

PRODUCTION ON A BUDGET

cutting cost but not quality

Christina Fox

Guild of Television Cameramen

www.urbanfox.tv

Guild of TV Cameramen

- Help & support broadcast cameramen
- Magazine (2) and newsletter (4)
- Free workshops for members
- Cameraman's forum
- Member's discounts
- www.gtc.org.uk
- Talk to us on our stand

2

UrbanFox Ltd

All of this presentation is on my website

www.urbanfox.tv/seminar

3

Reducing costs

- General advice - to help you make some good cost effective decisions
- Some specific kit ideas
- More kit advice at <http://tinyurl.com/c6rk6>

4

Retailer Recommendations

- They sell for a good price
- Not necessarily the cheapest
- Good after sales service
- Most can do repairs and routine maintenance on-site
- I've bought from them or a trusted friend has recommended them

5

Second hand Camera?

- Lots of cheap PD150 and PD170s
- Tried and tested
- Good quality pictures
- Good enough to be broadcast most nights

6

What to check

- Drum run hours.....bigger = cheaper
- 200 x10Hr = 2,000 hours = retirement age
- Check bodywork
- Check side handle for wear and tear
- Ask what has the camera been used for
- Put in a tape and record something

7

Where to buy used cameras

- www.visuals.co.uk
- www.mitcorp.co.uk
- www.shootingpeople.org
- www.eBay.co.uk
- www.mcdauctions.co.uk

8

But, but, but...

- PD150s ceased production 3 years ago - so, probably no warranty
- PD150 and PD170s are 4:3 - broadcasters don't want 4:3
- For the price of a second hand PD150 you could have a brand new HDV camera

9

HVR-A1

- HDV, DVCAM and DV
- 16 x 9
- Single CMOS chip
- £1,375 (£1,615)



Type HVR-A1E into <http://froogle.google.co.uk/>

10

Bigger budget?

- Future proofed
- 16:9
- 3 CCDs
- HDV or DVCPRO HD
- Lightweight
- Good quality pictures

11

Sony HDR-FX1



<http://tinyurl.com/88bby> - <http://tinyurl.com/9xmct>
These sites list the differences between FX1 and Z1

12

Sony HVR-Z1



13

JVC GY-HD100/101



14

Canon XLH1



15

Panasonic HVX200



16

Comparing all four...

- Adam Wilt's article on www.dv.com



17

Comparing all four...

"All the 1/3" cameras clustered together more tightly than we expected. Each camera excelled at some aspect of image rendering, but all of them were more alike than different; none stood out as being clearly superior all around.

We came away convinced ... that the choice of camera should be made more on features and ergonomics than on image quality."

Adam Wilt www.dv.com

18

Buy the Sony Z1 if....

- You are a big fan of the PD150/170
- You intend to make documentaries
 - shoot interlaced (50i)
- You want to work for the BBC or London based production companies
- You want a good value - all round camera

19

Buy the JVC HD100/101 if

- You're shooting a low budget movie
- You love progressive (film look) pictures
- Interchangeable lenses are important to you (and you can afford them)
- You intend to do a lot of hand held /on the shoulder camera operating

20

Buy the Canon XLH1 if...

- You own a studio - but also need a location camera
- You have the kit to handle HD-SDI output
- You love interchangeable lenses
- You're confident/geeky enough to change the colour matrix, gamma, black stretch
- You've always loved Canon's XL range

21

Buy the Panasonic HVX200 if...

- You believe the cost of P2 cards will drop
- Money is no object ;-)
- You intend to go fully tapeless
- You want the faster workflow of DVCPRO HD (compared to slow HDV)
- You shoot fast moving subjects (music and sport) and are worried about mpeg artifacts
- Want to use green screen effects (4:2:2)

22

Where to buy a camera...

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| ■ Prokit | www.prokit.co.uk |
| ■ PEC | www.pec.co.uk |
| ■ Mitcorp | www.mitcorp.co.uk |
| ■ Visual Impact | www.visuals.co.uk |
| ■ Top Teks | www.top-teks.co.uk |
-
- www.bhphotovideo.com (New York)

23

Hire or Buy?

Sony Z1 @ 1 weeks hire = £400

9 weeks hire = 1 new Z1

24

What tape should you buy



25

What Sony tape should you buy

Premium.....£2.50

DVCAM.....£8.50

HDV Master..£10.50



26

Where to buy tape

- www.carousel.uk.com
- www.first4media.com
- www.protape.co.uk
- www.feltech.co.uk
- www.cva.co.uk

27

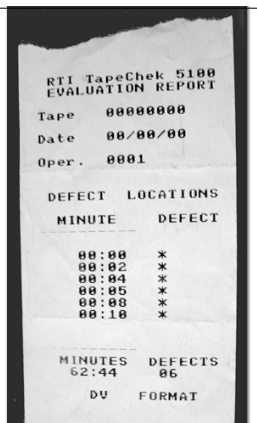
EVALUATED & RECYCLED

- www.cva.co.uk Creative Video Associates
 - Bulk erase
 - Remove old labels (and add new ones)
 - Remove loose iron oxide
 - Evaluate for defects
 - Include defect readout

28

Evaluated Tape

- I know....
- How many defects there are
- Where they are



Recycled miniDV costs...

- 60 minute tape...
- 50p - cleaned and erased
- £1.47 - cleaned, erased and evaluated

Ex VAT

30

Need an edit deck?

- HVR-M10E
- £2,000 ex VAT
- £2,350 inc VAT



31

How about an edit deck with a camera attached?

- HVR-A1
- £1,375 ex VAT
- £1,615 inc VAT
- = £700 saving



32

Buy a really good tripod

- Spend as much as possible (£250 - £1,000)
- Weight (carbon fibre is expensive)
- Robust - outlive the camera
- Don't get a photographic tripod
- Buy a video tripod with a leveling bowl

33

Alternative Support

- Monopod (Manfrotto 682)
- Magic arm with Superclamp



34

Lighting kit

- Lights are tools. You need the correct light to do a specific job well.

SO...

- Please don't buy three identical lamps

35

Interview kit

- Hard light
 - Dedo aspheric2 (150W)
- Soft Light
 - Lowell Rifa 44 (300W)



36

Interview Kit

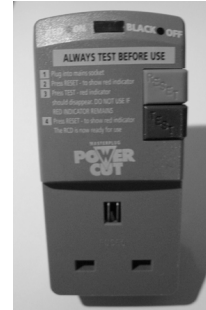
- £870+VAT Prokit



37

Lighting Kit Extras

- RCD
- Circuit tester
- Good training course



Editing

Buy a Mac



- Either wait for the new Intel models
- or
- Buy a refurbished Mac - every Wed am <http://tinyurl.com/22z8t>

39

40

GarageBand

- IPR
- Performance rights



41

RAM

www.crucial.com

42

Copyright

What is in your contract?

43

Future Earnings

“The ideal contract (from a copyright owners perspective) is one which *licenses* your work and involves the purchaser having to pay royalties for *each and every* future use of your work.”

Kate Fox - Thompsons Solicitors

44

Stock footage

- Your pension fund
- Real assets
- Value will yo-yo
- But you must own the copyright

45

Postcard

Training contact details



W.A.F.F.L.E mnemonic

46

Any questions?

47

Please, don't forget this presentation is at

www.urbanfox.tv/seminar

48