



Event & Video Production Technical Terminology

These terms are fundamental in the world of event and video production and will help you better understand and communicate within the industry. Below is a glossary of tech terms where you can glean knowledge and insights to help guide you through the event process.

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

Stage: The designated area where live performances, events, or presentations take place.

Riser: A raised platform or stage that provides elevation for performers, speakers, or equipment, offering improved visibility and sound projection.

Radios: Communication devices, often walkie-talkies, used by production staff to coordinate and communicate during events or on sets.

Comm: Short for "communication," this term refers to the system or network used for intercom and radio communication between various production team members.

Podium: A raised platform or lectern that a presenter stands behind when delivering speeches or presentations.

Presenter: The individual who delivers content or information to an audience, such as a speaker, host, or performer.

Rigging: The process of installing and securing equipment, lights, or structures in a way that allows them to be suspended or hung in the air, often necessary for lighting or sound systems.

Truss: A framework structure made of metal or aluminum that is used for hanging lights, speakers, and other equipment overhead.

Pipe and Drape: A system consisting of pipes and fabric drapes used to create temporary walls, partitions, or backdrops to define spaces or enhance the aesthetics of an event.

Clamp: A device used to secure lighting fixtures, cameras, or other equipment to trusses or other structures.

Shackle: A type of fastener, often used in rigging, to connect and secure items like cables, chains, or other equipment.

FOH (Front of House): The location in an event or performance space where the project manager, executive producers, and other key personnel sit to oversee and manage the event, particularly the audio and lighting aspects.

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CTRL (Control): The location or booth where video sources are switched, controlled, and managed. It is typically the central hub for video production and distribution during events or broadcasts.

AUDIO TERMINOLOGY

XLR: A type of connector used for balanced audio signals. It's commonly used for microphones, mixing consoles, and other audio equipment.

1/4" (Quarter-Inch) Jack: A common type of audio connector used for both balanced and unbalanced signals. It's often found on instruments, amplifiers, and some audio equipment.

1/8" (Eighth-Inch) Jack: A smaller audio connector used in many portable devices like headphones, smartphones, and laptops.

RCA: A type of connector used for consumer audio and video equipment. It's often color-coded with red and white for stereo audio connections.

Balanced Signal: An audio signal that uses two conductors with the same impedance, carrying the audio signal and its inverted phase. This helps reduce interference and noise in long cable runs.

Unbalanced Signal: An audio signal that uses a single conductor and a ground connection. It is more susceptible to interference in longer cable runs.

Stage Monitors/Wedges (Audio): Speakers placed on the stage facing the performers to provide them with a clear audio reference of their own sound during a live performance.

Stacked Speakers: Speakers that are vertically arranged on top of each other to increase sound coverage or power.

Line Array: A speaker system with multiple speakers arranged in a line, often used in large venues to distribute sound evenly to a wide audience.

PA (Public Address): A sound reinforcement system used to amplify and project audio to an audience in live events, performances, or public spaces.

Loudspeaker: A device that converts electrical audio signals into sound waves, often used to reproduce music or speech.

Front Fill: Smaller speakers placed at the front edge of the stage to ensure even sound distribution for the front rows of the audience.

Off Fill: Additional speakers placed away from the main stage to cover areas where the main PA system's coverage may be limited.

Subwoofer: A specialized loudspeaker designed to reproduce low-frequency bass sounds, enhancing the overall sound system's performance.

Foldback: Also known as monitor speakers, these provide performers with their own audio mix to hear themselves and other musicians during a live performance.

Powered Speaker: A speaker with a built-in amplifier, making it a self-contained audio system.

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Passive Speaker: A speaker that requires an external amplifier to function; it doesn't have an amplifier built into it.

Amplifier: A device that increases the amplitude or power of an audio signal, making it louder and capable of driving speakers.

Wired Mics: Microphones that are connected to audio equipment using physical cables.

Wireless Mics: Microphones that transmit audio signals to a receiver without the need for physical cables, providing mobility for performers or speakers.

Mixers: Audio devices used to adjust and combine multiple audio sources, controlling their volume, tone, and effects.

Lavalier Microphone (Lav Mic): A small, discreet microphone that is typically clipped to a person's clothing, often used in interviews or live presentations.

VIDEO TERMINOLOGY

Media Server: A device or software that stores and manages video and media content for playback on screens during an event or production.

Content: The visual and audio material, such as videos, images, or graphics, used in video production and events for display.

IMAG (Image Magnification): The live video projection of a performance or event on large screens to provide close-up views for the audience, often used in large venues.

vMix: Professional software for video content playback, mixing, switching, recording, and live streaming.

Blackmagic: A company known for its video production equipment, including cameras, switchers, and other hardware and software for video production.

