

Overview

This Standard is about mixing sound during post-production, also referred to as “re-recording mixing” or “dubbing”.

It involves the assessing, selecting, balancing and treatment of sound that has been organised on tracks, to achieve the level, tonal quality, audio image and intelligibility required.

This Standard should apply to anyone who is involved with mixing recorded sound in post production.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. carry out an accurate assessment of each characteristic of sound tracks
2. adjust individual sound tracks so that they have the desired intelligibility, position and image in terms of required sound
3. position and balance sound to achieve desired creative and aesthetic effects according to director's or other decision maker's vision
4. achieve appropriate transitions between sound and music
5. control levels of composite signals within technical limits and within desired dynamic range
6. manipulate sound tracks to achieve appropriate level, balance, tonal quality, perspective and dynamic range
7. create sound mixes within time, budget and other production constraints
8. make critical judgments about, and control, audio quality against agreed artistic and technical standards
9. create mixes which are appropriate to the context in which they will be heard
10. create sound mixes that present the characteristics of individual sounds and atmospheric sound in line with briefs
11. make sure sound files comply with legal limits and standards for distribution and delivery
12. use information from reliable sources to identify and correct any problems in creating mixes
13. interpret suggestions and requests from decision makers in line with company procedures
14. suggest options to decision makers which satisfy both artistic requests and the operational requirements of productions
15. organise components of mixes in suitable ways for later use
16. check that paperwork is accurate, legible and conforms with conventions that will be understood by other mixers, sound technicians or studios
17. explain technical issues in ways that enable non-technical people to understand their significance
18. maintain security for files and other materials in line with company requirements

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. production requirements, technical and financial
2. principles of sound editing and how to edit sound using popular software programmes
3. requirements for dynamic range
4. criteria for evaluating sound mixes as they are created
5. the context in which mixes will be played, and how to take this into account when creating them
6. the different kinds of sound treatment and equalisation, and how to achieve them
7. the characteristics of tonal quality and perspective, and how to achieve them
8. relevant acoustic principles and how to apply them
9. characteristics, uses and requirements of mono, stereo and surround formats, and how to achieve them
10. the features and operating characteristics of commonly used mixing, ancillary and encoding equipment
11. the legal limits and standards for sound files for distribution and delivery especially in relation to loudness, immersive audio and metadata and how to work creatively within them
12. the importance of audibility of dialogue especially with regards to the impaired hearing of an ageing population
13. effective strategies to enhance dialogue audibility
14. how to recognise defects in monitoring systems
15. the director's (or other decision maker's) creative and aesthetic requirements
16. how to discuss and respond to the decision maker's creative and technical requests
17. how to interpret requests and suggestions in terms of specific genre or style of sound mixes
18. the principles of "storytelling" as they apply to all forms and genres
19. the conventions of different genres and styles of film and programme-making
20. the principles and styles of music and different musical ensembles including orchestra, string quartet, rock group, jazz quartet and soloist
21. how to explain technical issues clearly to non-technical people

22. company systems for storage, back up and security

Mix recorded sound

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Relevant Occupations Post Production Professionals

Suite Post Production

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