

## THE PRODUCER

### What is a producer?

As an actor you will ultimately have to enroll producers to hire you for jobs since they are the people with the money and power. The more you understand how a producer works the more you will understand how to break into the business and ultimately work as an actor. Remember **this is a business** and the producer is the businessman on the production.

Producers talk business, eat business, sleep business and care about two things 1.) Get the project done and B.) Sell the project and make a profit. Producers are the people who oversee the entire production of the project from the hiring of talent to the financial aspects. Today we will briefly discuss who a producer is and what a producer does. Virtually anyone can be a producer -- while some producers take on big responsibilities, others just connect people together and get the grand name and title of producer.

A producer arranges the financing, packages the project and talks directly with the studio when making a movie deal. It used to be easy for only one person to do all of the duties of a producer, but now that productions are so elaborate and expensive to shoot, the producer's job has been broken down into various types of producers (depending on the size of the production) and their numerous titles can be confusing to anyone not familiar with the film industry. Listed below are the different titles and responsibilities of each.

### Executive Producer

This is the person with the most clout on any production, as they usually have direct financial interest in the film and represent the studio, network or their own production company. The executive producer will do all of the hiring, from the director to the actors, and has the final decision regarding every aspect of the project.



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### **Producer**

This person, who works alongside the executive producer, is responsible for keeping a close eye on the day-to-day details of a production. They will report back to the executive producer regarding all aspects of how a production is progressing (especially the costs), and will therefore show a lot of interest in keeping extra expenses and any overtime shoots to a minimum. The producer can usually be found beside the director and will be on the set when the cameras roll.

### **Co-Producer** (or Associate Producer)

Depending on the size of the production, the co-producer will be responsible for anything the producer doesn't have time to deal with. This can be producing everything on a Second Unit location or working directly with talent on the script breakdowns. Many times an associate producer is simply the person who knows someone with money but knows nothing about the film business -- virtually anyone can be a film producer if they have contacts with people with money.

### **Line Producer**

The line producer position is usually seen more on television productions. This is especially true of television series, where producing duties are broken up between different line producers who are responsible for the production of an entire episode. The line producer will normally know all the technical side of the business and understand how to buy film stock, rent equipment and truly understand the film making process.

Now that you have a basic understanding of how a producer works you can get out there and not only be an actor but be a producer too. Serious actors produce serious results...Get out there and act like a producer. Get a script, make contacts with people with money and put yourself in your own films! (Who knows you might be the next Matt Damon!)

### **What should my next step be?**

If you live in Los Angeles or are soon relocating to the Los Angeles area and need help producing powerful results for you or your child's career please contact the ESI NETWORK to schedule a meeting to see if they can assist you.

In addition, fill out the special order form below and get your very own "**A-Z How to Make it in Show Business**" Guide by Nelson Parks.

**Remember...Produce Action and you'll Produce Results!**

