



NVSTUDIOS.TV

A South Africa film industry production guide



This booklet sets out some helpful production, financial and legal information on filming in South Africa.

NV STUDIOS is resolutely driven to find the best creative solutions that ensure maximum production value specific to each film. We are known in particular for delivering the highest quality films and television series for the international market, including shows with a US, UK and European setting.

We bring together the country's most experienced and sought-after producers, line producers, legal, business and financial personnel to provide a fully integrated infrastructure and production service.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCTION REBATE [USD]

(The exchange rate applied herein is USD 1 = R14.50 -the actual rate may vary)

NV STUDIOS has considerable experience in accessing the incentive and has a 100% success rate on over 60 applications. The Foreign Film Incentive pays a cash rebate of 25% of Qualifying South African Production Expenditure (QSAPE).

An additional 5% is available to projects spending at least R1.5million (\$110,000) on Qualifying South African Post-Post Production (QSAPPE).

The rebate is capped at R50million (\$3.45million).

Key requirements:

- A Minimum QSAPE of R15million (\$1.1million) and QSAPPE of R1.5million (\$110,000) to achieve a 30% rebate.
- The DTI must grant provisional approval of the project before commencement of principal photography. NV STUDIOS advises the initial application is submitted no later than 3 months prior to commencement of filming.
- At least 50% and 21 calendar days of principal photography must take place in South Africa. For productions spending in excess of R100 million (\$7million) QSAPE, the schedule requirement may be waived at discretion of the DTI.
- A minimum of 30% of QSAPE must be procured from majority South African Black-owned companies.



Examples of QSAPE [Qualifying South African Production Expenditure]

- South African Labour
- South African Goods & Services

Examples of Non-QSAPE

- Publicity and Marketing Costs (incl. EPK)
- Entertainment and Gratuities
- Financing Expenditure
- Purchase of Production and Software Equipment

Examples of QSAPPE [Qualifying South African Post- Production Expenditure]

- License Fees
- Editorial and Sound Post-Production
- VFX

NV STUDIOS manages the entire application process from initial application to final receipt and repatriation of the rebate.

The time frame in which the rebate is paid out varies, but one can expect to receive the rebate approximately 9 months after final submission.

VISAS, ENTRY PERMITS AND WORK PERMITS

The South African Department of Home Affairs regulates visas, work permits and immigration into South Africa. NV STUDIOS facilitates the visa application process from start to completion.

Entertainment Industry Visas

Applications for visitors visas with permission to work in the entertainment industry for a period of up to 90-days (Section 11.2) must be processed at the SA Mission abroad in the country of nationality or normal residence of the applicant prior to travel to South Africa. The application form and required documentation must include a letter of sponsorship from the South African producer. **The processing period for a visa is min. five (5) working days.**

Applications for work permits in respect of actors and film crew for periods exceeding 90-days and up to a maximum of 3-years (Section 11.1.b.iv) must be submitted at the SA Mission abroad in the country of nationality or normal residence of the applicant. The application form and required documentation must include a letter of sponsorship from the South African producer as well as proof of contract from the international producer, a medical & radiologist report and police clearance certificate. **Processing of work permits takes from 5 -10 working days.**

An Oversight Traveller visitor's visa (Section 11.1(a)) can be issued at Port of Entry to film industry producers and personnel on visits for purposes of project development and location scouts.

All nationals of countries that are not visa exempt must apply for visas at a SA Mission/Embassy abroad. They must meet the normal visa requirements. **The processing period for a visa is min. five (5) working days.**

NOTE: South African customs regulations require that persons travelling to South Africa have at least three blank pages

WITHHOLDING TAX IN SOUTH AFRICA

Visiting Artistes & Performers (Entertainers and Sportspersons)

South Africa has Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs) with US, UK, Canada and most European countries whereby any tax withheld in South Africa is credited towards any taxes payable by the performer.

Statement by South African Revenue Services (SARS)

“In terms of the new withholding tax system, producers and others who make payments to foreign entertainers and performers in South Africa on or after August 1, 2006 will have to withhold a 15% tax from payments. Where it is not possible for the withholding tax to be imposed, the foreign entertainer or performer will be liable for the payment of the 15% tax. A resident who agrees to fund, organise or facilitate a performance for reward is required to notify SARS of the performance within 14-days of concluding the agreement.”

The onus of disclosure and payment rests with the performer and/or their employer. In terms of the legislation, the South African co-production, service partner or senior manager is required to inform SARS of performers working in South Africa.

NV STUDIOS will guide and administrate this process.

PRODUCTION RATES

The following is a guide to current production rates in South Africa. All rates are subject to negotiation, depending of levels of demand. Though our industry is not regulated by union agreements, industry standards do exist throughout the country.

Crew

South Africa has a large pool of highly skilled and experienced film crews. The rates on the following pages are for experienced South African crew. On shoots of four weeks or less crews generally work a 6 day week, 12 hour day, including travel within a 35km radius of the city centre. On shoots longer than 4 weeks it is preferable to shoot a 5 day week or a eleven day fortnight. Overtime is paid at 1.5 x the hourly rate . The seventh consecutive day is considered a rest day and is charged at 1.5 times the normal daily rate. Turn-around time is 2x10 hours and 2x11 hours per week. Fringes on South African labor are levied at 4.5%.

Cast

Thanks to television series such as OUTLANDER, BLACK SAILS and HOMELAND South African performers are now regularly being featured in lead and support roles. The talent pool reflects the country's diverse population, with a mix of ethnicities and cultures that mirror modern US, Europe and Asia. The quoted rates are for experienced and skilled South African actors.





Catering

Daily catering generally comprises a breakfast, a main meal and craft throughout the day. On set meals should be provided every six hours after call time.

Equipment

South Africa has access to the most advanced equipment as per global industry standards.

VAT

Value Added Tax in South Africa is levied @ 15% which is refundable. Exceptions are hotels, passenger vehicle rental and catering. The figures quoted here are ex-VAT. For cash flow purposes, an allowance of 11% of Rand expenditure should be made to cover VAT.

October 2018 - The exchange rate applied herein is R 14.50 to USD 1.00 - actual rates may vary

Crew Rates		Rand		Dollar	
		Low	High	Low	High
Line Producer	Weekly	21 000	35 000	1 448	2 414
Production Manager	Weekly	14 000	18 000	966	1 241
1st Assistant Director	Weekly	20 000	26 000	1 379	1 793
2nd Assistant Director	Weekly	9 000	11 000	621	759
Script Supervisor	Weekly	12 000	16 000	828	1 103
Dialogue Coach	Weekly	16 000	19 000	1 103	1 310
Production Co -ordinator	Weekly	8 500	9 500	586	655
Production Accountant	Weekly	25 000	30 000	1 724	2 069
Assistant Accountant	Weekly	9 000	10 500	621	724
Unit Manager/Location Manager	Weekly	16 000	18 500	1 103	1 276
Location Assistant	Weekly	9 000	12 000	621	828

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Crew Rates		Rand		Dollar	
		Low	High	Low	High
Director Of Photography	Weekly	35 000	45 000	2 414	3 103
Camera Operator	Weekly	24 000	28 000	1 655	1 931
1st Assistant Cameraman	Weekly	13 500	16 000	931	1 103
2nd Assistant Cameraman	Weekly	7 500	9 000	517	621
Sound Mixer	Weekly	16 000	19 000	1 103	1 310
Boom Operator	Weekly	10 000	12 500	690	862
Lighting Technician Gaffer	Weekly	14 000	15 500	1 102	1 220
Best Boy - Electrical	Weekly	9 500	10 500	748	827
Generator Operators	Weekly	5 700	6 250	449	492
Sparks	Weekly	5 500	6 500	379	448
Key Grip	Weekly	14 000	15 500	966	1 069
Best Boy Grip	Weekly	9 500	10 500	655	724
Transport Co -ordinator	Weekly	7 000	9 000	483	621
Drivers	Weekly	4 500	5 000	310	345
SFX Co-ordinator	Weekly	25 000	32 500	1 724	2 241
Stunt Co -Ordinator	Weekly	27 500	35 500	1 897	2 448

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Crew Rates		Rand		Dollar	
		Low	High	Low	High
Production Designer	Weekly	25 000	35 000	1 724	2 414
Art Director	Weekly	18 000	25 000	1 241	1 724
Construction Co -ordinator	Weekly	12 000	17 000	828	1 172
Art Department Co -ordinator	Weekly	8 500	9 500	586	655
Set Decorator	Weekly	16 000	18 000	1 103	1 241
Standby Set Dresser/Props	Weekly	11 000	12 500	759	862
Swing Gang	Weekly	4 000	4 500	276	310
Propmaster	Weekly	16 000	18 000	1 103	1 241
Buyer / Dressers / Standby	Weekly	9 500	12 500	655	862
Costume Designer	Weekly	25 000	35 000	1 724	2 414
Wardrobe Mistress	Weekly	12 000	14 000	828	966
Costumers	Weekly	8 000	9 500	552	655
Make Up / Hair	Weekly	14 000	16 000	966	1 103
Dialogue Coach	Weekly	16 000	19 000	1 103	1 310

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Cast Rates		Rand		Dollar	
		Low	High	Low	High
Leads	Per call	9 000	15 000	621	1 034
Support	Per call	6 500	8 000	448	552
Day Players	Per call	6 500	7 000	448	483
Extras	Per call	750	950	52	66
South African Casting	Per Episode	30 000	80 000	2 069	5 517
Locations					
Exteriors	Daily	25 000	50 000	1 724	3 448
Interior	Daily	20 000	80 000	1 379	5 517
Office Rental	Monthly	40 000	80 000	2 759	5 517
Travel & Living					
Hotel Accommodation	Daily	1 600	4 500	110	310
Crew and Cast Per diems	Daily	250	600	17	41
Catering					
Pre-production & Post	Daily	80	90	6	6
Crew and Cast on set	Daily	220	240	15	17

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		Rand		Dollar	
Transport Rentals		Low	High	Low	High
Sedan	Weekly	1 680	4 600	116	317
4 x 4 Utility Vehicle	Weekly	3 500	5 500	241	379
Passenger Minibus	Weekly	6 250	8 750	431	603
Make -up/Wardrobe Trailer	Weekly	10 500	12 500	724	862
Artiste Trailer/Camper	Weekly	14 000	20 000	966	1 379
Equipment Panel van	Weekly	3 400	4 600	234	317
Equipment 8 Ton Truck	Weekly	7 000	8 800	483	607
Unit Costs		Low	High	Low	High
Paramedic/Nurse	Per week	7 500	9 500	517	655
Police/Traffic	Per man -hour	275	450	19	31
Security	Per 12hr shift	375	450	26	31

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

Situated at the southern tip of Africa, Cape Town has been established as a premier international film destination.

A combination of dramatic natural beauty, diversity of people, excellent creative and technical expertise, good logistics, infrastructure and value for money, make South Africa unrivalled as a film destination.

West of Cape Town, you find an Aegean-like coastline leading to the haunting deserts of Namibia with its vast dunes and lunar landscapes.

Central South Africa consists of vast arid open landscapes of scrub and canyons (much like Australia or Arizona). Johannesburg offers a bustling metropolis with high-rise, high density urban living. Pockets of inner city decay are surrounded by sprawling suburbia with lush gardens.

Within close proximity of Johannesburg is the African bush with film-friendly “big five” animals. Durban in the east is a popular destination for shows seeking a more tropical or jungle backdrop.

South Africa is known for its temperate and predictable weather.

Summer stretches from September through to May. In winter it rains in the south but remains dry and clear in the north which means excellent filming weather all year round.



PRODUCTION FEES



Production fees are generally standard across top service companies in South Africa and depend on services provided:

- Production service fees average \$20,000 per shoot week depending on the complexity of the project.
- Rebate management fees are based on a percentage of rebate secured.
- Treaty co-productions: a co-producer fee of about 1% of budget.