

Workshop Companion Guide

Episode VI: Get Your Camera

What we cover in this episode

In this episode we cover the basics of camera operations! From what different types of camera you can use, to the basic functionality of a typical camera. We also discuss how to add movement to your camera angles and go through some of our top tips for making the most of your camera. Plus, we screen the short film “Perdu”.

- **Camera Options:**
 - Smartphones, Digital Cameras, Other Options
- **Basic Functions:**
 - Focus, Aperture, Framing
- **Movement:**
 - Zoom, Pan, Tilt, Dolly
 - Short film screening ‘Perdu’ by Tallulah Remond-Stephen
- **Top Tips:**
 - Portrait vs Landscape, Background, Lighting, Sound, Quick Check

Discussion leaders

Topics for individual and group discussion:

- **Camera Options:** Have you made films on your phone before? Maybe for social media? What challenges did you face and what did you find was successful?
- **Basic Functions:** Do you think images look better when they use the Rule of Thirds? Why/Why not?
- **Movement:** Which movement style did you like the most? Why?
- **Top Tips:** Why do you think it is important to have a tidy background for your film?

Activities

- Experiment by filming your own clip! Take 3 or more shots from the storyboard you made last episode and give filming them a try!
- **OPTIONAL** Before filming your clip, try and create a shotlist for it! You can find a shotlist example in the activity sheet for this episode.
- **OPTIONAL** Try to recreate a scene from a favourite TV show or movie. Change up the angles, shot types and movement and see how it changes the scene.
- **OPTIONAL** Start testing the settings on the camera you’re planning to use.
- **OPTIONAL** Using images found on the Activity Sheet, circle the focal point of each image applying the Rule of Thirds.

Workshop Activity Worksheet

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Activity 1: Experiment by filming your own clip! Take 3 or more shots from the storyboard you made last episode and give filming them a try. Record your outcome below.

Activity 2: Before filming your clip, try and create a shotlist for it! Try using the simple shotlist template below.

Script/ SB Page #	Shot #	Interior/ Exterior	Shot	Camera Angle	Camera Move	Audio	Subject	Description of Shot



Activity 3: Try and recreate a scene from a favourite TV show or movie. Change up the angles, shot types, and movement and see how it changes the scene. Record your outcome below.

NEXTWAVE

REGIONAL. YOUTH. FILM

Workshop Activity Worksheet

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Activity 4: Start testing the settings on the camera you're planning to use for your short film. Record the outcome below.

Activity 5: In the pictures below, circle the focal point of each image according to the Rule of Thirds.



Camera Movement

There are basically five types of camera movement in film, and they'll work with your camera either handheld or held stable on a tripod or table - though to different effects. Remember that a stable camera will be steady and smooth, while handheld will be raw and a bit shaky.

- **Zoom** - Okay you know this one. Zooming in and out can be a useful way to add movement to an image or draw focus to something important. Be sure and physically move your camera, as in camera zoom options typically degrade the image quality.
- **Pan** - Panning is great for your establishing shots and setting a sense of place. Panning means rotating your camera horizontally at an angle across an image.
- **Tilt** - Tilting is the horizontal partner of the pan. As you move the camera up and down at an angle, you can use this movement to introduce characters or new locations.
- **Dolly** - Dollying is really fun! You can add heaps of impact and drama with a dolly. Using wheels or a very steady camera, move the camera either towards or away from the subject, without moving the focus point.
- **Truck** - the same as dollying, but you move the camera left to right instead of back and forth. Less common than the dolly, a fun trick you can use is placing the camera on fabric on a table and in a stable motion pulling the fabric across.

Advanced Movement

- **Pedestal** - and the slightly more advanced cousin of the dolly and truck - a pedestal. Moving the camera up and down across the subject. Tricky without a tripod, but fun to pull off!
- **Rack Focus** - okay this one isn't quite a 'camera movement' but it is a really fun technique that adds a sense of movement to the image. Without stopping recording, shift the focus ring between two subjects in the image - pretty cool!

Top Tips for Filming

- Portrait or Landscape? - Filming in landscape when using your phone is a best practice as it will give you more options when you get into your editing and the footage will fill the whole screen.
- Backgrounds - Choose clean uncluttered backgrounds - less is more. Make sure there isn't anything in the background that is taking the attention away from your character.
- Lighting - Avoid lighting that is directly overhead and avoid fluorescent lights all together. Try to film outdoors at golden hour – early in the morning or later in the afternoon.
- Quick check – Film a quick 5 second preview. Is your character where you want them to be? Are you happy with the background? Is there too much noise? Is your team happy with the shot? Then go for the real take.
- Sound - Sound is 50% of your film, so when on set - plug a set of headphones into your camera and listen out for distracting background noises or wind hitting the microphone.
- Camera placement - When filming dialogue, place your camera as close to eye level as possible and make sure you have your characters eyes in focus.
- Costumes - Make sure your characters have removed any noisy accessories. Make sure everybody is feeling comfortable in their costumes - as this will show if they are not.
- Hair/makeup - It's a good idea to have your characters wearing a translucent face powder if possible - this will remove shine from their face. Check your teeth, make sure you don't have anything stuck in your teeth. Have a quick check of your hair and make sure this is how you want it to look.
- Batteries - Make sure your camera/phone battery is fully charged before heading out to film. When you are filming keep an eye on your battery life. Pack spare batteries when you head out filming.
- Storage - same goes for storage! Either make sure you've got heaps of space on your phone or bring spare SD cards for your camera.