

renowned for handheld camerawork was nicknamed '8 mill Phil'!

We now have lenses that are 4.5 mm in focal length, they can produce excellent images if used properly. It seems that this focal length is used without very little thought by the operator. Of course it makes life very easy with such a short focal length and very often an aperture of f 8, this all makes focusing obsolete!

I must confess I have done this myself especially during a live music events', keep the lens at 4.5 mm, set the focusing of the lens at the hyper focal distance, and then hey, away you go, no focusing required!! Shots along the keyboard or low angle shots of guitarist can look incredibly sexy but for other work this focal length can be far too short.

Panning shots with this focal length has a horrible effect of making the edges of the image change speed and as for doing interviews.....

The number of times I have seen pieces to camera and the presenter waves his hand or points towards the camera and we then get the 'big and small head' shots, can't the cameraman see this?

Recently I saw the worst effect of wide angle lens misuse. The cameraman had his camera on his shoulder and the reporter, a lady, was much shorter

than him. Not only were her facial features distorted she apparently had a very large head and nose and very small feet! I really hope she never saw this piece of television herself as she would have been horrified!

So let's remember perspective and not use the 4.5 mm end of the lens just because it is there, and let's not have any more 'big hands small head' shots!

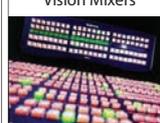




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