

Getting Started in Film & TV



To thrive as a film crew member, prioritize being punctual, well-prepared, and maintaining a proactive and respectful demeanor. Stay open to learning, seek clarification when needed, and adapt to the dynamic, team-oriented setting. Effective communication and a readiness to assist in various tasks are essential as well. Below are some additional tips to help you begin your journey in the film industry.

Do Your Homework

Every project, company, and role is different. Before an interview, know who's who, what the department does, and be prepared to share why you're the right fit.

Networking is Key

Most crew jobs spread by word-of-mouth or recommendations. Be professional, work hard, and stay connected — a good reputation travels fast. Show up at local festivals, screenings, panels, and crew meet-ups. They're goldmines for leads and contacts. Listen more than you talk and always follow up.

Work Authorization

Below-the-line crew jobs usually won't sponsor visas. Make sure you're eligible to work where you're applying — and understand any union rules that apply.

Be Curious, Stay Flexible

Be open to new opportunities. You might start in one department and discover you love another. Watch, ask, and learn as much as you can.

Plan Your Journey

You'll almost always need your own reliable way to get to work — sometimes at odd hours and remote locations where public transport may not be available. .

Stand Out

Showcase the things you do outside of work that demonstrate your enthusiasm and commitment to the industry, whether it is volunteering, personal projects, hobbies, or side hustles—these might just be the qualities that set you apart from other candidates.

Budget Like a Freelancer

Jobs come in waves; it is important to plan financially to account for any gaps between projects or unexpected disruptions such as strikes or production delays. Setting aside savings during active periods can help you stay secure throughout quieter periods.

This advice is intended for guidance and information only and does not constitute a guarantee of employment.

Resume Basics



Getting your foot in the door often starts with your resume. Even if your credits are light, the way you showcase your experience can highlight that you're reliable, eager to learn, and ready for work in production.

Keep It Concise & Relevant

People working in this industry often have limited time and may need to review dozens of resumes. Keeping things relevant and concise will help you stand out. Ensure your relevant experience is easy to find and try to keep it to one or two pages. Avoid including generic skills like "proficient in MS Word" or unrelated job experience that isn't necessarily transferrable to production or the department you are applying to.

Highlight Practical Experience

List all experience relative to the position or department you are applying for, including unpaid or low-budget work. Include your role, the project title, production company (if applicable) and year.

Showcase Transferable Skills

Even if you lack direct experience, showcase the relevant roles that can help demonstrate desirable attributes like dependability, collaboration, and resilience (such as event work, stage crew, AV tech, even customer service).

Include Technical Proficiencies

Many crew roles require familiarity or experience of using specific tools, software or equipment, even at an entry level. Use a "Skills" section to list anything relevant but be honest about your proficiency.

Training Counts

Be sure to detail any industry relevant workshops, safety certifications (such as OSHA or First Aid), and other professional development programs you have completed, through organizations such as GEI, Hollywood CPR and NOVAC.

Format Like a Pro

Keep fonts clean and easy to read. Steer clear of "creative" formatting, the structure should be simple and easy to skim. Don't include graphics or headshots.

Contact Info Only

Include your name, phone, email, city/region and a link to your LinkedIn profile or other professional online portfolio. If you have credits, add your IMDB profile. Don't include your full address. Do highlight locations you are able to work. Keep it professional (that means no "partyguy420@gmail").

Customize for Each Role

Small adjustments to your resume to highlight your experience, skills or credits that are most relevant to the department or role you're applying for will go a long way.

Proofread and Get Feedback

Proofread multiple times and ask a friend, mentor or industry contact to review your resume. Typos or formatting errors can signal a lack of attention to detail, a skill that is critical for crew members.

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Partner Organizations



The Walt Disney Studios is proud to support talented individuals taking their first steps into roles on production. We encourage anyone looking for a pathway into the industry to research multiple organizations and find the one that is best for their career goals and passion.

No matter where you are located, these organizations can help you with training, building your network and maybe even help you find your next gig.

The Walt Disney Studio's program placements are primarily sourced through great training partners like the ones listed below.



A REELWORKS PROGRAM



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