

Welcome to 1066 Casting!



If you are new to being a Supporting Artist or SA (the industry term for an Extra), then even before you get on set you may feel a little overwhelmed by some of the terms that are used. To help you out a little we have listed below some of the most used terms and job titles. Don't feel you have to memorise them...there's so much to take in. However try to familiarise yourself with as much as you can, in particular the 'On Set' terms as you will need to know what direction (instructions) you are being given to do during filming. Time is often very tight during filming and they have to work to a very tight schedule for all sorts of reasons, such as daylight hours etc so being on the ball and not asking for things to be repeated is essential.

Crew

Producer – The head of the film on the financial side. The producer finds the money to make the project, and ensures that everything runs smoothly.

Director – The head of all the creative aspects of production.

1st AD – First Assistant Director. In charge of the set as a whole, and is responsible for making sure that everything keeps to schedule.

2nd AD – Second Assistant Director. In charge of making sure everything is where it is supposed to be when it's supposed to be there. Usually, the 2nd AD books the Extras for a shoot.

Crowd 2nd – On extremely large projects, the 2nd may not have time to book the Extras as well as arrange everything else. The Crowd 2nd assists with background casting.

3rd AD – Third Assistant Director. Assists the First and Second but may also direct background action and look after the Extras between takes and set-ups.

D.O.P – Director of Photography or Lighting Cameraman. The person who creates the shot and the lighting.

Operator – The person who watches through the eye piece.

Focus Puller – The person who checks the focus on every shot.

Clapper Loader – The person who loads the film and claps the board

Gaffer – The head lighting person

Best Boy – The Gaffers number two – A lighting technician.

Spark – An LX (lighting) technician.

Grip – The man who pushes the dolly (the trolley the camera operates from) and lays the track.

Runners – Runners are general Assistants for the unit. May be found doing just about anything.

On Set

1st positions – Where the action will start from.

A Take – Recording a scene or part of a scene.

Action – Your cue to begin your directed moves.

Banana – Move in a curve to allow the camera to see behind you (in the shape of a banana).

Checks – Make-up and hair checks before each 'take'.

Continuity – Where two different shots (possibly filmed some time apart) will form a continuous timeline in the finished film.

Action, set, costume and everything needs to be exactly the same.

Cross – Like wipe but further away from the camera.

Cut – Stop filming

From the top – Start again from the beginning of the scene.

Hitting your mark – The focus of the camera is very important, the mark is a focus point. Hitting your mark means that you will be in focus.

Leading eye – The eye that is closest to the camera. Very important for focus in a close up.

Moving/Turning around - Means the camera is going to be facing in the other direction, revealing all that has so far not been seen.

Pick up – Cutting into a scene to pick up only a small part of it. Continuity becomes very important.

Prop – The things that actors and background may be asked to carry on a set.

Turning – Film is running in the camera.

Wipe – Cross close to the camera left to right or right to left.

Industry Terms

Audition – Another name for a casting. Often an Audition will require more formal "performance" from the artiste, rather than a basic meeting.

Casting Director – The Casting Director oversees the casting of a project, finding suitable actors to attend interviews or auditions.

Corporate – A production made for use only within a particular company. Usually staff training related.

Extra – A usually non-speaking performing artiste who appears in the background of a film or television production. Usually known as Supporting Artists or SA for short!

Featured Artist – A non-background role. Could be anything from a "small feature" requiring a little characterisation to a full speaking part.

Ident – A small insert used to establish branding on a TV channel.

Pop Promo – A music video.

Production – Any job within the industry. A production could be a film, a television series or one off programme, a commercial, a photo shoot – literally anything that creates some form of media.

Production Company – A company that develops and produces productions.

Commercial – A production advertising a particular product or company.
Promo – A promotional production. Often promoting a TV show or channel.
Special – (For an extra) Where you are asked to do something that will attract a supplementary fee, for additional performance or service. See the fees section for information.
Upgrade – Where you have been booked as background but end up being featured.

Agency Terms

Booking – Confirmed work.
Call time – The time you are expected at the unit base. Don't ever be late.
Casting – A meeting between the Casting Director and sometimes other Production staff (sometimes even the Director) and an actor, model or extra.
Contract – Some larger jobs and all BBC work involves a contract.
Pencil – A provisional booking. Keep the time clear unless you hear from us with confirmation
Repeats – Additional money paid to featured artistes when a production is re-broadcast or sold for broadcast internationally. Generally not applicable to extras.
Suggestion – "Putting you forward." We send your photograph to the 2nd AD or casting director. This does not mean you are booked unless you hear back from us!

Camera

Clapperboard – The slate that marks each 'take' by number and synchronizes sound & vision.
Dolly – The trolley carrying the camera that the grip pushes.
Jib – A small arm that attaches to the dolly, allowing the camera to move sideways.
Rolling, Turning or Speed - Film is running in the camera.
Track – The tracks that the dolly rolls along.

Sound

Atmosphere – Sound engineers are recording the sound of silence for the dub.
Click track – A sound term used when counting dubbed music onto a scene. A click track can be used on set or during the sound dub.
Dub – What happens during the sound editing of the film.
Sound speed – The sound recordist is running up ready to record the sound. Links back to the old days of tape recording rather than present digital recording.
Wild Track – The sound engineer is recording either lines for the dub or atmosphere.

On Location

Background Bus – A converted double-decker bus, commonly used as a rest area or greenroom for Supporting Artistes on location.
Checking – in – Once at the unit base, check-in with the 2nd AD or 3rd AD to let them know you have arrived.
Honey Wagon – The toilets!
Signing off – A background term for checking that your chit is correctly filled in. Do not sign off before checking the details.
Wrap - Your day's work is finished

Further Information

Being a Supporting Artist can often mean long days and lots of waiting around. You will usually have somewhere to wait until you are used on set, this area is known as the Greenroom. Make sure you have a book/magazine/newspaper to keep you occupied!

Food and drink is usually provided while on location shoots. You will be told when is your time to eat...usually after everyone else!

Some productions will require you to have your hair and make up done for you when you arrive on set however some will require for you to have taken care of this yourself. It all depends on the production and their requirements. You will always be informed before hand if you need to take any changes of clothes/costume with you or if this will be provided by the production's wardrobe dept.

Whenever you are on set you must ALWAYS be quiet, even when a take is being set up and the cameras are not running. Even whispered conversations can be distracting and will take your attention away from the job you are there to do.

Mobile phones, cameras and any video/recording gadgets are strictly forbidden. NEVER take any of these items on set with you.

Do not approach leading actors, even during break periods. This is their working environment and they are there to do a job and do not appreciate being asked for autographs etc!

Be punctual. There are no second chances in this business. If you are late for a shoot you will be marked as unreliable.

Being late means the whole production schedule is delayed. Good time keeping and reliability is paramount. Always aim to get to a location at least half an hour before you are required. If you do run into traffic/delays etc then call and let us know!!!!

ALWAYS ask someone if you are unsure of your instructions. It is always better to clarify anything you are not sure of... even if you think it is not that important!