

## It's Your Turn 2022\_ Filming Your Child at Home Setting Up the Video

### 1. Technical Checks For Your Camera

1.1. We both want your child to look their best on YouTube which means recording the video in optimum resolution. The camera on your Smartphone is probably already set up for this but those who have an older Smartphone should check for the following under Settings:

1.1.1. Go to Camera. Check your Format is **at least** 1080p at 25fps as this is the minimum for YouTube. **Please get in touch if you can't adjust it to at least this level so that we can work with you to find another solution.**

1.1.2. Please use a format of 4k at 30fps if you have it available.

1.2. Please make sure that the videos are sent to us in MP4 format. This is the normal setting for most of the more recent Smartphones so it shouldn't be an issue.

### 2. Technical Tips \_ Positioning and Lighting

2.1. Make sure your performers are the main focus of the frame. Don't worry if the performers seem a little distant, we can usually edit the pieces to give close ups of their face once you have sent us your video.

2.2. Try to avoid backgrounds that are overly busy.

2.3. Film in front of a plain wall if you can.

2.4. Make sure that the children, particularly their faces, are well lit.

2.5. The best 'at home lighting' is daylight. So have your performer(s) facing a window if at all possible. You will know from your test shot whether or not the lighting is adequate. If daylight doesn't give you the result that you want, then you may need to use any available lights you have to add brightness.

2.6. If you are performing without daylight, then make sure that there are no bright lights behind the performers heads as these can cast shadows. Avoid overhead lights if at all possible.

### 3. Recording Your Video

3.1. Your video must be shot in horizontal as this will use up the whole screen and avoid dark borders at the side.



### 4. Capturing Footage

4.1. When filming on a Smartphone, use the **back camera** which records higher quality footage than the front facing 'selfie' camera.

4.2. Whenever possible **avoid 'hand held 'shots.** if you don't have access to a tripod, you can make one very easily. Below you will see an example of what I use which is an old cardboard egg box perched on some books. Feel free to use what you like. As long as your shot is steady and level it should look great. Whatever you use make sure that the lense is unobstructed. It doesn't matter if the screen is partially blocked



Recorder's View



Performer's View.

## 5. Sound

- 5.1. Try to avoid an echoey room. The best rooms to record in are those that have lots of soft surfaces as this minimises echo.
- 5.2. If you no alternative than to record in an echoey room such as a kitchen, then try placing duvets, pillows etc around the performance area and over the hard surfaces.
- 5.3. It is important to test for sound level. Ask your performers to do a short extract from their piece and record this. Check the result. If the sound is too low, then move the camera closer to the performers. If it is too echoey then add some more soft furnishings.

## 6. Always do a test shot.

- 6.1. Get everyone in position, hit record and ask them to say a sentence or two. Then watch the clip to make sure your visuals and audio are set up the way you want them.

## 7. Putting it all Together \_ The Final Format

- 7.1. We would like your video to be no more than 4 minutes long, including the introduction.
- 7.2. We would love it if the children could begin the piece by:
  - introducing themselves
  - telling us about their piece
  - telling us about their Irish roots by dedicating their piece to relations from Ireland.

### EXAMPLE

**Hello everyone. I am Molly and I am going to play/sing/ recite {Insert name of piece}. I would like to dedicate this piece to my granny who is from Galway and all my cousins over there in Ireland. I hope you enjoy it.**

Piece is performed.

At the end the performance the child says. **Happy St Patrick's Day everyone** or equivalent.

**IMPORTANT** Please ask everyone to be still and silent for **at least** five seconds after you hit record button and before they start performing to ensure that their words don't get cut off in the editing process. Similarly, when you're done wait for **at least** five seconds before ending the recording. You will use up the five seconds if you ask the children to say '*one banana, two bananas, three bananas, four bananas, five bananas*' in their heads.

## 8. Submitting your video to Green Curtain

- 8.1. Video files are usually quite large- sometimes too large to be sent via the normal email route. There is a free app called **WeTransfer** which is used to transfer large files that are too big for email.
- 8.2. Please send your files along with names of those performing to [doug@greencurtaintheatre.co.uk](mailto:doug@greencurtaintheatre.co.uk).