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface): A common digital video and audio interface used for connecting devices like cameras, monitors, and projectors.

SDI (Serial Digital Interface): A professional video interface standard used for high-quality video signals in broadcast and video production.

Scaffolding: Temporary structures used for mounting lights, cameras, or other equipment at elevated positions.

Projector: A device that projects images or video onto a screen or surface for display to an audience.

TV: A television set used for viewing broadcast or pre-recorded video content.

Monitor (Video): A screen used for viewing video content, often used by video editors and directors to monitor video quality.

LED Wall: A display made up of numerous individual LED panels, used to create large, high-resolution video screens. Can be hung from trusses or ground-supported.

DSM (Downstage Monitor/Confidence Monitor): A monitor placed on the downstage edge of the stage to provide performers with a view of themselves and other elements of the production.

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Cam (Camera): An abbreviation for a video camera used for recording and capturing visual content.

ProPresenter: All-in-one software for displaying song lyrics, graphics, and video clips during live events or presentations.

Projection Lens: The lens used in a projector to focus and project an image onto a screen.

RED: A brand of highly customizable digital cameras designed for professional and semi-professional cinematography, known for their high-resolution capabilities 4k or 8k.

Backdrop: A background used in video production or events to create a specific visual setting or atmosphere.

B-Roll: Supplementary footage used to complement the main shots in video production, often used for cutaways, transitions, or illustrating points in an interview or story.

Cinematography: The art and science of creating visually appealing and meaningful images in motion pictures or video.

Storyboard: A visual representation of a film or video's scenes used to plan and organize shots, angles, and transitions.

Teleprompter: A device that displays a script or text to a speaker or presenter, allowing them to read it while maintaining eye contact with the audience.

Zoom Lens: A camera lens with variable focal lengths, allowing for zooming in and out to change the framing of a shot.

LIGHTING TERMINOLOGY

DMX (Digital Multiplex): A standard protocol used for controlling and communicating with lighting equipment, such as fixtures, dimmers, and controllers.

DMX Splitter: A device used to distribute and amplify DMX signals to multiple lighting fixtures, preventing signal degradation.

Moving Heads: Motorized lighting fixtures that can pan and tilt, offering dynamic and adjustable lighting effects.

Wash: A type of lighting fixture that produces a broad and even beam of light, used to cover a large area with a uniform wash of color or light.

Spot: A lighting fixture that produces a focused and directional beam of light, used to highlight specific objects or areas.

Gobo (Monogram Lighting): A stencil or template placed in front of a lighting fixture to project patterns, logos, or monograms onto a surface.

Strobe: A lighting fixture that emits brief and intense flashes of light, often used for special effects or creating a strobe-like effect.

Hazer: A device that produces a fine, even haze to enhance the visibility of light beams without creating thick fog for atmospheric effects

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House Lights: The standard lighting within a venue, typically used to provide general illumination before or after an event or during intermissions.

Dimmer: A device used to control the brightness of lighting fixtures, allowing for smooth adjustments in intensity.

String Lights: A series of small light bulbs connected by a string, often used for decorative and ambient lighting.

Uplighting: Lighting fixtures placed on the ground to illuminate walls, columns, or other architectural features from a low angle.

Lazer: A high-powered, focused laser beam used for creating intricate and dynamic lighting effects.

Blacklights: Ultraviolet (UV) lighting fixtures that emit blacklight, often used for creating fluorescent and glow-in-the-dark effects.

POWER TERMINOLOGY

GND (Ground): The reference point in an electrical circuit, typically connected to the Earth or a conductive ground, ensuring electrical safety and minimizing the risk of electrical shock.

Neutral: The conductor in an electrical circuit that carries current back to the power source. It is often connected to the ground at the main service panel.

Hot: The conductor in an electrical circuit that carries current from the power source to the load, providing electrical energy.

Power Distro (Distribution): A device or system used to distribute electrical power to various devices and equipment, often used in large events or industrial settings.

Tie-In: The process of connecting to an existing power source, such as a building's electrical system or a generator, to supply power to an event or production.

Edison: A common type of electrical outlet and plug used in North America, typically for providing AC power to devices and equipment.

Powercon: A type of locking power connector commonly used in the entertainment and event industry to ensure secure power connections.

IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission): A set of international standards for electrical connectors, including the common IEC C13 and C14 connectors used for power cables and computer equipment.

Power Strips: A strip with multiple electrical outlets, allowing multiple devices to be plugged in and powered from a single source.

Quad Boxes: A type of electrical junction box with four outlets, often used in event and production settings to distribute power.

USB (Universal Serial Bus): A standard connection used for data transfer and charging of electronic devices, including computers, smartphones, and other peripherals.