Wireless Microphone Dressing

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Full Disclosure

CDTS is a Shure dealer and a Countryman dealer

All of the pictures of equipment used here are marketing materials that I have access to as a dealer.
Microphone Dressing?

Putting a microphone on an actor for best sound while also as unobtrusive as possible
Types

Lavalier
Types

Earset (or Boom)
Location, Location, Location

Generally on the Head

• Moves with the actor's mouth
• Center of the forehead is best
• Over the ear
Location, Location, Location

Generally on the Head

- Moves with the actor's mouth
- Center of the forehead is best
  - Usually easiest to hide at the hairline
  - Most natural sound
- Over the ear
Location, Location, Location

• Generally on the Head
  • Moves with the actor's mouth
  • Center of the forehead is best
  • Over the ear
    - When the forehead is not an option
      • Hat
      • Bald
    - Keep it over bone
Location, Location, Location

• Lapel?
  • Moves with the actor's body
  • Clothing noise
  • Further from the mouth
What about the pack?

• Under costume
  – Small of the back
  – Bra strap
  – Thigh

• Wig
Always Use Protection

- Mic belt
- Sheathes
  - Condoms
- Mount with wires down if you can
Lavalier Mounting

- Halo
- Toupee Clips
- Floral Wire
- Hellerman Sleeves
Lavalier Mounting

- Halo
Lavalier Mounting

- Toupee Clips
Hiding the Wire

- Color
- Tape
Hiding the Wire

• Color
  – Copic Markers
  – NOT Sharpies

• Tape
Hiding the Wire

- Color
- Tape
  - Transpore
  - Tegaderm
Mounting the Pack

- **Mic Belt/Pouch**
  - Snug fit
  - Elastic is better than webbing but does not last as long
  - Needs to be coordinated with Costumes

- **Wig Pouch**
  - Needs to be coordinated with Hair
  - Requires a smaller transmitter
Antennas

Stowing the length

- Symptom: bad reception
- Actors don't seem to like having a tail on the pack to deal with, so they coil it up
- Antennas rely on their length, a coil counts only as the circumference of the coil
Resources

- Sheathes: www.sheathes.com
- Mic belts: www.wirelessmicbelts.com
- Toupee clips, Hellerman: www.showmics.com
- Copic markers: Your nearest art supply store
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