



Radio rates for the digital age

VOICEOVER ARTISTS CAN NOW CHECK THEY ARE RECEIVING THE RIGHT FEE WITH EQUITY'S ONLINE CALCULATOR

● **IN PLACE OF** the annual publication of the Equity agency rate card, the union has launched a website calculator.

When a voice artist features on a radio commercial they are due a fee for the use of their voice, this is called 'radio usage'. Fees are per artist, per script, per radio station and per three months on air.

The new online calculator is designed to help speed up the process for voices in radio by making all the calculations for them, along with their agents, the ad agencies and the producers, each of whom require this information.

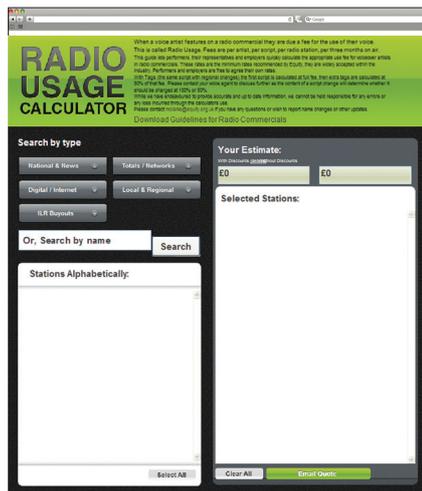
The calculations for payments are quite complicated due to there being a number of discounts, including those for bonded stations as well as buyouts for each of the total nationwide FM and AM frequencies in local radio.

Radio is a fast-evolving world with stations constantly being bought out, going bankrupt or being consolidated into larger groupings. Therefore, making the rates information available online keeps this vital data about the hundreds of commercial radio stations much more current.

"This guide lets performers, their representatives and employers quickly calculate the appropriate use fee for voiceover artists in radio commercials," said

Matt Clarke, the Equity organiser who was instrumental in getting the calculator created. "The rates are the minimum rates recommended by Equity, which are widely accepted within the industry. However, performers and employers are free to agree their own rates."

The site also contains guidelines for radio commercials applicable for all engagements for independent local radio other than those made by the radio stations. Try the site at: www.radiousage.co.uk. For further information about the calculator, contact Matt Clarke on mclarke@equity.org.uk



The fight for fair pay in film

SUPPORTING ARTIST WINS TRIBUNAL AGAINST NON-PAYING PRODUCER AND CALLS FOR INDUSTRY CHANGE

● **NICK THOMAS-WEBSTER** was employed as a supporting artist on the UK film Jack Falls but was refused pay because the producer believed the contract Nick signed meant he agreed to work unpaid.

"Many actors, extras and supporting artists do not realise that they are entitled to the national minimum wage even if they have signed an agreement with the film to waive their fee," said Nick. "These productions are paying everybody else but think that supporting artists deserve nothing and I felt this should be challenged."

Nick took the producers to an employment tribunal and won the case. There was no dispute that Nick worked on the film, the disagreement was whether Nick was entitled to be paid for his time as an employee. "The test of whether you are an employee is: does your employer dictate your hours, your place of work and the nature of work," said Nick. "If so, then you are at least entitled to the minimum wage." Nick wants more Equity members to tackle the practice of non-payment of performers. To find out more about this issue, contact Tim Gale on tgale@equity.org.uk



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