

TV/THEATRICAL/STREAMING

Do I Need to Report Hair and Makeup-Ready?

EXTENSIVE HAIR AND MAKEUP STYLING PRE-EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES:

Today, during the availability check, a casting director asked me, *“Production needs you to style your hair in a certain way the night before, okay?”*

YOUR REALITY: You will have to spend an hour or more the night before or get up early the morning of the shoot to style your hair or apply makeup per the detailed instructions provided by the Hair and Makeup Department. This may even require you to sleep in rollers, which can result in pain and discomfort throughout the night, making it difficult to rest and be at your professional best for work.

YOU SHOULD KNOW: The SAG-AFTRA TV/Theatrical Codified Basic Agreement provides that while producers can request background actors to report in ordinary hair and makeup, **performers cannot be required to report in extensive or non-ordinary hair and makeup prior to reporting for their call.** This means that background actors cannot be issued detailed instructions attached or contained within their booking communication or be required to watch online videos in order to style their hair or apply their own makeup.

Background actors working under TV/Theatrical/Streaming contracts **are under no obligation to provide this courtesy service to productions, as it is not an appropriate ask.** Instead, the background actor should expect to be given an early call time to enable the production’s Hair and Makeup Department to appropriately style their hair or apply makeup, or production can bargain with the background actor or union in advance for additional payment.

If you are uncomfortable directly negotiating with production, you can try the gentler approach of directing the background casting director to the assigned SAG-AFTRA background business representative for further discussion.

TOP THREE THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. If you experience something that does not feel right during the availability check or booking, tell your union. Use discretion, and if you feel you can address it on the spot, do so, or report it ASAP to the union. You can always report things anonymously.
2. Background actors are employed for a variety of atmospheric purposes on set, but services typically performed by the Hair and Makeup Department are not the performer’s responsibility. Background actors should not be told that it is a professional expectation for them to provide their own hair and makeup styling for the production’s ease.
3. Always keep records. Names, dates — everything.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACTS

The best way for the union to protect you is for you to know the provisions and protections that are negotiated on your behalf in all the contracts. Knowing the provisions and protections guaranteed by your contract is the best way to ensure you are always protected. All contracts are accessible online at sagaftra.org/productioncenter.

QUESTIONS?

If members believe they have not been compensated in accordance with the contract or experience any problems on set, email us at backgroundactorsinfo@sagaftra.org or call (323) 549-6811 or (212) 827-1553.