

Location Audio Checklist

VIDEOGRAPHY · CLEAN DIALOGUE

Bad sound loses viewers faster than bad pictures. Work top to bottom; the first three items fix most problems on their own.

CAPTURE

- ☐ Microphone 20 to 40cm from the mouth, aimed at the chest-to-chin line.
- ☐ Boom from above so the mic stays out of frame and out of the shadow.
- ☐ Lavalier hidden under one layer of cotton, a hand's width below the chin.
- ☐ Deadcat or foam windshield fitted outdoors, even in light breeze.
- ☐ Cable looped and taped so tugs never reach the capsule.

LEVELS

- ☐ Peaking set to about -12 dB for normal speech, under -6 dB for loud moments.
- ☐ Record 32-bit float if your recorder offers it.
- ☐ Never raise levels in camera to compensate for a distant mic.
- ☐ Monitor with closed-back headphones, not the camera's built-in speaker.

THE ROOM

- ☐ Fridge, air conditioning and fans switched off and noted so they go back on.
- ☐ Curtains closed, hard surfaces covered with blankets out of frame.
- ☐ Thirty seconds of room tone recorded before anyone leaves.
- ☐ Echo test: clap once and listen for a ring or flutter.

SAFETY NETS

- ☐ Lavalier and shotgun running together on separate channels.
- ☐ Spare batteries and a second recorder for interviews.
- ☐ Timecode or a hand clap at the head of each take for syncing.
- ☐ A short test recording reviewed before the subject starts talking.

FIELD NOTE

If you can only fix one thing, move the microphone closer. Distance costs you more quality than any budget limit ever will.