

Re-Count: A How-To Workshop on Documenting Performance

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Best Practices From a Videographer

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The more shots the merrier (if you have an editor)

Two to three cameras can be a great idea. This gives you options of different shots, focusing on different parts of the performance and just in case a person blocks a shot or the camera pans the wrong way. Although make sure you have an editor if you decide to go this route. *If you are excited about editing yourself—I will give you some tips as well.*

Speaking of Editing

- Use a multi-clip function in your editing program (make sure to choose best audio and sync using in point)
- If using multi-clip consider slating the beginning somehow
- Cut on action or hard letter such as T or P or B
- Cut to avoid errors of the shot
- Cut for emphasis of content
- Cut to rhythm or pace
- Use close ups for emotion, details in movement or solos.

Creating 3D out of 2D with Z axis and lighting

The goal for video/film is often to make the two dimensions of a screen look as three dimensional as possible. This is often done through framing and lighting. The lighting of stage can be harsh and also add to the 2D effect of a stage. Also choosing to shoot the whole performance with one wide shot can also add to the flat feeling of the distance. Again, two cameras is recommended. Also consider the camera when doing stage direction and/or choreography. The more you can have performers be different distances (on the Z axis) from the camera the better.

Good Audio is a must!

Things to consider: variations of levels and voices especially if there is music mixed with voices. If no one is miked through the mixing board does your videographer have other options for you to get the best kind of audio (make sure to ask)? For instance separate audio from video. Again make sure to use slate (this is the case for *Found Our Way*). Or in the case of *Bumalik* we used a shotgun mic for the closest camera to the stage. But this was because most of the performance what spoken performances. This may have gotten tricky if music was involved.