



Episodic Director Creative Rights - Production

The DGA Basic Agreement provides that the Director's function is to contribute to all creative elements of a motion picture and to participate in molding and integrating them into one dramatic and aesthetic whole.

*****2026 Contract Change*****

- Generative Artificial Intelligence – A production's use of GAI, or any technology, does not lessen or weaken your existing Creative Rights. In essence, "footage is footage" and you will act as the Director whether the footage is created with a camera, computer or another technology.
- Only one Director may be assigned to a motion picture.
- You must direct all originally scheduled principal photography.
- All notes to cast and crew must come directly from you.
- The Employer cannot use generative artificial intelligence (GAI) in connection with the creative elements of a picture without consulting you.
- The Employer cannot use its scheduling authority to deprive you of your Creative Rights. (e.g. Separate shooting units may not be scheduled contemporaneously when it's not possible to be physically present at both)
- You must see dailies at a reasonable time.
- The Employer may not increase the magnitude or degree of difficulty of a stunt in the shooting script delivered to you, or later add a stunt to this script, unless you consent.
- If you complete one hundred percent (100%) of the scheduled principal photography, you are entitled to direct any additional scenes and/or retakes to be photographed, subject to your availability. If unavailable, you must be provided the opportunity to consult with the substituting Director.
- Except in a bona fide emergency (and then, only for five days), no person already assigned to the motion picture may replace you.
- Before completion of principal photography, the Employer must inform you about any intent to use special photography and processes and permit you to participate in considerations about their use. After principal photography, you must be consulted about and participate in the consideration of using such special photography and processes, if you are available.
- The Employer may not discriminate or retaliate against you because you assert your Creative Rights.
- The Director is required to be physically present when shooting principal photography. Directors may not "remotely direct."

Please see standalone summaries for your rights on Late Scripts, Casting, Electronic Transmission, Table Reads, Prep and Post-Production.