



BROADCASTING ENTERTAINMENT CINEMATOGRAPH AND THEATRE UNION

## **Advice for members scheduled/engaged to work on “Hit Me Baby One More Time”**

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BBC Resources Ltd has, regrettably, taken a booking to provide studio and post-production facilities for this production, which was originally due to be transmitted live from ITV's London Weekend site at the South Bank.

All BECTU and Amicus ITV staff who were due to work on this programme began a 36-hour strike at 0700 on April 8, and the show's transfer to Studio 8 at BBC Television Centre at short notice is a deliberate attempt to undermine their industrial action.

BECTU has protested in the strongest possible terms both to BBC Resources Ltd, and its sole owner the BBC itself. Both parties have however continued with arrangements to transmit this ITV programme from Television Centre.

If current industrial legislation permitted it, BECTU would not hesitate to instruct BBC members to boycott the production, and has already taken steps to alert thousands of freelance members in the London area that the BBC may try to engage them as strikebreakers.

However, the union's legal advice is that BBC members are not legally involved in the ITV pay dispute which led to the strike after a 3.3% offer was rejected, and could not therefore participate in any industrial action ballot which would be legally required before a boycott could be called.

BECTU is formally advising members scheduled to work on “Hit Me Baby” that they should withdraw goodwill throughout rehearsal, recording, and transmission. The same advice will stand on April 15/16, when ITV members will again be on strike, and this programme is likely to be mounted at the BBC.

In particular, members are asked to:

- **Rigorously observe limits on working time** - 12 hour maximum day, 11 hour break between duties, no more than 6 hours without a mealbreak
  - **Stick rigidly to job descriptions** - no work outside your own discipline or level of seniority, no shortcuts to speed up activities
  - **Pay meticulous attention to health & safety** - this is a hastily-planned show using contractors unfamiliar with BBC procedures - be on your guard
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