

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
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IATSE LOCAL 52

JOB DESCRIPTION

Sound Department

Job Title:	Production Sound Mixer
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Job Description:

Production Sound Mixers are responsible for the difficult job of ensuring that dialogue and other sounds recorded during filming are suitably clear.

Duties & Responsibilities:

Approximately two weeks before the first day of filming, the Production Sound Mixer must meet with the producer and director to discuss specific requirements including creative intentions (is the sound naturalistic or stylized, etc), technical requirements, and budgetary issues. They also meet with the costume department and visual effects supervisors to discuss the placement of microphones on or around the actors, as well as visit all locations to check for any potential sound problems.

When filming begins, the Production Sound Mixer and his/her crew arrive and prepare their equipment at call time. During rehearsals, when the director, director of photography, and actors run through all camera moves and lighting, the Production Sound Mixer and Boom Operator plan where they should place microphones to obtain the best possible sound quality. After each take, Production Sound Mixers check the quality of sound recording and, if necessary, ask for another take. If music is required in a scene, the Production Sound Mixer will set up the playback equipment and speakers for the actors, an additional Playback Mixer may be needed to be hired for this project.

At the end of each shooting day, Production Sound Mixers may send the day's sound recording files to Post Production via ISDN. He or she will also hand over the originals to the camera assistant who will package them up with the camera rushes. A Production Sound Mixer's job is done when the film wraps.

Requirements:

Must have a good understanding of electronics and an expert knowledge of audio and all audio recording, playback, and editing equipment (analog and digital). They must understand the requirements of the other departments on feature films, including: camera, electric, rigging, art department, wardrobe, and hair and makeup. They should also be aware of, and comply with, on set protocols. Audio staff must be computer literate.