

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
19-02 Steinway Street Astoria, NY 11105
Phone: (718) 906-9440
Fax: (718) 777-1820



IATSE LOCAL 52

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Gaffer
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Job Description:

The Gaffer is the chief lighting technician on a motion picture and many tv productions. They are head of the Electric department, otherwise called a Key Electric. The Gaffer is responsible for all lighting and electrical requirements on a production and works closely with the Director of Photography to achieve the desired photographic look and quality

Duties:

As Key Electric, the Gaffer will interface with other department heads (grips, dressers, scenics, etc.) in realizing the vision of the director of photography and of the director. The Gaffer will designate and coordinate appropriate electricians, riggers, operators and other specialists at studio and locations as needed.

Skills & Education:

He/She is an artisan combining seasoned lighting sense with knowledge and understanding of theatrical and motion picture lighting techniques. They will know the instruments and equipment; their characteristics and deployment. Power sources, Distribution, Photometrics, Safe usage; these are all within the scope of the Gaffers responsibilities.

Note: "Gaffer" is a term-of-endearment long used in the theatrical and illumination trades particularly in Great Britain (and wherever films are made). It is a form of respect whose meanings include, "lamp lighter", "fixer", and, "old one".