

Our guide to making radio drama

OUR GUIDE TO MAKING RADIO DRAMA

MUSIC

Li: HELLO, I'm Li and it's good to be here talking to you today – with me today is Rob...Rob?...Rob where are you?

DOOR OPENS

Rob: ...sorry I'm late. I had to feed the cat...

LION ROAR

....get down Fluffy...eat your food. Anyway, sorry for the delay...hold on, who are all these people?!

Li: That's Kevin and all the students taking part in the radio drama competition.

Rob: Oh, there's lots of them. Hello! Mmm, so why are we here?

Li: Well, I'm not sure but there is a letter here that says "please open".

LETTER OPENING

Rob:"Dear Li and Rob, we are holding another radio drama competition and would be delighted if you could attend and talk to us about making the perfect radio drama. Best wishes Kevin."

Li: That's very nice. So when does he want us?

Rob: Err, 12th of May at 12.00.

Li: What?! That's in 5 minutes time! How are we going to get from London to Hong Kong in 5 minutes!

Rob: We'll just have to use some radio magic...quick, jump into this car.

CAR STARTS AND MOVES OFF

Li: Whooooaaa....very impressive! Where did you get this car from?

Rob: There's no time to explain. We need some music to create the dramatic tension in our journey....

Li: Like this?

ROMANTIC MUSIC

Rob: No Li – it's not a love story. We need tension, excitement, speed. Like this...

DRAMATIC MUSIC

Li: That's good. But Rob, we've only got to Italy, we're still a long way to go and only four minutes left!

Rob: No problem – what we need are more sound effects.

Li: Sound effects? What they do?

Rob: They're recorded sounds that make the listener think we are somewhere else. Press that button there...

CUT TO JUNGLE EFFECTS

Li: ...wow, we're in the jungle now... but there aren't many animals.

Rob: ...hold on....(PRESSES BUTTONS)...how about this?

WILD ANIMAL FX

Li:that's better.....

Rob: Watch out for that elephant!

ELEPHANT FX

Li: That was close. Phew it's pretty hot in the jungle, any chance of some rain?

Rob: Of course – here, catch this bag....

CRUNCHING OF BAG OF RICE

Li:why am I crunching this bag of rice?

Rob: It's a spot effect – you are making your own sound effect – it might just be a bag of rice to you but our listeners think it's raining...hard!

Li: A spot effect – that's a good idea – but it won't get us to Hong Kong on time. (SPEAKING QUICKLY – IN A PANIC) Oh dear, how are we going to get to Hong Kong in 3 minutes and what are we going to say when we get there?

Rob: Pardon? Could you slow down Li. There's no point in talking quickly, nobody will understand what you're saying. It's important to talk slowly and clearly on the radio.

Li: Yes, I know that and I also know it's important to....

Rob: ...not both speak...

Li: ...at the same....

Rob:time. Well, I'm talking now....(*OFF MIC*) and look we're flying over the Himalayas now....(doing a wind sound) ...so we can't be too far away now.

Li: What a great view but Rob why are you standing over there?

Rob: To give the impression we are in a big wide open space. Moving away from the microphone creates the impression we're outdoors. Listen we can fly around...up here...over here...it's good to move around.

Li: Will you come down from there please!

Rob: (*CLOSE UP*)...would you prefer I was here, right by your side. Look I'm very close to the microphone, talking just to you Li.

Li: Yuk! But come on Rob, we've only got one minute left and we haven't talked about acting.

Rob: Acting? What's that?! Oh yes, it's about characterisation. The listener needs to know which character is speaking and to get an idea of what type of person they are from their voice. So obviously, I think our listeners know that I am the smart, clever one and you are...well...the clueless one who has a lot to learn...

Li: Mmm, Rob...do you mind pressing that button there.

BUTTON & EXPLOSION FX

Rob: Whooooaaa....

Li: Clearly, Rob has much to learn about radio drama, but with a good script, some good acting, great direction and a few sound effects, your drama will be out of this world. Talking of which, we seem to have taken a wrong turning at the Himalayas, now where's Rob when you need him?

KNOCK KNOCK/DOOR OPENS FX

Rob: Can I come back in now?

Li: I suppose so...if you can get us to Hong Kong in less than one minute.

Rob: Now...to get there on time I just need the sound effect of landing at Chek Lap Kok airport but...err...I can't seem to find it anywhere.

Li: We're not going to make it. Come on Rob just press any button....like this one....

Rob:no, no, not that button!

CLICK & MELTDOWN FX

Rob: ...that was the delete button. Oh dear, we're going to have to start all over again.

Li: Sorry Kevin, sorry everyone, we won't be able to join you this year.

Rob: Yes sorry. But we hope you all have a great day and congratulations to all the winners. Remember the best thing about making radio drama is learning new skills...

Li: ...and having lots of fun.

Both: Bye bye.

MUSIC ENDS