

## **THE BASIC RULES OF BACKGROUND PERFORMING**

1. The evening prior to the shoot, you will get an e-mail or phone call from us telling you the time and location. Do not give the location information to anyone. This is given to you in the strictest of confidence as the production people do not need unnecessary crowds and stargazers disrupting activities on the set.

2. If you are supposed to be at the location for 8:00am, please **BE THERE** by 7:30! We will provide you with directions to **BACKGROUND HOLDING**. Please report to the person in charge as he/she will have a list.

If you get lost, ask an AD...there are usually a number of these folks around the set. In the real world, they are call Gophers...Show Biz calls them Associate Directors. They have an official aire about them and usually have a walkie / talkie in their ear. Make friends with one...they are good people.

3. When signing in, put your name at the top of the form and use **TALENT INC'S ADDRESS** instead of your own as we will require this information in order for us to pay you the appropriate amount.

4. Be sure to bring a good book and your Survival Pack containing everything you will need for the day. If you require medications, make sure you bring a sufficient quantity to last at least 12 hours.

5. **DO NOT BRING VALUABLES** to the set. Either leave them at home or lock them in your car.

6. Listen to the AD's. There are several around the set and will relay messages to and from the director. Keep your speech volume low at all times.

7. Catering Services normally provide an array of snacks for Background Holding. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, apples, chips etc. If you are lucky, they will also provide sandwiches....but do not expect a meal!

8. You may encounter a **CRAFT SERVICES TABLE**. This is designated for the ACTRA members and Production Crew only. It will have several choices of fancy eats, coffees, snacks, candy, gum etc. **DO NOT EAT HERE** as this is to fulfill a union commitment and is not intended for use by the Background folks.

9. If you are provided with a hot meal, consider yourself very fortunate. Calgary is the only city in moviedom that actually provides a hot meal to their Background Actors....and the movie producers provide this meal under duress! You really should bring a lunch just in case.

10. If you are to break for a meal, there is a pecking order. Stars, executives, film crew then ACTRA actors followed by Background Performers. Depending upon the budget, you may eat at the same location as the stars....in a segregated area...or from a different food wagon all together. Don't take this as a person affront...it's just the way the system is set up.

If the Teamsters are doing the cooking...the meals are fabulous!

11. Don't approach the stars or principal actors on or off the set. While it may be an ego thing with some, it is more often a case of them trying to remember lines without any additional distractions. If they approach you, that's fine. Don't forget....this business is fundamentally the management of egos!

12. **Don't bring a camera or Cell Phone to the set.** An unexpected flash in the middle of a scene will cause absolute havoc with the Director. If you want a picture, get to know the AD's as someone is likely to have a cell phone with built in camera and can send you a copy of you in character.

TALENT INCORPORATED  
612 – 500 Country Hills Blvd. NE Suite 314  
Calgary Alberta T3K 5K3  
Phone: 403.948.7460  
Fax: 403.948.7461  
Email: [paul@talentinc.ca](mailto:paul@talentinc.ca)  
Web: [www.talentinc.ca](http://www.talentinc.ca)