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The making of TV's Degrassi



CTV PHOTO

Degrassi: The Next Generation premieres tonight.

From the actors learning their lines and attending rehearsals, to setting up and filming the shots to the post-production work of editing, a lot of work goes into making a successful television show, such as CTV's *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

The popular teen drama, which, now in its seventh season, returns tonight at 7:30 with 24 new episodes, took roughly eight months to put together.

Stephanie Williams, supervising producer for *Degrassi* and *Instant Star*, says one half-hour episode of *Degrassi* takes three-and-a-half days to film; they shoot two episodes at a time. But getting that perfect shot isn't always easy.

"On average I would say, (it takes) two to three takes for a simple two-hander scene, but (for) something more intricate, we break down into more pieces," Williams tells Metro. "Every time we change a shot, that's called a setup. Within any one scene you might have four setups or you might have 12 setups."

A typical day on the *Degrassi* set begins at 7:30 a.m., but the schedule fluctuates because most of the actors have to go to school or promotional events, and some even have other jobs. But despite this hectic schedule, the actors always find time to have fun on the set.

"The atmosphere at the studio feels like an office, mixed with day care. We have a serious job to do, and we do our best to produce *Degrassi*," says Jamie Johnston, who plays Peter Stone. "But at the same time, 99.9 per cent of everyone finds time to joke around. On a film set, everybody has their job to do, and at *Degrassi*, we support everyone and help them do their best work."

- For more information, log on to www.degrassi.ctv.ca.

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