

LIGHTING YOUR VIDEOS (CONT.)

This gives you the opportunity to concentrate on lighting without the additional tasks that come with producing a video. Allow yourself enough time to develop a lighting plan and setup. For an elaborate studio shoot you might spend up to an hour or more; and for a simple two-person interview it might only require about 15-minutes.

When setting up lights you need to see it on a video screen, whether it is on a studio monitor or the LCD screen on your studio camera. Our eyes and camera lenses perceive light very differently, so seeing it on a screen is a must. Once you have lights in place, it is easy to make adjustments as most of our lights have dimmers and you can raise or lower their brightness with a turn of a knob.

Another important thing to remember is you want to light for *people*, not objects. When watching video our attention often goes to the brightest object on screen, so we want that to be our main subject. Some beginning gaffers light the background picture really well, but not the person speaking. Or in the studio, flats or set furniture are well lit, but the actors walking around are not. Again this is understandable. You could be lighting the set well before the talent arrives. Because of this, it might be helpful to have stand-ins so you can see what the set looks like with people in it, especially if they are moving around.

Good luck with your lighting setups!