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TRADE PAPERS

What are the trade papers?

The “trades” are the newspapers of the entertainment industry. These include Back Stage West (which concentrates on casting information, services used by actors, auditions, etc.) and The Daily Variety and The Hollywood Reporter (which give entertainment news such as studio press, important deals, casting information, etc.). Back Stage West is the two best trade paper to concentrate on when first starting your acting career, as they contain the audition and casting information you’ll need. After your career is more established, you should include Daily Variety and The Hollywood Reporter. As the Wall Street Journal contains pertinent information for corporate businessmen, The Daily Variety and The Hollywood Reporter provide up-to-date information on what’s happening in the Hollywood business. The trades typically cost \$1.50 each, but again, all libraries in the Hollywood area subscribe to them, and you can copy out any information you need.

Back Stage West (323) 525-2356

5055 Wilshire Blvd. 6th Floor, L.A., CA 90036

This is a weekly publication, which caters to actors and their needs. Everything from casting information and audition notices to acting classes and photographers are featured each week. Back Stage West is published every Thursday and is invaluable for actors new to town.

Daily Variety 1-800-552-3632

P.O. Box 15878, North Hollywood, CA, 91615

Variety is one of the two premiere industry trade papers that features information about the entire entertainment machine. It is published daily and includes charts that list every film or television program currently in production, pre-production or in the planning stages. Variety’s film production charts are published on Friday and television productions are listed on Thursday.

The Hollywood Reporter (323) 525-2150

5055 Wilshire Blvd., L.A., CA 90036

The Hollywood Reporter is the other premiere industry trade paper, which also features the same basic industry information as Daily Variety. Motion picture production charts are listed very Tuesday and television charts are on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Both Variety and The Hollywood Reporter feature excellent help-wanted sections for entertainment or studio jobs (assistants, clerks, talent agency assistants, etc.). Friday has the most listings in both papers.