

Tips for Talent!

Welcome to the world of teleprompting!

There are a few secrets to using the teleprompter and making it work for you, (instead of the other way around.)

Picture a friend or colleague behind the prompter mirror. You will be looking directly into the lens and will 'connect' with your audience.

Read the text from the middle of the screen. If you like to read ahead, then read from the top 1/3 of the screen and let your prompter operator know that's your preference. Ask him/her to place the pointer at that place on the screen. The prompter operator will scroll the words on the screen as you read. His goal is to keep the line you are reading as close to the pointer as possible. The words will scroll by at whatever speed you read them. YOU are in control of the scroll speed. If you have any doubts about this... try it by stopping and speeding up during a rehearsal.

Concentrate on your message, not the words. Pause normally! Stop at periods. Remember it's all news to your audience. They don't know you've rehearsed it over and over.

The goal is to make it look like you're not reading. To avoid PROMPTER PANIC, try blinking occasionally, turning your head, ...smiling?... pretend you're talking to real people...

The Director is your friend. He will try to make your job as easy as possible. When the Director says "Action", take a deep breath to relax, wait one or two seconds, then begin. Until the Director stops you, YOU ARE IN CONTROL.

Singers know that your vocal cords are the first part of your body to dehydrate. Therefore, drink lots of liquids. You may find it helpful to have a glass of room-temperature water within arms reach.

Three more things.... RELAX... RELAX... RELAX....

Maintain your energy level until the Director says 'CUT'. When you finish speaking your piece you'll probably want to look towards the director or camera person, but try to avoid this by continuing to look into the prompter. This will allow the editors time to make his/her cut.

Don't forget... this is supposed to be (and can be) FUN!!!