

Christina Fox

IBC2009

UrbanFox.TV

Shooting Better Interviews

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All of this presentation will go
on our website

www.urbanfox.tv/seminar

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Grammar

- Grammar helps us make sense of what is written
- Video grammar helps viewers make sense of what they are seeing
- It stops us all getting confused

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Crossing The Line

- Sometimes called the 180° rule
- Helps viewers understand the geography
- But, really it is all about continuity...


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Geography...




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Continuity...




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Geography...



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Continuity...



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So, how do we keep the continuity from shot to shot?

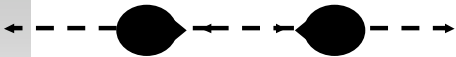
Don't cross the line...

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Define The Line

The line is the eye line between the two people



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And the rule is

- Stay one side of the line for all your shots
- It doesn't matter which side you choose – but get the side with the best background
- Just be consistent (continuity again)

So, what happens if you cross the line...

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Video 1

- Not crossing
- Then crossing

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Checklist

So, what do we need to do before we start recording?

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Distractions

- Noisy location?
 - Is it relevant to the story?
 - Will the viewer see the source of the noise?
 - Can you switch it off?
 - Mobile Phones - Air Conditioners - Fridges (car keys!)
 - Can you use a different location?
 - Put a sign on the office door - 'interview in progress'

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Distractions

- Video clip 2

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Distractions

- Find a fixed (non swivel) chair for your interviewee
- Check the background behind the chair (is it boring, too busy, too bright?)
- Watch out for bright windows

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Tripod Position

- Raise the camera lens - level with the eyes of interviewee
- Place camera as close to the eye-line as possible
- Check spirit level

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Shot Size

- Zoom out to an MCU of the interviewee
- Good for big TVs and the internet
- Leaves space for the name and job title
- Doesn't show the hands
- Shows just enough background

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Picture Quality

- Check interviewees eyes are in focus
- Check exposure
- White balance camera

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Audio Quality

- Mic interviewee and interviewer
 - Quiet place - use personal microphones
 - 2 mics clean - on separate channels - useful in the edit
 - Hands free
 - Fulfil rule No 1 of audio
 - Can be wireless
 - Need to keep an eye on two levels

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Microphones

- Noisy place? - use a directional microphone
- Used correctly a directional mic will reduce the background noise compared to voice
- You'll need a spare pair of hands or a mic stand

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The right mic - in the right place



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We're Ready

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Video clip 3+4

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Shot List

- Interviewee
 - Always, shoot this first
- Hands
- Over the shoulder 2 shot
- Reverse questions
- Cutaways or Sequences

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Video clip 5

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Any questions?

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