Radio Skills School

Microphone Technique:

1) Sensitive and dead areas. Don’t touch!

2) Proximity effect. (Boomy if too close.)

3) Proper distance for radio acting.

4) Dynamics and distance. (Back off to yell.)

5) Off-mic use for distant sounds. Asides.

6) Popping “P”s and S-S-S-Sibilance.

7) Mic safety. (hitting, blowing, dropping)

8) Assume every mic is always ON.

9) Quiet script page turning.

Radio Acting:

1) Quiet in the studio.

2) Don’t cough, laugh, or talk during production.

3) Watch the director. Wait for your cue. (Q)

4) Speed equals excitement. Don’t bore the audience.

5) Jump in if there’s dead air.

6) Wait for director’s signal at end of show.

Radio Direction “Sign Language”

1) “Wait.” Open hand.

2) “5-4-3---” Finger count down.

3) “You’re on.” Pointing finger.

4) “Quicken the pace.” Finger draws circles.

5) “Stretch it out.” Pulling taffy.

6) “Louder.” Pull ear.

7) “Quieter.” Finger to lip (Shhhh-style)

8) “Cut.” Finger slits throat.

9) “Come in” or “Back off” microphone.