

WHAT SHOTS TO CONSIDER AS A DIRECTOR

When directing a talk show, there are many different ways to set up the show open. You may have seen the host walk out to deliver a monologue, or sometimes pre-recorded footage is used with the show's opening credits. As a director, you are in control of how you want to start your show, but also what camera shots to take during the entire show, and when.

When selecting shots, it is important to consider what is being conveyed at the moment of the shot. Many times you will want to almost always have the camera pointed at the person who is talking. Initially, you want to select an establishing shot to provide context of the interaction.

If the host is talking, it makes sense to have the camera directed at him. When the guest responds to the host, the next choice would be to select the camera that is pointed toward the guest. While cameras pointed at the guest and host would be considered close up shots, it is a good idea to mix a two shot in between, to help create dimension visually.

A two shot is a great way to highlight the interaction between the guest and host. It also helps to reestablish the setting of the talk show, which aids in the story-telling process to your viewers. Imagine a show where you never see the guest and host talking together in the same shot. It might make you wonder if the two were even in the same room. This shot is great to show the conversation being shared between host and guest, and helps draw attention to how they interact, rather than just two individual people. The two shot helps create a relationship between your guest and host, and draws in your viewers.

Another way to draw viewers' attention is by using reaction shots. Reaction shots are cutaways to someone who is reacting to what is being said. You see this a lot in talk shows when the camera shoots to a person in the audience who is immersed in what is being said, or who is laughing and enjoying the show.

Maybe the guest is hearing an emotional story and is crying. As a director, your instinct is to take the shot of the guest crying, while the host is sharing the story with the audience.

When directing, it is important to follow your instincts in what will be the best way to share your story. How many cutaways you choose to take will create a flow for your show. You do not want to constantly switch back and forth between host and guest when they are talking. This will be visually jarring and distracting to your viewers, and they will not want to watch. Choosing not to cutaway enough will cause the show to lose energy, and viewers will be bored.

Always anticipate what element of your story you want to share before it happens. Think ahead and pay close attention to what is going on around you and be prepared to take that camera shot that takes your story to the next level.