So You Want To Be An Extra On A Film?

Albuquerque is experiencing an explosion of film-making in the area, and most films need a good supply of extras. Here are a few frequently asked questions:

**Do I need to be beautiful to be an extra?** No, movie extras come in all ages, sizes, shapes, colors, and looks.

**How much does an extra get paid?** Not much. Usually, minimum wage. If you are doing this to earn a living, you need to pick a different career.

**How long is a typical day’s work?** The movie industry works very long hours, and a 10 to 14 hour work day is not uncommon.

**What if I can’t be available all day?** Don’t be an extra.

**Is a cattle call for a western? What if I don’t have any livestock?** A cattle call refers to a mass casting call, where hundreds are seen in an afternoon for a very brief amount of time.

**How do I find out about when a movie needs extras?** There are several ways to find out about extras casting calls. You may hear about one on the radio, tv, or in the newspaper. A more effective way to get on as an extra is to be represented by an Extras Casting Director.

**Does it cost money to be listed with an Extras Casting Director?** No, there should be no cost to be listed. The Casting Director may take a portion (10 percent) of your wages if you are selected.

**What is a head shot? Does it cost money?** Do not spend a lot of money on a head shot when you are just getting started. Have a friend take a digital picture of you, and make your own head shot listing your name, cell phone, sizes, previous experience on a set or in theatre, and any special talents you have. Keep it to one page only.

**I can juggle chain saws, should I list that?** Absolutely.

**I can’t swim, but they are looking for swimmers. Should I say I can in hopes of getting the part?** No, don’t lie.

**What is it like on a movie set?** Boring, generally. Bring a book to read, knitting, etc, etc.

**Can I talk to the director?** Never.

**The lead actor, actress, or director is my hero. Can I ask her for an autograph?** Never.

To see a directory of casting directors go to [http://thriveabq.com](http://thriveabq.com), click on the film!ABQ tab and find the category Casting, Extras.
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CASTING FOR BACKGROUND ("EXTRA") WORK:

Elizabeth Gabel
www.egcasting.com

Lorrie Latham
www.lathamcasting.com

Robert (Bob) Baxter
http://www.projectcasting.com/tag/robert-baxter-casting/
robertbaxtercasting@gmail.com

Tina Kerr/On Location Casting
www.onlocationcasting.us

White Turtle Casting
http://www.whiteturtlecasting.com/

Shayne Hartigan
http://www.sandealessicasting.com/

CHECK CASTING CALL POSTINGS FREQUENTLY:

ONEHEADLIGHT INC.
http://www.oneheadlightink.com/sindication/NewMexicoFilm&Entertainment/casting/

NM STATE FILM OFFICE

MIDTHUNDER CASTING FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Midthunder-Casting/132594830154463

KIIRA ARAI CASTING FACEBOOK

PROJECT CASTING
http://www.projectcasting.com/?s=NEW+MEXICO

KATHY BRINK CASTING
https://www.facebook.com/KathrynBrinkCasting

Even CRAIGSLIST sometimes lists casting calls; however, BE CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE LEGITIMATE. Never, ever pay to be listed with a casting company or talent agency.

CONSIDER JOINING BREAKDOWN/ACTOR’S ACCESS:
http://www.actorsaccess.com/

AVOID MODELING OR TALENT SCAMS:
http://www.sagaftra.org/content/scams

NEW MEXICO HAS TWO SAG-FRANCHISED AGENCIES:

Mitchell & Presley Talent Group
www.mitchellpresley.com

The 'O Agency
www.o-agency.com