

# SOUND MIX

The sound mix can be critical to the success of a documentary. The filmmaker needs to pay attention to the way all the elements blend together like the narration, the sound FX and the music. It is really important that the human voice and other sounds don't fight with each other so it is not clear what people are saying.

There are a number of components that must be balanced against one another when doing a final sound mix for a documentary:

## RECORDED DIALOGUE

This refers to the actual dialogue from the participants in the documentary recorded during the shooting process.

## RECORDED SOUND FX

This refers to sounds recorded during the shooting process. This could be 'sync' sound (sound that we can see being made) or 'wild' sound (recorded) separately to the action.

## FOLEY SOUND

These are sounds created separately and put into the soundtrack to appear as though they were recorded at the time. Classic examples of Foley tracks are footsteps and wind whistling.

## SOUND FX

These are sounds that are added to enhance the mood of a scene. They are not necessarily realistic in their origin. For example, when a character feels isolated and alone and we hear the wind whistling.

## NARRATION

Narration is often added at the editing process as way of explaining aspects of the documentary. Narration can also be provided by an on-screen character.

## MUSIC

Music is generally composed to fit the meaning and pacing of the film. The genre of the music is often dictated by the nature of the story being told.