



THE BACK DOOR TO HOLLYWOOD

Production Tips



The Back Door to Hollywood

by **Beth Rosen**
copyright © 2013

WHERE TO OBTAIN ROYALTY FREE PHOTOS

Obtaining royalty free photos is easy when you know where to look. You never know when you will need them. For example, you can turn royalty free pictures into posters that need to paper a character's wall. You may need to place them on a computer monitor that the character is looking at. If you have a picture frame with a photo, you may be able to use a royalty free photo. You may need to create a flyer or a digital computer print out as a prop. Many times in crime scenes, the police or FBI will have a series of photos on the wall which they may reference in dialog. You may also want to use a photo for the cover of one of your scripts or television pitches.

Although Learning Module 1 has a ton of free resources, here are some additional websites to find royalty free photos for props. Some sites you may have to pay a small fee but even on those sites, there are often free downloads available.

Many photos are in the public domain and are freely usable by you without paying anything. I've included those here as well (see the last 2 links). Your props person will ultimately be responsible for obtaining the necessary photos but if you know where to look, you can point them in the right direction and save time and money.

<https://www.pexels.com/>

<https://pixabay.com/>

<https://all-free-download.com/>

<http://morguefile.com/>

<http://www.adigitaldreamer.com/gallery/>

<http://stockvault.net/>

<http://www.sxc.hu>

<http://freestockphotos.com/>

<http://www.flickr.com/>

<http://www.inmagine.com/>

<http://pdphoto.org/>

<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/>

<https://www.freepik.com/>

assigned this task. Always bring a copy with you to set in case someone is late or the call time changes during the day and you need to call people.¹

Transportation

Transportation fees are a part of movie making. It's up to you whether you will pay for airline tickets, tolls, gas and car rentals. Many cast and crew will want to negotiate these costs into their contracts. You ultimately decide whether you can afford it and whether you can get just as good cast and crew without paying for it. All established stars will expect transportation and lodging to be paid for.

As for production, you will need to scout out locations and arrange for parking ahead of time, especially if you will be filming where there is limited parking. You don't want your cast and crew driving around looking for parking spots or worrying about getting ticketed or towed. If there is limited parking, look for a lot or parking garage where you can negotiate to have the cast and crew park during the film shoot.

When you have more than one set in a day and you must move locations, you will need to arrange for a company move. Calculate the time it will take to pack up all the equipment, wardrobe and props, load them on the trucks, and add the time it will take to unload and unpack when you arrive at the next location. Add that to the time it will take to drive to your next location, taking into consideration the time of the company move and any likely traffic. It can easily take over an hour to two hours to pack, load, unload and set up equipment again at a new location. If your destination is far away and you are traveling during traffic, you should not be scheduling a very long film shoot at the next location or you may find yourself working into the wee hours of the night and early morning.

Too many company moves can take their toll on the cast and crew, especially on repeatedly long days of shooting so be aware of that when you schedule your shot list. Proximity of locations is definitely something to consider when you are scheduling different scenes to be shot on one day and arranging for company moves.

Budget

Before you produce your film, you should always put together a budget. Think outside of the box. You may be able to pay some people on a deferred basis rather than paying them a large sum of cash upfront. If the movie script is good and you think you could get distribution, actors and crew members may be willing to take a small upfront cash

¹ G&E = Gaffer & Grips responsible for the camera equipment, PA's = Personal Assistants, I/E = number of interior/exterior shots, INT/EXT = whether the shots are inside or outside, PGS = page numbers of the script relevant to the scene being shot.

payment in exchange for a very large deferred payment. It's a common practice in the industry. You will have to negotiate the fees upfront and setting out a budget ahead of time will help you do that. I've attached a spread sheet budget with possible line item costs so that you don't get blind-sighted when you go into production or postproduction editing.

SAMPLE SUMMARY BUDGET

Budget Item	Budget Cost
ACTORS	
PRODUCER	
WRITER(S)	
DIRECTOR	
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	
EDITOR	
LIGHTS + GRIP EQUIPMENT + CAMERA AND CAMERA EQUIPMENT	
CO-PRODUCER(S)	
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER(S)	
LINE PRODUCER	
MAKE-UP ARTISTS & MAKEUP SUPPLIES/KIT	
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	
ART DIRECTOR	
GAFFER	
SOUND AND SOUND EQUIPMENT	
BOOM	
GRIP	
1st ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR (AD)	
2nd AD	
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS	
SOUND DESIGNER	
MUSIC	
PROPS	
MEALS + CRAFT SERVICES	

