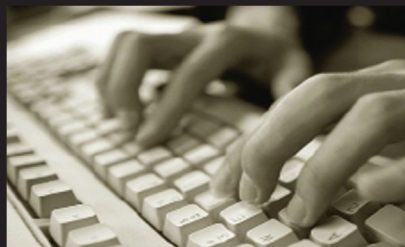


ABOUT THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA

Low Budget Film Contracts



WHAT ARE YOUR LOW BUDGET CONTRACTS?

The Writers Guild offers a Low Budget Agreement for narrative theatrical films and the Documentary Screenplay Contract for theatrical documentaries. These contracts are designed to meet the demands of the low budget film business as well as ensure rights and benefits for writers of films budgeted at \$1.2 million or below. Both Guild members and non-members may request these contracts.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Many low budget filmmakers need to stretch every dollar to get their films produced. These contracts allow writers to write and sell narrative and documentary screenplays under the protection of the Writers Guild while working within various low budget payment levels.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

By working under these contracts, writers receive minimum rates, credit and creative protections, and residuals, which are paid when their works are distributed on television, DVD and other media. When employment takes place, writers may be eligible to receive premium pension and health coverage. Also, first-time writers may use these contracts to join the Writers Guild - the world's largest organization of its kind.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the WGA West
at (323) 782-4731
or indie@wga.org
or contact WGA East
at (212) 767-7836 or
indie@wgaeast.org

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DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS: THE WRITERS GUILD HAS A CONTRACT THAT WORKS WITH YOUR BUDGET.

WGA DOCUMENTARY SCREENPLAY CONTRACT

| Employment | Between ZERO and \$500,000 | Between \$500,000 and \$750,000 | Between \$750,000 and \$1.2 million |
|---|--|---|---|
| Writers who are also employed as producers or directors: | The minimum compensation for writing services is \$44,445 which may be deferred until "most favored nations" with person who performs directing services. | Same terms as under \$500K except \$10,000 is paid to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. | Same terms as under \$500K except \$10,000 is paid to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. |
| Writers who are <u>not</u> also employed as producers or directors: | The minimum compensation for writing services is \$44,445, \$5,000 of which is due to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. The remaining amount may be deferred until "most favored nations" with person who performs directing services. | Same terms as under \$500K except \$10,000 is paid to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. | Same terms as under \$500K except \$15,000 is paid to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. |
| Purchase of original screenplay | The original screenplay purchase price is \$44,445 which may be deferred until "most favored nations" with person who performs directing services. | Same as under \$500K except \$10,000 is due to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. | Same terms as under \$500K except \$10,000 is due to the writer within 10 days of signing the agreement. |

Note: If the budget is over \$1.2 million, please call the WGAE's Signatories Department at (212) 767-7836 or the WGAW's Contracts Department at (323) 782-4501 to learn how you can work under the WGA Minimum Basic Agreement. The guilds encourage writers and their representatives to negotiate overscale deals and to defer as little of the writer's compensation as possible – this chart sets for the MINIMUM terms required to make your project under one of the guilds' theatrical film contracts.