

## PRODUCTION SECURITY CHECKLIST: PROTECTING IP ON LOCATION

To protect plot spoilers in a public filming location, in addition to all standard physical security planning, productions are encouraged to consider the following mitigations:

### 1. Tightened access control and crowd management

- Buffer zones and barricades: establish a controlled perimeter using barriers or security tape to keep the public at a safe distance.
- Security checkpoints: set up entry and exit points with bag checks and badge verification to prevent unauthorised access.
- Decoy locations: consider alluding to an alternate filming location to divert unwanted attention.
- Create a protocol for handling large numbers of background actors. For instance, different coloured wrist bands on different days, to deter unauthorised access.

### 2. Physical barriers and concealment

- Pop-up screens and tents: use large, portable screens or blackout tents to cover actors, props, or sets between takes.
- Umbrellas and cloaks: provide cast with oversized cloaks or blackout umbrellas when moving between trailers and set.
- Strategic set placement: position key props and costumes away from public sightlines, using buildings or vehicles as natural barriers.
- Large backdrop panels: erect temporary walls or drapes behind filming areas to block long-distance cameras.
- Fake costumes and props: consider providing cast with misleading outfits when walking to set to throw off speculation.

### 3. Media and social media handling

- Designated press area: if media presence is expected, create a controlled press zone to avoid disruptions.
- Strict social media rules: restrict crew and cast from sharing real-time location details.
- Consider restricting phone use for background actors, which could include implementing products such as Pic Patches (<https://picpatchlabel.com/>).

### 4. High-profile talent protection

- Consider using stand-ins for key cast members, who do not resemble the talent, to throw off speculation.
- Personal security: assign close protection officers to high-profile cast members when moving between the set and transport.
- Secure transport routes: use unmarked vehicles and varied routes to prevent stalking or paparazzi ambushes.
- Private holding areas: set up off-site holding areas for talent to avoid exposure to crowds between takes.

### 5. Drone and long-lens camera defence

- Overhead coverings: use large tarps or canopies when filming highly sensitive scenes to block aerial footage.

- Anti-drone technology: deploy drone detection tools or request a temporary flight restriction in the area (*note: this is not always a viable option depending on region/country*).
- Bright lights and smoke screens: use controlled fog or high-powered backlighting to obscure long-range shots from telephoto lenses.

#### **6. Digital and communication security**

- Code names for characters and scenes: use code names in call sheets, scripts, and radio communications. Ensure all location signage uses only the code names. Instruct crew not to wear hoodies, t-shirts etc. with the production name on.
- Watermarked and secure scripts: issue scripts with traceable digital watermarks and limit paper copies.
- Social media blackout: prohibit crew from posting anything identifiable until after release.

**Note:** Not all of the elements in this document will be applicable to all types of production activities. When implementing this guidance, the production must also comply with any applicable local, state, regional and country laws or regulations.