

Unit 23 Multi camera Ciaran McElhinney

A multi camera setup is a way of filming television programmes and films. It is different to a single camera setup in many ways. Firstly, because of the increased amount of camera equipment, more people will need to be hired to operate them and it means more time is needed to setup each camera to get the right shots needed, which when trying to finish for a deadline can be much harder, where as in single camera it take much less time to set the camera up. Having multiple cameras means who can catch everything that happens at the same time from different angles. This is why it is mainly used it live event like in, sports and music. They place the cameras in different places so they know they'll not miss anything. Which is great when something unexpected happens. Even though that is a great benefit, it also restricts the creativity of the director. Especially in fictional shows like multi camera sitcoms. In these the director is very limited to what he or she can do. With multiple cameras you are stuck in that one place and cannot reposition the cameras or the lightning. It has to all stay where it has been set up before the filming has begun. With single camera you can easily move the camera around and try different shots and ideas that you may have. For example in The Big Bang Theory you have a live studio audience so you have to position the cameras and the lightning so you can record everything that happens from multiple angles but it has to be in a way that works around the audience and doesn't get them in shot. These sitcoms also feature a laughing track which single camera sitcoms don't. With the increased amount of equipment you need in a multi camera set up, it means you do not have the freedom to film anywhere like you would do in a single camera production. If its a live event you are restricted to that location, for example a football stadium or festival. Or if is a sitcom or talk show then you are limited to usually a studio or stage. Because you cannot film on location you have to make the sets look as real as possible, which if not achieved can make the show look cheap and unrealistic. It may take longer to set up but it means it's much quicker to film. This is because you don't have to move everything and re frame. Also with single camera you have to get multiple shots of the same scene, especially dialogue scenes, but with multiple cameras you can get it all at the same time. This is good for shows like The Jeremy Kyle Show and Deal or no Deal where they can set up everything and because everything just stays in the same place you can film a few episodes a day. This also means you'll always be ahead of what is being broadcasted. So there will also be a new episode to show each day. This means it will be cheaper. Filming a block of episodes at once means you will save money on hiring studio space, on equipment and the people who have hired. This is the same for other multi camera shows like some sitcoms. One of the other big differences between the two is the way it's edited. As you are filming a multi camera show in order, the editing process is much shorter. As there is usually much less to do. Usually it's little

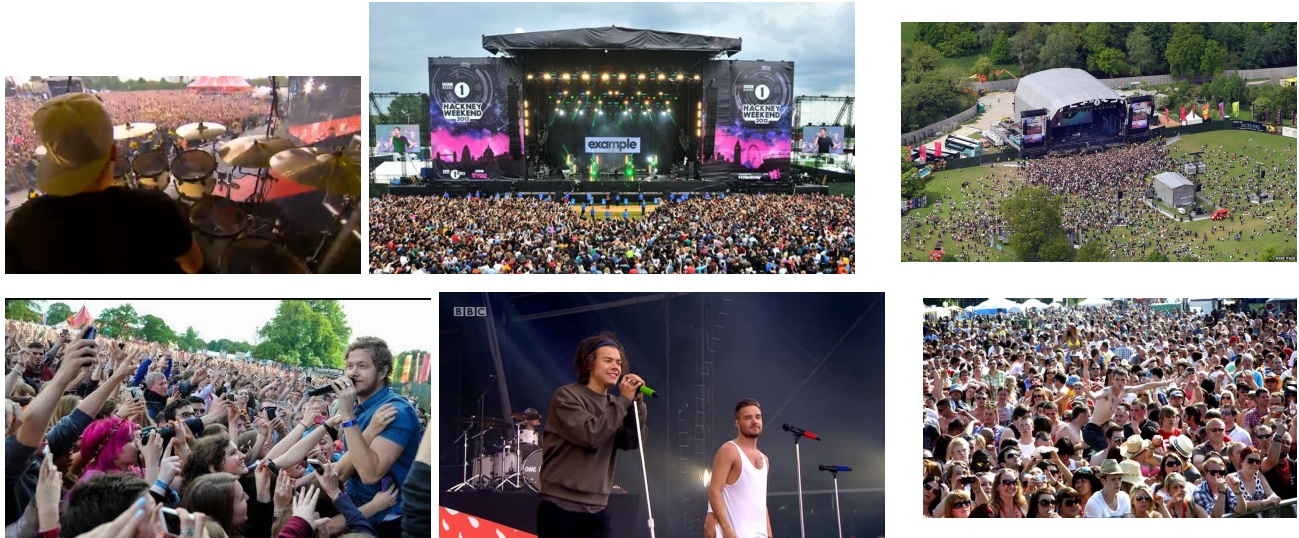
things like, if its a quiz show, the scores at the end of each round. Or in a show like that or others like a talk show, titles are needed to show who each person is. For example on Newsnight a title appears on screen to make sure the audience knows who each person is, and then depending on how long the interview is, it could appear multiple times to remind the audience and any new viewer.

Multi Camera is used in many different formats is usually the only way these events and shows can be filmed. One of the most popular is sporting events. For example, Formula 1. Music events are also popular. Not being able to go and see their favourite artists, having these shows are very important and get big viewing numbers. For example the “BBC RADIO1S BIG WEEKEND” is shown on T.V each year. T.V shows that may not always be live but have a multi camera set-up may have special live episodes. Studio based shows include talk shows, like The Graham Norton Show, game shows like Deal or No Deal, and news shows like BBC News. These three always have a main set with multiple people on. So the camera will need to be able to capture all of the different people who are on the set and sometimes the reaction from an audience, if there is one. The cameras are used to capture the actor’s performance from different angles and to get what’s happening around them and so the audience doesn’t get bored with just the same shot. There are many sitcoms that use a multi camera set up. For example The Big Bang Theory. This is because they are filmed with a live studio audience so multi camera is the easiest way to do it.



Multi camera techniques are used in these different formats for many reasons. Firstly it’s there so everything can be captured from all different angles. So no matter what happens a camera will also capture it. This is especially important during sports like Football. This is because needs to be able to see as well as hear from the commentators what is happening. Also if something needs to be replayed. A camera was there to be able to capture the footage. In formats like games shows, talk shows and soaps like Deal or No Deal as wells as being able to capture everything at once, they are able to film multiple episodes in one day which saves on time and cost.

The live section of a multi camera production I have decided to use is from a “BBC RADIO1’s BIG WEEKEND” and “Formula 1”. In these two events there are a lot of cameras being used throughout the event from shots of the crowd to shots of the main performance and sometime behind the scenes are used as extra content. This includes many different angles of the stage or racing track so they can get different shots of the band playing the different instruments and the action of the race. As they don't know exactly what the performer and racers may do, having all of these cameras, means no matter what, they'll be able to record it.



These shots of the stage are also a different variety of shots. Some are wide shots and some are medium and normal close ups of the different people playing instruments and main singer. Both as he is walking about on stage and then another when he is sitting at the piano. As well as the stage there is also different variety of angles of the audience. There is an establishing shot of the audience and the stage, which is often used throughout and other wide shots of just the audience. There is also close up of the audience as the clap and sing. There is also an extreme long shot of the whole event with the stage and audience . Throughout, you can often see the camera move to keep up with the performer, and to get different shots of the audience. It is a brightly lit set with many lights being used. With the main focus being the band or singer the lightning is set up to make sure they get the most light.