are actually made in control rooms and flight environments
- Translates complex systems into clear, filmable actions that support pacing and clarity
- Identifies where realism strengthens tension rather than slowing the story

Contact

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On-Set Production

- Works directly with directors, ADs, and department leads to ensure technical accuracy during filming
- Advises on blocking, staging, and camera placement to match real mission environments and workflows
- Reviews playback on set to confirm shots will integrate correctly with visual effects and mission sequences
- Guides placement and movement of props, consoles, cables, and equipment to reflect real operational layouts
- Ensures actor interactions with controls, comms, and procedures are accurate for camera and continuity
- Supports continuity across takes, especially in complex technical sequences and multi-camera setups
- Identifies small details that would break credibility for informed audiences and corrects them in real time
- Provides immediate, practical solutions that maintain production pace without compromising realism

Actor and Performance

- Prepares actors to move, speak, and react as professionals in high-stakes operational environments
- Coaches timing, communication style, and physical interaction with equipment
- Corrects technical behavior that would feel inauthentic to informed audiences
- Provides context that supports grounded, credible performance under pressure

Post-Production and Documentary Review

- Reviews scenes for continuity, accuracy, and operational realism
- Flags moments where technical detail affects audience understanding
- Advises on edit choices where realism impacts clarity and sequence logic
- Supports alignment between filmed footage and visual effects for technical accuracy
- Provides subject matter accuracy and narrative clarity for documentary storytelling

Core Perspective

Mike's experience in human spaceflight environments informs how he works on set. He understands how decisions are made when stakes are high and conditions are changing. That perspective helps productions identify where small inaccuracies accumulate and weaken credibility, and where realism strengthens tension, clarity, and audience trust.

Selected Experience

- **TOMORROWLAND** | Walt Disney Pictures
Technical Consultant: Supported director, AD, and film crew on production realism and on set logistics and additionally consulted with lead actor George Clooney.
- **TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON** | Paramount Pictures
Technical Consultant: Advised director Michael Bay on space-related scenes, including camera perspective and audio realism
- **APOLLO 1** | Stop Watch Productions
Technical Consultant: Provided extensive subject matter expertise from concept stage through post production to Director Mark Craig. Engaged in extensive film promotion post release.
- **Columbia: Her Continued Mission** | NASA
Technical Consultant: Delivered technical and on camera emotional context for story development
- Worked across non-fiction, fiction documentary productions
- On-camera experience as both subject matter expert and actor in documentary/ indie films

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