

MICROPHONES & HOW TO USE THEM

Here are Candy O's 5 Mic Tips:

#1: Don't be afraid of the microphone: The mic is your friend. Its job is to help you be heard and to sound better.

#2: Keep your mouth about a fist distance away from the tip of the microphone: No matter what kind of microphone you are using, your mouth should be a fist distance away from the head of the microphone. So, make a fist, and maintain that distance. If you are too close, you will pop your P's. If you are not close enough, the mic can't capture your voice and do its job.

#3: Posture! Stand/sit up straight. Shoulders back, chin up. Let your body language emote confidence.

#4: Know your microphones:

- The fixed, podium microphone is a standard, directional microphone. "Fixed" means you can't hold it because it is mounted and stuck in one spot. "Directional" means that the mic picks up sound in one direction, so speak directly into it.
- The gooseneck podium microphone is thin, bendable, with a little head on it that has a black muff on it. People often yank it and bend it and it makes a crank sound. Goosenecks are notoriously sensitive and plosive, so don't lean in too close.
- The handheld corded microphone allows you to walk and talk as far as the cord will take you.
- The wireless, handheld microphone allows you to walk and talk with no cord to trip on!

Warning: when using a handheld microphone beware of the speakers on either side of the stage. If you cross in front of them, you will create feedback.

- The lavalier or "lav" microphone is very small and can be attached to your lapel or the neckline of your dress. It has a thin cord and battery back that can be hidden in your clothing. Be sure to wear something that can accommodate a lav, not only for clipping it on in the front, but in the back.

#5: Request a soundcheck: A soundcheck is where you show up before the event begins and the production team adjusts your volume levels as you practice a small portion of your speech or presentation. A soundcheck will enable you to be ready to rock as soon as you hit the stage.