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THE BPJ

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CAPTURE WHAT IS GOING AWAY FIRST

When you are working alone, ask "what will go away" and capture that first. Then turn your back on the action and look for the reaction. THAT may be your character.

Manage your time. Set deadlines throughout the day so that you stay on schedule, and budget extra time for what takes you the longest. It doesn't matter how great your video is if you don't have time to edit it together well.

Shoot stand-ups first. Do this whenever possible. You look the best *before* you've been lugging the camera around in 90-degree heat all day.

Park close. Whenever possible, bug security guards, building owners and people you're interviewing for help in getting the closest parking spot. Don't lug all your gear through an entire parking lot if you don't have to!

Use your tripod. The only time you shouldn't use your tripod is when: you'll lose the shot if you take it (i.e. breaking news and the suspect is running away), you can't physically take it where you're going (i.e. secured area or 5-mile hike through mangroves) or you want shaky shots for effect. Some VJ/BPJ's like using monopods to steady their shot. The monopod is lighter and easier to carry. But you give up some stability. Just about anything is better than handholding a shot, especially if you are zoomed in on a subject.

Always use headphones when you are recording sound. Just because you see the audio levels move doesn't mean you're recording the right audio. Keep the headphone off one ear to hear what's happening around you.

TIGHT-MEDIUM-WIDE/ ACTION-REACTION

Say it over and over while you are shooting.

Two-time winner of the National Press Photographers Association Photographer of the Year Award, Darren Durlach, says, especially when he is working alone, he has a saying that he plays in his head over and over:

“Tight, Medium, Wide, Action, Reaction, Tight, Medium Wide, Action, Reaction.. That is what I do constantly in my head.”

It is his way of remembering that he has to constantly change the focal length of his shots and constantly look for reaction to the action he is capturing. It is also a way of editing in the camera, so when you are pressed for time in the editing process, and VJ's often will be

pressed for time, you will have shots that you can use to transition from scene to scene without searching through a load of video. If you shoot a tight shot then a wide shot, they can easily edit together. If you shoot a ton of tight shots, then a lot of wide shots, you will find yourself searching through your video as you edit and that eats up precious time on deadline.



REMEMBER:
Use the Internet.
Blogs, Twitter and Facebook are good ways to get viral traffic to your work

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