

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
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IATSE LOCAL 52 JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Dolly Grip
Reports to:	The Best Boy Grip & Key Grip

Job Description:

The Dolly Grip is a dedicated technician trained to operate the camera dolly. This means placing, leveling, moving, and building the track that holds the camera dolly and push the dolly during the filming of a scene. The Dolly Grip is responsible for the building and movement of the camera crane.

Duties & Responsibilities:

Duties include assembling the track that holds the camera dolly. This includes building several different kinds of tracks in several different environments. For example, one day the Dolly Grip may be building a short track in an air-conditioned soundstage, and another day he or she may be laying out pallets to keep the 100-foot track run from sinking into the sand on a desert shoot.

The Dolly Grip must also work closely with the camera crew to perfect the complex movements of operating the dolly during shoots/rehearsals. The Dolly Grip must hit his or her marks with a camera assistant who pulls the focus. The Dolly Grip must also operate the dolly when the camera is in handheld mode (on the operator's shoulders or in their hands). While the Camera Operator is moving with the camera, the Dolly Grip is responsible for the Operator's safety. The Dolly Grip silently directs the Operator (through gentle touches, nudges, pulls, and pushes) away from walls and other obstacles that the operator cannot see while concentrating on the image in the camera viewfinder.

Requirements:

Must be able to handle a quick-paced environment with long hours. Must be flexible with a strong work ethic. Specific training on grip equipment, dollies, and assembling and leveling the track is necessary to operate the equipment. Significant experience is required to operate equipment that carries cameras.

Knowledge of carpentry, , and cameras are very helpful to grips. Physically, they must be in good shape. They may have to move camera cranes or dollies as heavy as 400 pounds or climb heights as tall as 65 feet.

A college degree in film and television production is preferred, but not required. The most important requirement for a grip is experience, gained through on-the-job training.

Grips are required to be very flexible regarding work hours. If a scene to be shot takes place at night, the grip must work at night. Because motion picture production is a group effort, grips must be able to work well with others and be patient. A particular shot may have to be set up repeatedly. Must be mechanically inclined, have a thorough understanding of lighting and photography, and must not mind strenuous physical labor.