

USING THE TELEPROMPTER

It is a normal issue for talent to forget lines. This is especially true when your talent has not had enough time to learn and memorize the script. To help with this challenge, people have had to use cue cards to assist their talent. This technique is still used today, but it can cause talent to look away or shift their focus from the camera, which can break their performance. This is where the Teleprompter comes into play.

To keep the natural performance flow, TelePromTer Corporation invented the Teleprompter in 1950. The original model would be placed next to or close to the camera and worked by mechanically turning a large roll of special typewriter paper with the script printed onto it. In 1953, the first "in-the-lens" teleprompter was invented, which allowed the text to be projected in front of the camera's lens. By 1982, the first computer-based Teleprompter was invented and worked like many of the modern models we have today. Although it should be noted that the mechanical models were still being used until 1992.

Now that you know some history, what do you need to prepare for Teleprompter use? Here are some tips:

- Type all the cue dialog needed for your show using word processing software such as Microsoft Word.
- Save your document. And this is important: Save your document as a text only or plain text file (.txt) format. Teleprompters have trouble reading files that have paragraphs or indents. A plain text file removes all formatting, making it perfect for a Teleprompter.
- Save the file on a USB stick or hard drive, and bring it to the studio.
- Import the file into the Teleprompter software, and you are ready to go. Remember though, moving the text on the Teleprompter is done manually, so don't forget to add a Teleprompter operator to your crew.