

## **7 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU SHOOT**

Shoot day is finally here and you are excited, but you can save a lot of stress and have a successful shoot by doing a few things to prepare.

Here is your success guide:

### **1. Create Your Plan**

Create a plan for what you are going to shoot, the types of shots needed, how talent will be mic'd, etc. Anyone who shows up at a production trying to "wing it" is putting the production at risk.

### **2. Test Your Gear**

Make sure everything is working and you are comfortable using the equipment. I mean everything, camera, lights, tripod, etc. If there is time, you might want to set it up before you leave the facility just in case a question may come up.

### **3. Check Your Charges**

How are your batteries? It can take several hours to charge the field camera batteries. If you are using our LED light kit, the batteries for the lights may also need to be charged. This could take a little time to get them all ready. But don't worry, once charged they will hold power for days, so you'll be fine.

### **4. Prepare Your Media**

Did you format your SD card? Even though it's an easy procedure, do it ahead of time. It will be one less thing on your mind. Since you just formatted the card, why not test the camera for recording and playback. Use your headphones to check audio.

### **5. Make Your Checklist**

Make a checklist of everything you need to take with you. Equipment, clothing, props, food, water, etc. As you load your car, check things off your list. Never assume you have it all if you haven't checked it off the list.

### **6. Clean Your Lens**

Before you press the record button, check the lens for dirt and debris. Dust on the lens can show up in your final product. Sometimes it is really noticeable. Wipe your lens, but always use lens cloth that is designed for cleaning camera lenses. Avoid facial tissue or any cloth that can damage the lens.

### **7. Check Your Focus**

Last and very important, every time you move the camera the lens is at a different distance from your subject. Be sure to do a critical focus before you press the record button. Zoom in all the way to the eyes, focus, then zoom out and reframe your shot.

Now you're ready for a successful shoot day. Have fun!