**VOCABULARY**

**VIDEO PRODCUTION TERMINOLOGY**

**Action** – during filming, indicates the start of a current take.

**Aspect Ratio** – The relationship between the height and width of a motion picture or television frame expressed numerically.

**Big Close-Up/Choker (BCU)** – human face occupies as much of the frame as possible and still shows the key features of eyes, nose, and mouth at once-however, the top of forehead and bottom of chin are cut off.

**Camera Operator** – the person in charge of running the camera. Responsible for ensuring proper framing and double-checking focus during a shot. Sometimes starts and stops the recording process of the camera as well.

**Close-Up Shot (CU)** – Any detail shot where the object of interest being photographed takes up the majority of the frame. Details will be magnified. When photographing a human being, the bottom of frame will just graze the top part of their shoulders and the top edge of frame may just cut off the top part of their head or hair. Sometimes called a headshot.

**Cut** – in filming, to change from one shot to another immediately, in directing, called by director to stop action by the performers, cameras, and audio equipment. In film editing, to eliminate unwanted portion (visual or audio) of a film.

**Director** – the person in charge of interpreting the story and characters from the screenplay. Generally turns the written words into selected shots. Works with actors to achieve desired characterization. Collaborates with many other members of the production and post-production teams.

**Directory of Photography/Cinematographer (DP or DOP)** – the person in charge of creating the overall “look” of the film. Chief member of the camera department. Works with director to select the shots. Often consults on color correction and grading during post-production.

**Editor** – the person, during post-production, responsible for editing picture and sound elements into the final story that will be experienced by the audience.

**Effect-to-Cause Model** – moving from idea to the desired effect on the viewer and then backing up to decide on the specific medium you will use.

**Establishing Shot** – typically an extreme long shot at the beginning of a scene designed to inform viewers of a change in location and to orient them to general mood and relationship place of subjects in the scene.

**Exterior (EXT)** – used in a line of script, indicating that the scene occurs outdoors.

**Extreme Close-up (ECU)** – Purely a detail shot – framing favors one aspect of a subject such as his/her eyes, mouth, ear, or hand only – OR a solitary object or magnified portion of a larger object.

**Extreme Long Shot/Extreme Wide Shot (XLS, ELS, EWS or XWS)** – encompasses a wide and deep field of view, forming an image that shows a large amount of the environment within the film space.

**Frame** – the entire rectangular area of the recorded image with zones of top, bottom, left, right, center, and depth.

**Gaffer** – the person in charge of the electrical department. In consultation with the DP, chooses and set the lighting fixtures that illuminate the film’s sets or locations.

**Grip** – Grips have many responsibilities and are capable of performing many tasks on a film set that involve moving and supporting things.

**High Definition (HD)** – A reference to the increased image quality and wider frame size (16:9 aspect ration) of the digital video format. The increase in vertical line resolution increases the sharpness and color intensity of the playback image.

**Interior (INT)** – used in a script indicating that the scene occurs indoors.

**Location filming** – filming that occurs at a place not constructed specifically for the production.

**Long Shot (LS)** – When photographing a standing human being, their entire body is visible within the frame and a large amount of the surrounding environment is also visible around them. Sometimes called a wide shot (WS).

**Medium Close-Up/Bust Shot (MCU)** – Sometimes called a bust shot or “two-button” for the tight bottom frame cutting off at the chest, roughly where you would see the top two buttons on a shirt.

**Medium Requirements** – all content elements, productions elements and people needed to make the video.

**Medium Long Shot/Knee Shot (MLS)** – traditionally framed that the bottom of the frame cuts off the leg either just below or just above the knee. It is sometimes referred to as the “Cowboy” because in American Western movie there was interest in being able to show the firearm in the holster strapped to the thigh of a cowboy.

**Medium Shot (MS)** – When photographing a standing human being, the bottom of the frame will cut off the person around the waist.

**News Production Personnel** – people assigned exclusively to the production of news documentaries and special events.

**Nontechnical Production Personnel** – People concerned primarily with nontechnical production matters that lead from the basic ideas to the final screen image.

**Off Screen (OS) or Off Camera (OC)** – direction in a screenplay when a subject or subject or sound is outside of the camera frame.

**Post Production** – Production phase where the video and audio editing takes place.

**Preproduction** – Production phases that includes all the prep activities before you move to studio.

**Producer** – Film, the chief of a movie production in all matters, except the creative efforts of the directors. Examples include raising funds, hiring key personnel, and arranging for distributors.

**Production** – A phase of production. All activities in which an event is video recorded.

**Scene** – Continuous block of story telling either set in a single location or following a particular character. A scene may be composed of many shots from different camera angles or just one shot from one camera set-up.

**Screenwriter** – the person who writes the screenplay, which is either an original idea or an adaptation of an exiting property. Not typically involved during the production or post-production phases of the project.

**Set** – An artificial environment constructed to make filming easier that appears natural when viewed from the camera angle.

**Shot** – one action of event that is recorded by a camera at one time. A shot is the smallest building block used to edit a motion picture.

**Sound Mixer** – the person in charge of running any audio recording equipment on set. Maintains good levels of sound during recording.

**Standard Definition (SD)** – a reference to the normal image quality and frame size of most televisions around the world. 4:3 aspect ration for television reception of SD.

**Technical Personnel** – people who operate and maintain the technical equipment.

**Very Long Shot/Very Wide Shot (VLS)** – Environment within the film space is still important as it fills much of the screen, but the human figure is more visible and limited clothing detail may be observed. May be used as an establishing shot where movement of character brings the figure closer to the camera.

**VJ (Video Journalist)** – reporter who shoots and edits his or her own footage.