

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CAMERA

Christina Fox

Guild of Television Cameramen

www.urbanfox.tv

Guild of TV Cameramen

- Help and support to broadcast cameramen
- Magazine (2) and newsletter (4)
- Free workshops for members
- Cameraman's forum where you can get help and advice
- www.gtc.org.uk
- Talk to us on our stand

Supporting your camera

- Hints and tips to help you spend your money wisely
- I am a big fan of tripods

UrbanFox Ltd

All of this presentation is on my website

www.urbanfox.tv/seminar

Hand Held - cons

- Wobble, wobble, wobble
- ...especially when camera is zoomed in
- Can look amateurish
- Shoulder ache and back pain
- Some cameras are not designed to be hand held

Hand Held

- It's cheap
- It's relatively easy
- No setting up time
- Go where you want - when you want

Bean Bags

- Cheap
- So, simple you can make your own
- Great for low angle shots
- Fast set up - useful if you might be 'moved on'
- Easy to set up camera in difficult places
- Easy to transport

Bean bags

- The Pod - www.7dayshop.com
- Double bean bag - www.wildlifewatchingsupplies.co.uk
- Cinesaddle - www.cinesaddle.com



Bean Bag - cons

- Can't pan or tilt easily
- Needs a solid platform (but not even)
- No spirit level included
 - 7dayshop do hotshoe spirit level



Monopods - pros

- Cheap
- Easy to use
- Quick set up
- Small footprint!
- Easier to get high angle shots
- Easily get very low angle shot (upside down)

Monopod with Feet!

- Manfrotto 682



Monopods - cons

- You can't let go
- Unless you have a good head - difficult to tilt camera (although easy to pan)
- Need a remote zoom controller when working at height

Tripods

- Good, stable images
- Shots are level (unless you want a Dutch angle)
- Great when zoomed in
- Perfect when focus pulling
- Smooth moves - fast or slow
- You won't get back ache

Thought for the day

“Reputations are *earned* by being able to hand hold a camera well - reputations are *kept* by putting it back on the tripod.”

David Drinkwater - Senior cameraman NZ

Choosing a Tripod

- Vinten } all owned by
- Manfrotto } parent company
- Sachtler } Vitec

- Miller
- Panther

How Much?

- Spend as much as possible
- £250 - £1,000 for DV and HDV
- £1,000+ for DSR500 type camera

Check out...

- Robust
 - should out-live your camera

- Weight
 - Fit for purpose
 - Carbon fibre is expensive

Height?

- Min and Max height
 - Baby legs?

- Two sections or three sections?
 - How big is the boot of your car?

- Easy to use leg adjustments

Mid level spreader - pros

- Easier to have legs at different heights eg up stairs
- Good for uneven ground

Mid level spreader - cons

- Easy to lose the feet!
- Can have a large footprint when fully extended (although some are adjustable)

Ground level spreader - pros

- Offer better torsion rigidity (compared to mid level)
- Snow shoe effect - useful for skiing shoots

Ground level spreader - cons

- Subjected to the grounds heat and cold, so, cheaper one may snap or warp
- Can get dirty and muddy - need to be cleaned to prevent seizing up
- Best on a flat surface
- Takes time to remove it

Other stuff...

- Spiked feet
- Spirit level
- Quick release hot shoe
- Separate pan and tilt head frictions

Stabilisation Systems

- Small hand held rigs
- Full body Steadicam
- Jibs
- Cranes

www.glidecam.com



www.steadicam.com



www.abc-products.de



www.steadystick.de/e/home.htm



atscomms.com/CoolCam/index.html



www.b-hague.co.uk



www.dvtec.tv

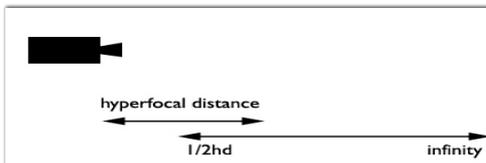


www.dvtec.tv



Hyperfocal Distance

- Focus one meter away
- Zoom out as wide as you can go
- ...everything from 50cm to infinity will be in focus



Any Questions?

Thanks for coming along

www.urbanfox.tv/seminar