

Being an extra

People often think that being a movie extra is glamorous and a step fame and fortune but it's not always like that. Here are the experiences of Maura Kutner and Lizzie Cahill, who worked as movie extras.

People often think of extra work as an easy way to make money. Maura Kutner, a movie extra, realized that it's not always true when she was a background character in an Angelina Jolie movie. Kutner told Marie Claire that her call time was 7:15 a.m., and sometimes even earlier. She worked at least 10 hours and she made about \$80, before taxes, for her day's work. Even worse, lunch wasn't until 2:30 p.m., then she decided to quit.

They don't always get to meet the stars. Lizzie Cahill is probably one of the most fortunate extras to work in Hollywood. Cahill, who worked as an extra on both *Gods of Egypt* and *The Great Gatsby*, had wonderful encounters with Tobey Maguire and Gerard Butler while working on each film. She claims that both of them are incredibly nice. However, she didn't get a chance to talk to Leonardo DiCaprio at all when she participated in *Gatsby*.

Certain movie scenes require huge amounts of extras. The chariot scene in *Ben Hur* used 15,000 extras. The funeral scene in *Gandhi* required 300,000 extras. That's a lot of people, which costs a lot of money, even if most of the extras aren't paid well. Because of this, some movies digitally create extras, like in *Gladiator*, where one scene used about 2,000 real people, and the rest of the 35,000 people in the background were added digitally to reduce costs.

Are these sentences true or false?

1. People think that working as an extra can help you to become rich and famous.
2. Mara Kutner had a terrible experience being an extra.
3. Mara Kutner could start work at 10:00 am.
4. Mara Kutner worked long hours and made little money.
5. Lizzie Cahill could meet Tobey Maguire and Gerard Butler but couldn't meet Leonardo DiCaprio.

6. Some scenes require lots of extras and that increases the costs.
7. Some movies add extras digitally because there aren't many extras available.
8. The funeral scene in *Gandhi* required 500,000 extras.
9. *Gladiator* used only real people as extras.
10. They add extras digitally to increase the quality of the movie.