

Which theatres should file the Tier Contract?

Effective January 1, 2010, ALL seasonal theatres and not-for-profit Theatres/Producers not subject to an SDC collectively bargained agreement should file the Tier Contract. *Please note that this Contract is not applicable for any Production in New York City in a theatre of 100 seats or more.*

I am working on a commercial production outside of NYC. Does the Tier Contract apply here?

All Commercial entities/ventures should contact SDC for the appropriate contract.

Can I still file a Special Contract after January 1, 2010?

Yes. If the project you will be working on falls outside of the traditional theatrical format (e.g. a live industrial event, cruise ships, theme parks, staged reading, etc.), the Producer should properly fill out the Special Contract request form on the Contracts page of the SDC website. If the Union determines that such activity does not apply to the Tier contract or a collectively bargained agreement, a coded Special Contract will be issued specifically for that activity. Only coded Special contracts issued by the SDC will be accepted after January 1, 2010.

How is the Tier level determined?

The contract sets minimum compensation amounts based on three criteria:

- i) Ticket prices
- ii) Seating capacity/ House size
- iii) Number of performances

The electronic Tier Contract form has been designed to calculate the appropriate tier *automatically* based on an average of the three criteria mentioned above. Employers should complete the form electronically and allow the form to calculate the Tier category. The contract form will provide the proper Tier classification as well as the appropriate health contribution. Check out the PDF Tier Contract Form link on our web-site to understand how the above-mentioned data automatically calculates the applicable Tier.

How does SDC know that the Theatre/Producer is supplying the correct criteria, and therefore the correct Tier for a particular venue/show?

The data supplied (ticket price, seating capacity and number of performances) are clearly on the contract form. SDC will expect the Member Director and/or Choreographer to self-police that the information on the contract is accurate. Of course, no one should ever sign a contract without reading it first!

Can I file a Tier Contract for no compensation?

No. With the exception of the Special Contract and the LORT OPEN Contract, all SDC contracts require a minimum fee.

I'm a Director-Choreographer. How is my minimum fee determined?

A Director-Choreographer's minimum fee is 150% of the Director's minimum fee for the appropriate tier.

Can I sign a Tier Contract with a below minimum compensation level?

No, members may not sign contracts at below minimum terms. If the contract presented to a member is below minimum terms a member may contact the SDC for assistance.

If I negotiate a fee greater than minimum does my pension and health increase?

Since the pension payment is an amount equal to 8% of your fee it will increase as your fee increases. Health payments are based on the Tier and may not be increased or decreased.

What happens if a show is extended?

If a show extends beyond the originally contracted period, the Director, Choreographer, or Director-Choreographer is due not less than 6% of their contractual fee per week pro-ratable based on a 7 performance week.

If I get hired to direct or choreograph at a college or university, is the Tier Contract applicable?

Yes. There is an Academic Tier Contract for this purpose. The term Academic refers to any Academic Institution, including High Schools, Community Colleges, Colleges and Universities. Though this Tier does not set a minimum fee, it does provide pension and health contributions.

I am directing/choreographing for a festival. Is the Tier Contract the appropriate agreement to use?

For all festival contracts other than the New York Musical Theatre Festival you should contact SDC to determine the appropriate agreement.