

Above the Line

Development Costs	Rate	Total
Setting Up the LLC (Legal)	\$225.00	\$225.00
Script Copies	\$25.00	\$25.00
Copyright & WGA Registration	\$50.00	\$50.00
Subtotal:		\$300.00

Production Team	Amount	Unit	X	Rate	Total
Producer	X	X	X	\$0.00	\$0.00
Line Producer	X	X	X	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal:					\$0.00

Cast	Amnt	Unit	X	Rate	Total
The Leading Lady (6 out of the 7 days)	6 Days	Days	X	\$125.00	\$750.00
The Leading Man (5 out of the 7 days)	5 Days	Days	X	\$125.00	\$625.00
The Wife	2 Days	Days	X	\$125.00	\$250.00
The Girl's Best Friend	1 Days	Days	X	\$125.00	\$125.00
The Guy's Best Friend	1 Days	Days	X	\$125.00	\$125.00
Extra Characters * Non-Union			X	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cost of Casting / Auditions			X	\$50.00	\$50.00
Subtotal:					\$1,925.00

So, if I tell this story from the girl's perspective, that means I probably have more scenes with her than I do with anyone else. I divide my time between the leading man and his best friend, the leading lady and her best friend, the conflict with the wife, maybe bring in the parents, add a few unpaid day players and some extras to make it interesting. Thus far, I'm above the line at \$2,225, and I have \$5,775 to go.

Below the Line

Set Hires & Operations	Unit	X	Rate	Total
Camera Package: Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Kit with 2 Lenses, Tripod, Cage & ND Filters	7 Days	X	\$80.00	\$400.00
Light Kit (I'll purchase a basic Kit)		X	\$250.00	\$250.00
Sound Mixer	7 Days	X	\$150.00	\$1,050.00
Makeup Artist (won't use her every day)	6 Days	X	\$100.00	\$600.00
Swing / Grip	7 Days	X	\$100.00	\$700.00
Production manager (Doubling as Assistant Director)	7 Days	X	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Food Budget	7 Days	X	\$120.00	\$850.00
Props Budget (Purchase/ Rental)	X	X	\$200.00	\$200.00
Misc. incidentals, etc.	X	X	\$500.00	\$500.00
Subtotal:				\$5,550.00

Above the Line	\$2,225.00
Below the Line	\$5,550.00
Subtotal:	\$7,775.00

So, if I had \$10,000 to work with, I would aim to shoot my film for 80% of the budget (came close at \$7,775). I would utilize free locations, rent a very basic camera package, hire only essential personnel on the days that I need them, but pay them, feed them well, and do what I could to make this film look as professional as possible. If you own your gear, then you might be able to spend the extra money on SAG, and write in a role for a TV actor, at \$500-800 a day and shoot his/her scene on the last day of the shoot. This will help you get your film noticed and get you into festivals. I have created this budget under the assumption that you have access to a home or an apartment, that you have access to a laptop and a printer, some hard drives for storage and an editing software. I'm also assuming that you know your way around post-production, and that you don't have to hire people to finish your film. This is a true DIY indie film; all the balls are in your court.

If my math is correct – there's \$2,575 left in the budget. What are we going with that? First of all, that money should *not* be touched during the production of your film unless something horrible happens and your entire shoot is threatened. In which case, it's better to break the piggy bank and pay up rather than lose the entire film. If you've managed to get through your shoot without going over budget, and you find yourself in post-production with that 20% intact, here's what I would do with it:

Post & Release	Amnt	Unit	X	Rate	Total
Music Budget (5 Tracks @ Audiojungle)	5	Tracks	X	\$25	\$125
Festival Submissions (Early)	20	Festivals	X	\$25	\$500
Subtotal:					\$625.00

Distribution <i>If I didn't sell the film at a festival</i>	Amnt	Unit	X	Rate	Total
Wix Website (6 months)	6	Months	X	\$14	\$84
Quiver Digital (Sell Directly on iTunes & Google Play)	X	X	X	\$1,200	\$1,200
Sell on Amazon – Free	X	X	X	\$0	\$0
Advertising on AMS Amazon	30	Days	X	\$10	\$300
Subtotal:					\$1,584.00

I have also taken into consideration that you don't have any friends in the music business, in which case you have no choice but to pay for music. When I made *Pickings*, I received several offers to contribute music for \$0 in return for a shared promotion or an on-screen credit and a mention on our social media pages.

Okay, so I guess the purpose of this budget is to show you that with \$10K, you can make an ultra-low non-union film and have the money left over to distribute it yourself (if needed). And if you can make a \$10,000 film for \$8,000, then you can make a \$500K film for \$450K, and a \$3m film for \$2.5m – and *that* is a skill that studios and financiers will cherish. It's a skill that will keep you employed forever and keep you and your moviemaking business profitable.

“I feel that your ambitions should always exceed the budget.” ~ Guillermo del Toro