EFFECTIVE EMCEE TIPS

Region 25 Summer Music Camp

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**PACING & TIMING**

Understand the Character

* The actual pacing of character’s dialogue is directly related to her personality. For ex., a high strung, anxious character will talk faster and have quicker dialogue pace vs. a laidback personality.
* Pacing varies according to the emotional attitude of the character. A rapid pace is used to express anger, fear, determination, or exhilaration. A slow pace indicates deep thoughts, loneliness, depression, or a character’s indecisiveness.
* An evenly paced speech conveys an impression of control, poise, and self-confidence.

Understand the Script:

* If it’s important information, slow down so the audience can better grasp the content.
* Key phrases are often delivered at a slower rate of delivery while less important ones are often spoken more rapidly.
* In comedy, it’s important to understand where the jokes are within the dialogue, and enhance those jokes by using pacing.
* A change of pace is a good transitional device when going to a new thought or emotion.
* Consider the rate at which the pace changes. There will be times when a sudden change is required and at other times when a slow acceleration or de-acceleration would work better. For instance, a sudden revelation would constitute an abrupt change in tempo while an escalating argument might accelerate slowly into a rapid, almost overlapping confrontation.

**INTERACTION BETWEEN EMCEES**

Balancing the dynamics between Emcees:

* Each emcee needs to be heard clearly and equally.
* Energy of each emcee needs to match each other.
* Match the dynamic, but not to the point where it takes away from individual characterizations.
* Attentive energy needed in non-speaking cast.

Flow between speakers:

* The end of one speaker and the beginning of the other need to be decisive and clear.
* The person joining in shows “preset” behavior. The preset tells us the character is listening, feeling, thinking, and is about to speak.
* Need to have a pace that will be easy for the audience to follow, keeps the action moving, and has variety.
* Rehearse and develop a rhythm to the delivery.

**MICROPHONE TECHNIQUE TIPS**

* Don’t be afraid of the microphone. Speak into the microphone.
* Be aware of tape line and step ahead or behind as necessary.
* While delivering lines, be aware of how your mouth moves closer/farther in relation to the position of the microphone (ex. if turn to interact with someone, be sure to remain on the microphone).
* Do not yell into the microphone.
* Watch the “P” and “b” pops.
* If using multiple microphones, there could be a difference between those microphones.
* If possible, always do a sound check.