

Report

Prep and Post Work : Let's Get Paid for It

Alex Brown, 15 February 2015

PRE

Directors do a huge amount of preparation unpaid. We want to get a clearer picture of how much time directors spend getting ready for the first day of rehearsal, so that SDUK can argue for this time to be reflected in higher fees.

We also spoke about unpaid work once a production is open. This should also be recognised and paid for by theatres and producers.

The best way to collect useful data is through a survey. SDUK's fee survey provided really eye opening data which made headlines and got people talking about the importance of arguing for higher fees.

We propose another SDUK survey which asks people to break down the hours spent on preparation. This could be conducted in collaboration with a university, think tank or charity - suggestions from the group included Holloway, Birkbeck, Demos or Arts Admin.

Here are the categories of prep we came up with. Every director will be different so these are intended to reflect the range of work that people do. Each category would have an 'Other (Please specify)' box where people could include information about the kind of prep they do if they wish. The more detail we collect, the stronger our position

when arguing for higher fees.

Artistic Conception

Thinking, dreaming, analysing, devising

Research

Reading, travel and field trips, watching, listening, interviews and meetings

Rehearsal Prep

Annotating script, exercises and games, process work, logistical planning

Script Development

Working with writer or translator on new plays, dramaturgy, cutting and adapting existing plays

Team Recruitment

Meeting/interviewing designers, LX designers, sound designers, assistant directors, production managers, stage managers, producers

Casting

Meetings, auditions, lists, offers, theatre visits to watch actors

Creative Meetings

Designers, LX designers, sound designers, artistic directors, movement, dialect, fight, composers, musical directors, marketing

Fund-raising

Applications, donor meetings, crowd funding, research into trusts and foundations, meetings and funding pitches

Other

Please specify

POST

Directors are typically paid until press night. Any work after that is often unpaid. This work includes

Noting the show

Post show discussions

Fund-raising events and talks

Arts Council evaluations

Recasting

ACTION

We want SDUK to survey directors and get specific data on how many hours of unpaid

work directors do PRE and POST rehearsals.

Once this data is collected, we want SDUK to use it to argue for higher directors fees that reflect this work and pay fairly for it.

Notes written by Alex Brown

Tags:

preparation, Preparation, survey, SDUK, Directors fees