

Having Part time jobs while pursuing your acting career.

Should I get a job?

In the best of all possible worlds, we wouldn't need part-time jobs—we would simply go from film to film building a terrific acting career, never worrying about money. Unfortunately, only a select number of big actors are granted this scenario, and the rest of us have to find something to do that will pay the rent and allow us to audition for work as well. As an actor, you not only need to pay the rent, your car payment and feed yourself, you also have to pay for photographers, headshots, acting classes, mailings/postage, and resumes. We advise before embarking on your acting career, that you save a nice bundle of money to use for the essentials an actor needs to get started.

What sorts of jobs are there?

Jobs to support yourself can be divided into two categories: service-related and industry-related work. These are the kinds of jobs most people associate with actors, especially in Los Angeles. The reason they are so popular with actors is their flexible hours, contact with industry people and good income opportunity.

1. Waiter/Waitress/Bartender
2. Retail
3. Telemarketing
4. Office Temp

What about entertainment type jobs?

If you live in Los Angeles, there are lots of industry-related jobs available that can be found in Daily Variety, The Hollywood Reporter and by calling studio job lines directly. You should have a "regular" resume (as opposed to your acting resume and headshot) made up to send to these employers, along with a cover letter expressing your interest in the job. It's a good idea to keep your acting interest out of any interview, as it makes most employers think you won't give them 100% or stick around for very long.

1. Talent Agency Assistant
2. Casting Agency Assistant
3. Assistant to Producers/Directors/Celebrities



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Another good way to find industry-related employment is by using the job hotlines set up by the studios. Simply call the number and a recorded message will let you know what openings are available, the requirements for the position and where to send your resume.

There are many, many more service-related and industry-related jobs to choose from, but you need to find what you are best at (outside of acting) and find a part-time job that will support you by using that skill. Some people are great drivers, so they chauffeur on the side. Some are great cooks, so they work for caterers or restaurants. Some might be totally into fitness and could work as bodyguards, security officers or personal trainers. A smart move is to start your own business, using whatever skills you have, so you can run your own hours and be available for auditions and acting jobs. Don't discount anything that you do well—it can help support you until that big acting break come along!

What should my next step be?

To get a complete list of the studio phone number hotlines which may help able to find a job or for additional info on finding that perfect job simply fill out the special order form below and order your own personal copy of 'A to Z How to make it in Show business" by Nelson Parks.