Budget Item	Budget Cost
LOCATION FEES	
TRANSPORTATION	
LODGING	
WARDROBE	
EXPERTS	
SPECIAL EFFECTS SUPPLIES	
SPECIAL SFX & CAMERA EQUIPMENT	
PUBLICIST	
MOVIE POSTERS	
MOVIE POSTCARDS	
FILM, EQUIPMENT AND LOCATION INSURANCE	
TRANSPORTATION INSURANCE	
WEBSITE DESIGN	
FILM FESTIVAL SUBMISSIONS	
PUBLICITY KIT	
MISCELLANEOUS	
TOTAL BUDGET	

Please also see sample excel sheets. This is merely a summary, not a line item budget. Please see sample line item budget.

Sample Shooting Schedule Template

You have a chart for each day that you are shooting and the Day should be progressive (i.e. Day 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.) but the scenes will vary depending on characters, location and availability. The number of cells will depend on how many scenes you are shooting on that date.

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

DAY	SCENE	DAY/ NIGHT	INT/ EXT	PAGES	SET UP	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERS	PROPS	EXTRAS	WARDROBE	PERMITS

TOTAL PAGES = _____

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

DAY	SCENE	DAY/ NIGHT	INT/ EXT	PAGES	SET UP	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERS	PROPS	EXTRAS	WARDROBE	PERMITS

TOTAL PAGES = _____

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

DAY	SCENE	DAY/ NIGHT	INT/ EXT	PAGES	SET UP	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERS	PROPS	EXTRAS	WARDROBE	PERMITS

TOTAL PAGES = _____

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

DAY	SCENE	DAY/ NIGHT	INT/ EXT	PAGES	SET UP	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERS	PROPS	EXTRAS	WARDROBE	PERMITS

TOTAL PAGES = _____

PROP LIST SAMPLE FOR A SCENE

Set forth below are some sample prop/wardrobe lists for scenes for a television pilot I wrote and a screenplay that I co-produced. They contain the type of set, specific props for the characters to use on set as well as their wardrobe and any continuity issues. Attention to details and wardrobe changes in different scenes in the script is critical for a smooth production. When you do a full wardrobe list, you can include Wardrobe Change notes.

Example 1

In the example below, because the character has just been drenched in the rain and she is wearing the same suit as in the prior scene, I have made a note for the production crew that this scene must be filmed after her dry clothes scenes where she should look polished and neat, after the rain scene so she is already soaked and before the scenes where she is wearing wrinkled clothes that have dried from the rain event. These are important aspects of filmmaking and your props and wardrobe people must be sensitive to all these issues so make sure when you give them direction to do a list that they include any continuity issues like these.

RESTAURANT BATHROOM - Act Two, Scene 11

Set:

1 or 2 Stall Bathroom with sink, vanity, mirror and electric hand dryer

Props:

Soap Dispenser
Tissues for Bathroom
Garbage Can
Toilet Paper
Pocketbooks

Wardrobe:

Rachel:
WET & DRENCHED Suit #2 & Blouse #2, High Heels #2, Pearl Earrings #2, Watch (same wardrobe as Act One Scene 1-5, Act Two, Scenes 9, 10, 14)
Patron: Business Suit and Dress Shoes.

Casting Call:

Rachel
Patron

Notes:

Must be filmed after rain scene and after Act One Scenes 1-5, Act Two Scene 9 and before Act Two, Scenes 10 & 14)

Example 2:

In the example below, the girl friend was supposed to drink a Caramel; Frapuccino with whipped cream. Since I had already had on set experience with drinks and whipped cream, I knew that the film crew would easily need at least 2 to 3 cans of whipped cream for continuity as they did re-take after re-take and got different angle shots so I wrote that into the prop list. I also left a space for the director and producer to add their own notes.

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - Scene 19

Plastic Board

Law books on shelves

Legal Diploma on wall

Pens

Papers

Various folders

Various pleadings

Plastic Board with words in this order (all with lines through them except Serial Killer):

Accountant

Pig Farmer

Florist

Golfer

Waitress

Criminal Defendant

Attorney

Girl Rock Band

Serial Killer

Black Markers to write the words

Trash can (for continuity of scenes)

Phone on desk (for continuity of scenes) Caramel Frappuccino in Paper Coffee Cup (several of them or extra liquid for continuity of shots) Whipped Cream (for continuity of shots)

Wardrobe

Judge: Robe, Shirt & Pants or Suit (discuss - depends on what other scenes you will be filming that day)

Girlfriend Lawyer: Sexy Suit or blouse and skirt, dress shoes, earrings.

Notes: