

Memorandum of Agreement for the DGA Basic Agreement and Freelance Live and Tape Television Agreement - 2020

The following are the negotiated changes to the 2017 DGA Basic Agreement and Freelance Live and Tape Television Agreement for the term beginning July 1, 2020.

10-116 First-Time Television Directors

“When an Employer employs a ‘first-time Director’ (as defined below) to direct an episode of a dramatic television or High Budget SVOD series, the individual must, prior to commencement of employment, attend the Television Director Orientation Course on Professional Standards for Episodic Directors (‘Orientation Program’) provided by the Guild.

“The Employer shall notify the Guild no later than thirty (30) days prior to commencement of employment of the ‘first-time Director,’ unless the employment is scheduled to commence within fewer than thirty (30) days of the assignment, in which case notice shall be given as soon as practicable.

“The Orientation Program, which shall be no more than one (1) day, shall be targeted towards educating participants about the responsibilities of a dramatic episodic television Director, and shall only be available to individuals who have been offered employment by an Employer as a ‘first-time Director.’ The curriculum shall be developed by the Guild with input from the Employers. The Orientation Program shall be taught principally by highly-experienced television Directors.

“The Guild shall offer the Orientation Program at least six (6) times per year at the DGA offices in Los Angeles and at least four (4) times per year at the DGA offices in New York. Individuals who reside in Los Angeles or New York or who are employed in Los Angeles or New York shall attend the Orientation Program before their assignment as a ‘first-time Director.’ For others who are living outside Los Angeles and New York, or for whom no Orientation Program is available in Los Angeles or New York before their assignment, the DGA shall make accommodations, such as one-on-one mentoring with an experienced television Director or other substitute orientation. An Employer shall not be required to travel a ‘first-time Director’ to attend the Orientation Program.

“For purposes of this provision, a ‘first-time Director’ means an individual who has not previously been employed as a Director of a dramatic motion picture, which includes a commercially released theatrical motion picture, an episode (including a pilot) of not less than twenty (20) minutes in length of a dramatic series (including a mini-series) made for free television, pay television, or basic cable, a High Budget SVOD Program, a long-form television motion picture or a made-for home video production. Shorts, commercials and music videos shall not be considered a dramatic television motion picture.