

Preparing for a Showreel Edit

Here is some information on how to get ready for your showreel edit at Spotlight

What is a good showreel?

A Showreel is simply an extension of your CV, it allows a casting director to quickly see what you are like in front of the camera.

Short showreels we hear are the best - we consider 3 minutes to be a good length, and not more than 5 minutes in total. It should contain a good range of different work, 4 or 5 different short scenes that are recent, and we recommend not having a montage - we have heard many times that montages can waste valuable time and are distracting.

Do I need to prepare?

Yes! In order to best make use of your time in the edit suite, you will need to do a few things first;

Find the footage you wish to use;

Narrow down the amount of footage you have have, it is not necessary to bring in everything that you have ever been in. Footage should be quite recent, we would suggest nothing over 5 years old.

Ideally try to include a range of different material, we want to see your face and hear you speak, if a scene has neither, then it may not be suitable. The scenes should not be too long, ideally no more than 45 seconds in length (although we can trim down longer scenes). We would also suggest that you bring in no more than 7 scenes.

Timecode's:

Find the start and end timecodes of the scenes that you wish to use - these are usually displayed on the front of your DVD player, or in the corner of the media player. If you don't find the time codes, it may mean that we waste valuable editing time scanning through footage! If you have any questions about finding the timecodes, please email us at media@spotlight.com.

What formats can i bring in?

DVD video is one of our preferred formats, we can accept most types of digital video file from your computer on a USB Flash Drive or a disk. Unfortunately we can't take footage off YouTube, BBC Iplayer, 4OD etc. if you have your footage on any of these sites, you will need to contact the production company to get a copy before the edit.

Can I use stuff on VHS?

We would suggest not. Unlike DVD, VHS tapes degrade over time and they ceased production of VHS tapes and players in 2008 - which was a long time ago - it is now very difficult to get good quality footage off of a VHS tape.

What do i get at the end of the session?

We will upload your newly edited showreel to your CV on Spotlight, usually within 30 minutes of the session ending. We also send you an mp4 file via a download link for you to upload to your own website.

Can i come back when i get more material?

Yes, we store the editing project and all of the source material so that you can come back and amend the showreel when you need to.

How much does it all cost?

An amendment Session costs £75 (inc. VAT) for an hour. If you are editing a Showreel for the first time - the 3 hour special rate is £195 (inc. VAT) — we accept cash, cheque, credit and debit cards (except American Express).

What if i can't make the appointment?

Please *please* let us know at least 24 hours in advance. Our editors' are very busy and their time is precious and expensive - if you don't show up for a showreel editing appointment unfortunately we will not be able to take any further showreel bookings from you.

Where do i go for the edit?

The edit suite is on the first floor of the Spotlight building at;

7 Leicester Place

London

WC2H 7RJ

(Its just above the Prince Charles Cinema off Leicester Square)

Any Questions?

As we are often in the edit suite, it is best to email us at media@spotlight.com

We look forward to seeing you soon!