

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
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IATSE LOCAL 52

JOB DESCRIPTION

Sound Department

Job Title:	Boom Operator
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Job Description: The Boom Operator spends time preparing and evaluating each scene that is to be shot and figures out the best approach for getting the sound for each scene while being responsible for all sound equipment.

Duties & Responsibilities:

There is a lot of preparation for the Boom Operator before the first shooting day. First, the Boom Operator should study the script several times, familiarizing him/herself with the characters and their lines of dialogue. He or she will be given "sides" (small booklets of pages from the script that are to be shot each day) so that he or she can memorize all the lines of dialogue and anticipate when to move the boom during filming. During rehearsal, the Boom Operator should also take careful note of all planned camera movements and lighting requirements to ensure that the microphone does not fall into the shot or cast shadows.

The Boom Operator's duties include operating the boom microphone, whether handheld on boom pole, or dolly mounted on a moving platform. He or she is also in charge of radio or clip microphones as needed, positioning them so that sound mixers can capture the best quality dialogue and sound effects. He or she must make a decision based on that location and projection of any dialogue, the frame position of the camera, the source of lighting to diminish shadows, and any outside unwanted noise sources.

Boom Operators are also in charge of the sound equipment, ensuring that all of it is in good working order, and carrying out minor repairs where necessary.

Requirements:

A boom operator must have excellent aural skills, dexterity and agility, a good memory, good timing, precise attention to detail., He or she must also have a knowledge of sound recording equipment, electronics and acoustics. Must be a team player who is able to maintain good working relationships with others. Should have prior experience using a boom microphone.