

AUTHOR AND BACKGROUND ACTOR JO KELLY FIELDS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BACKGROUND ACTING

Q: What is an “extra” or “background actor?”

A: Actors who populate the background of a scene or can be seen moving across in a scene are called "the background." They usually have non-speaking roles in the production.

Q: How do you know the difference between a legitimate talent agency and an agency that is just out to get your money?

A: The key word here is “money”. If they ask for money beyond the \$25-\$30 average fees to register, they are probably not legitimate. Making you take classes with them or requiring you to pay \$600 to appear on their website is a scam. Producers aren't looking at websites to find extras or actors.

Q: Is "networking" important?

A: If you're interested in continuing to work in the filming industry, networking with others who are more experienced or have connections will help you learn where the jobs can be found.

Q: How often can I expect to work?

A: How often or how little you work is literally up to you. You can accept or decline work daily. If you're signed with a calling service, you could work more often. It all depends on you. Anyone can be an extra and everyone will get work as long as you have a good attitude, are professional and follow directions well. Following even the simplest directions is crucial because every movement on the set is deliberate and thought out. Trust me, I've learned from experience that someone is watching and they will catch you if you don't follow directions to a “T”.

www.jkelly4extras.com

F O R M O R E I N F O R M A T I O N

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