



REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMIT APPLICANTS FOR NABET 700 SOUND DEPARTMENT

There seems to be some confusion as to what qualifies as pertinent work experience for a perspective applicant for a permit. Let me try and clarify.

I feel there are two issues here. The first has everything to do with solidifying an apprenticeship position for the Sound Department. If we can establish distinct categories in our department, then we can proceed to make educated decisions on the permit issue.

I see four realistic positions on the Sound Department as it pertains to the film industry and the film set:

1. Recordist/Mixer
2. Boom Operator (includes 2nd boom operator)
3. Apprentice
4. Trainee

While I have four positions listed, it does not mean that I expect to see a four person sound team in the future. I do, however, see a three person team becoming standard. How that team configures depends on the producer, tier, and the ability of the recordist to make a case for the team he requires to do the job properly.

Now, on to the applicants for permits:

Applicants for permit as boom operators **MUST** have experience with a boom pole in their hands on a film or television set. Any other related experience will be considered but to get a permit to be a boom operator, you must have worked as a boom operator!

If someone applies for permit without boom experience, but has set experience or sound experience in another venue (television tech, eng sound, live sound reinforcement or sound audio); this individual cannot qualify as a boom permit as that would imply that they are capable of operating as a primary boom if required; which is not the case. While experience in other sound applications may be valuable, it does not a boom operator make. Persons in this category would only be eligible to be hired on permit permit at either a trainee or apprentice position. Therefore, the responsibility would fall on the recordist and boom op to guide their charge to perform as they would expect from a NABET Sound Department member. An upgrade would then be possible on a per case basis.

The permit process is an important one for our department. It must be carefully administered to ensure that we have a reserve of qualified personnel upon which to build solid membership and that we do not allow inexperience, in the wrong position, to effect our livelihoods.

Our individual reputations and the reputation of NABET 700 are at stake.

Rick Penn
VP Sound



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