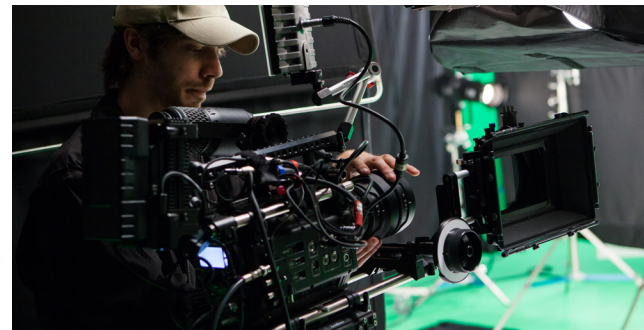




Brent Marchenski, Technical Producer



The Role of Comms in Zoned Media Production

IP-based Communications Systems for Film and TV Production



Mihai Malaimare jr, Cinematographer

Keeping the Creative Vision in Focus, At a Safe Distance

With COVID-19, media production teams are having to rethink how they interact on set and amongst team members. While full-duplex comms systems were once used primarily by the camera operators and DP, with the new norms of socially distanced and zoned media production, more people are working remotely or at a greater distance than ever before. In this situation, a flexible, IP-based full duplex (talk and listen at the same time) intercom system can be a mission-critical tool in keeping the team members communicating to the right people, at the right time, while maintaining social distance.

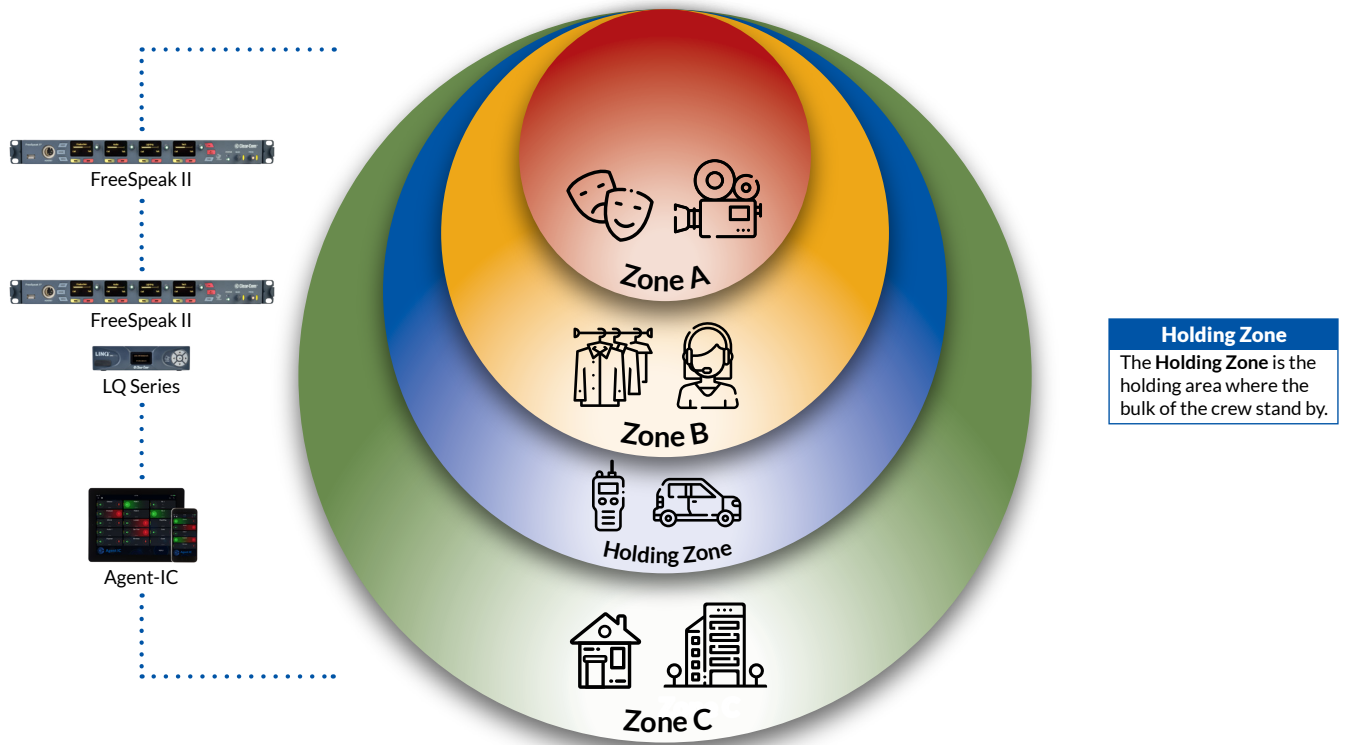
Clear-Com's hands free systems are designed to be easy to use, lightweight and portable, with the ability to be quickly deployed on location, complete with DC backup, in a matter of minutes. With a variety of different solution available, systems can be configured for both partyline and point-to-point communication, integrate seamlessly with two-way radios, and include the Agent-IC mobile app option for remote team members.

