



The production process – Narration

The choice of narrator is an important choice for any media production.

Channel 6 Television has contact with a regular pool of professional voices - including actors, journalists and other professional narrators.



Narration recording

The company also has contact with many foreign language narrators who work in languages other than Danish.

For clients who wish to approve the choice of narrator personally, we usually arrange a small selection of test recordings from which the client may choose.

The voiceover recording session may be scheduled either before the editing, or after, depending on the nature of the production and the style of narration.

Some experienced narrators are able to narrate an entire film “on-the-fly” – simply by following the pictures and master timecode.

Such artists will usually have rehearsed the entire narration at home before arriving for the session. This approach is useful for narrating existing films – for example when producing a new language version – but it does require a very experienced narrator.

For most productions we prefer to edit to a pre-recorded voiceover, as this approach makes it easiest to achieve perfect timing between vision and narration.

Even with this approach, we expect our narrators to rehearse their narration from the script before arriving for the recording session, so that their suggestions and timing problems may be accommodated quickly.

Client approval is important!

Clients who wish to approve the voiceover script prior to recording have the opportunity to do so, though on most productions it must be expected that minor changes - that do not affect the meaning or context - may be necessary during the recording session to achieve the most natural narration by the artist.

The client is also welcome to be present during the voiceover recording session.

For some productions - particularly industrial films with a high degree of technical content - it is often necessary for the client to approve the narration text before it is recorded and edited. The same can apply to other elements such as graphics and captions.

For every production, the particular elements that must be approved by the client, and the plan for such approval in relation to the production schedule are defined in the production contract and subsequent production plan.

The reason for a well-defined approval schedule is simple - the production elements to be approved are usually those that involve many hours work - often with the involvement of freelance artists. Such elements must be right first time if a fixed-price agreement shall apply.

So for example - the narration text will be subject to approval before the recording session - any subsequent alterations to the text that necessitate re-recording would not usually be covered by a fixed-price agreement, and would be billed separately.