

BASIC EQUIPMENT AND CARE



Basic equipment:

- The first piece of equipment you need is a **camera**. It can be your cell phone camera, an action camera (GoPro), a DSLR camera or any device that allows you to record video. Almost any current camera and cell phone allows you to record in HD 1080 resolution, and in some cases you can record in 4k resolution. Remember that the higher the resolution, the more memory you will need.

- **Memory** - depending on the camera you use you will need SD memory to have space to store your videos. If you use a cell phone that allows you to add an external microSD memory, check what is the maximum memory that your cell phone allows and add that memory. Videos take up a lot of space. If you plan to shoot many hours in the same day, check that the memory is enough or consider an extra space where you can download your videos.

- **Tripod**. This is the most basic camera support. It will help you get stable shots (as in an interview) and make stable location shots. Depending on the tripod you can also perform some basic movements such as panning or tilt up and tilt down.

- **External microphone**. Although cameras and cell phones usually come with an internal microphone, it is not of good quality to record voices. You will need at least an external wired or wireless microphone that you can connect to your camera or cell phone. A good sound is as or more important than a good image for the final quality of your video. It is also good

practice to bring headphones with which you can monitor the sound during the recording of an interview.

- **Lights**. You can use sunlight outdoors, and use any white surface to bounce light into the shadow zone of the face. For recording in dark interiors or at night you will need some other light source, such as a lamp, flashlight, torch. Remember that less light degrades the image. If you don't have extra lights, just shoot outdoors in sunlight and indoors with good lighting.

Those are the basics you need to shoot video. In addition, there are some **extra accessories** that can be useful if you have access to them:

- High capacity **external drive** (2TB- 4tB)- This will allow you to save your footage and store it for later use.

- Portable **power bank** or extra batteries. The first one is to be able to charge your cell phone several times when you are in an area without electrical connection. The cell phone uses a lot of energy when recording video so it will last a few hours before you need to recharge it.

- **Gimbal**- It will allow you to make very stable movements with the camera, such as following a person or following the course of an action.

- **LED light kit** with batteries. If you have access to them they will allow you to record in any indoor or outdoor location, whether there is electricity or not.

- **Drone**- Drones have become very popular for low/medium cost audiovisual production. This allows for aerial shots and stable tracking movements.

For the post-production of your video you will need:

- Some computer that has an editing program. (Davinci Resolve)

- Or a cell phone with a video editing app (PowerDirector).

Once you have edited your video, you will need an internet connection on your cell phone or computer to be able to share your video online (on YouTube or any other network you prefer).

Care and maintenance of your equipment:

Organizing your equipment: It is important that once you have your equipment, make a list of it and check it every time you go out to film, so you don't forget anything. Remember to have your memory cards free, your cell phone charged, as well as your power bank or extra batteries charged.

Most production equipment is sensitive to water, shock, dust and extreme temperatures. Avoid exposing your equipment to these conditions, unless it specifically states that it is rated to withstand them (such as a GoPro action camera, or a waterproof portable light).

If the day is rainy, you will need to carry waterproof materials with you to protect the camera, sound and lights.

Keep a continuous cleaning of the camera lens or cell phone. Any dust particles or grease from your fingers can ruin a good shot. For this, carry with you a small flannel or any lens or glasses cleaning cloth.

Every time you return from filming, clean the camera and sensitive equipment from dust or mud.

When not using the equipment, store it in a dry, cool and clean place. We don't want our equipment to come in contact with moisture or dirt.

To transport your equipment, use a backpack or padded bag to protect it from bumps, rain, dust and humidity.

Clean the SD or microSD memory pins with a chamois cloth. Store any extra memory you have inside its plastic protector.

Store footage on more than one device (don't leave it alone on your cell phone or computer). If you have access to an online storage site it is the safest place to store it. Hard drives and cards can fail, get damaged or lost.

INUTW - 2021

Photos: Joel Redman / If Not Us Then Who.