

TV/THEATRICAL/STREAMING

Clarifications Regarding Payment of Wardrobe Allowances for Background Actors

AS STATED IN SCHEDULE X, Part I and II, Section 10 (a) of the SAG-AFTRA Codified Basic Agreement, “When a background actor reports in the specified wardrobe and in addition brings one (1) or more complete changes of wardrobe as requested by the producer, excluding the types of wardrobe described in subparagraph (b), he shall be entitled to an allowance of \$9.00 per day for the first such change and \$6.25 per day for each additional change, whether utilized or not.”

Section (b) further provides that a general background actor who is required to and does furnish formal attire, a fur, a national dress costume, a white Palm Beach or tropical suit, a uniform (other than a police uniform) or period wardrobe, at the request of the producer, shall be paid an allowance of \$27.00 per day. Any general background actor who is required to and does furnish a police uniform at the request of the producer shall be paid an allowance of \$36.00 per day.

It has come to our attention that producers may be incorrectly applying this rule to background actors employed on projects produced under the above-mentioned agreement. By doing so, it has the erroneous effect of depriving members of pay for providing wardrobe as instructed. Members should be aware that production staff may inaccurately claim that the allowance is only due when the wardrobe is worn on-camera during filming. That is not correct, as the provision requires payment of the allowance upon the background actor being directed to bring the wardrobe upon reporting. **It should be noted that the use of the wording, “options,” “choices” or “selections” are interchangeable with changes. The result is still the same; whether a background actor is told to bring “options,” “choices,” “selections” or “changes,” payment of the applicable wardrobe allowance must be paid for all changes provided, as members cannot be asked nor required to volunteer wardrobe.**

Section (c) does not permit the producer to require background actors to leave their personal wardrobe on set overnight or for a long period of time. However, if the background actor does agree to do so, then they must be paid the applicable wardrobe allowance for each day the wardrobe is kept.

Members should be aware that the producer must secure permission in advance and bargain additional fees with them if they desire to use their wardrobe for another person.

Lastly, any producer-provided wardrobe must be clean when delivered to the background actor. The producer cannot require background actors to wear any clothing that has been worn by another person, unless it has been properly cleaned.

QUESTIONS?

If members believe they have not been compensated in accordance with the contract or experience any problems on set, email us at backgroundactorsinfo@sagaftra.org or call (323) 549-6811 or (212) 827-1553.



VIDEO EDUCATION

Learn more about wardrobe allowances by watching [HERE](#) or scanning the QR code.