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Film Connection - Lesson 18

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Working Through Tech Issues

The situation that I was given was, what if on a relatively small and low budget set the key light that was being used on the talent suddenly went off and stopped working? How would one go out and find a solution to that problem.

Of course, first of all I would attempt to find what was faulty, if it is perhaps a cable or the V-mount battery or even if a fuse was blown because of all the energy being taken up. If I am able to cross out and eliminate all other possibilities then I would go forth and try to resolve the issue of replacing my key light. I would try to see if anyone on the crew was able to bring an extra led light that we can easily just pop on up and get back to shooting the scene.

But of course not every situation will have the ideal and perfect solution like that, and while I do tend to always have a backup for every piece of equipment I own, it can get fairly expensive for someone who doesn’t have the same budget as other people may of on a set. So what if we don’t have another extra set of lights with the crew member? What do we do then? I would personally find a location the same set with relatively better lighting and sacrifice my hairline light or background light since what good would those lights be if you can not even see the talent in the first place! If we happen to be shooting in a dark location or scene, I would even drop using artificial light and go natural with the best light we have, the sun!! We can move the talent even closer to a window and perhaps put a diffuser in front of it to get a softer and more even distribution of the light. I would keep the other lights as they were, but we would have to adjust F- stops and white balances and color since we did move from artificial to sunlight.

There will always be a solution to any problem we may encounter on any set, sometimes they’re as simple as simply getting your back up equipment out and do a quick switch, but at other times you will have to think outside of the box and be creative. Who knows, perhaps the change will look better than the original plan.