Clear-Com and Media Production

Since its founding in 1968, Clear-Com and its parent company HME have a long history of providing comms to camera operators and DPs involved in media production. Over the course of more than 50 years in business, Clear-Com has established itself as an industry leader, with world-class support designed to create solutions to address some of the most challenging communications needs. Clear-Com is in a unique position to support the evolving needs of media production professionals, with a strong network of channel partners around the world, and a dedication to ensuring people stay connected and collaborating, no matter the situation.



Media Production Zones



Holding Zone
The **Holding Zone** is the holding area where the bulk of the crew stand by.

Zone A

No physical or social distancing in this zone. Zone A includes:

- Actors
- Production Supervisor
- Camera Operator

Comms

- Voice of God speaker or discreet earpiece for actor communications
- FreeSpeak II wireless partyline for hands-free crew communications

Zone B

Stringent physical or social distancing and wearing of masks enforced in this zone. Zone B includes:

- Assistant Director
- DIT
- DP
- Wardrobe/Hair/Make-up
- Audio/Comms

Comms

- FreeSpeak II wireless partyline for hands-free crew communications
- LQ Series IP Interface to connect with radios in holding zone

Zone C

This is the outside world - homes, offices, or hotels. Zone C includes:

- Director
- Agency
- Executive Producer

Comms

- Clear-Com Agent-IC mobile app on phone/tablet for real-time monitoring of production

The Zone System: The Safe Way Forward

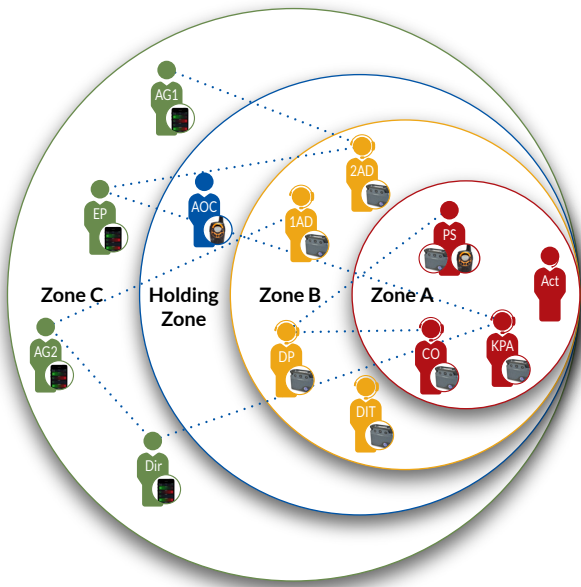
The Directors Guild of America (DGA), International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) and the Basic Crafts, and Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) joined together to release [“The Safe Way Forward,”](#) a Multi-Union Report on COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

At the center of this safety guide is The Zone System, designed to safeguard the actors and crew. This concept allows for minimal crew in and around the actors, with the zones farther from the actors containing more crew positions. COVID-19 testing, physical distancing and safe, hygienic protocols are also in place throughout all zones.

As the production team is now spread out from each other, in some cases contributing to the production from other states or even countries, the ability to quickly and easily communicate with others now requires a comms system. Clear-Com has outlined some potential solutions in the diagrams below, however there are many different options depending on the particular needs of a production.

- The Video Village has been moved away from the set
- Executives can communicate with the set from remote locations
- Director can be remote
- All parties except actors maintain six feet of distance from others
- Each department (sound, camera, lighting, etc.) forms their own “pod”
- Conversations that took place in quiet huddles now need to happen over distance

Media Production Zones



Zone A	
CO	Cam Operator
PS	Production Supervisor
Act	Actor
KPA	Key PA
Zone B	
1AD	1st AD
2AD	2nd AD
DP	DP
DIT	DIT
Holding Zone	
AOC	All Other Crew
Zone C	
Dir	Director
AG1	Agency 1
AG2	Agency 2
EP	Executive Director



Full-Duplex Communication

Full-duplex describes bi-directional communications all the time. Regular communications between individuals conversing in person is full-duplex, meaning you can talk and listen simultaneously, most closely mimicking face-to-face conversations. Full-duplex communication allows simultaneous two-way conversations where one person can interrupt the other. Two-way radios or walkie-talkies only offer half-duplex communications.

Comms Assignment Chart

	Role	Device	Zone	Access to	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Groups
	Director	AIC on iPhone	C	Direction	1st AD	DP	AD/ Production	Agency	Exec Prod	Talent	VOG		Direction
	Agency Office 1	AIC on Tablet	C	Direction	Agency								Agency
	Agency Office 2	AIC on Tablet	C	Direction	Agency								Cameras
	Exec Producer	AIC on Android Phone	C	Direction	Agency								AD/ Production
	1st AD	FSII BP	B	Direction	AD/ Production	Radios	2nd AD	DP					Radios
	2nd AD	FSII BP	B	Direction	AD/ Production	Radios	1st AD	DP					Talent
	DP	FSII BP	B	Direction	Cameras	DIT							
	DIT	FSII BP	B	Direction	Cameras	DP	AD/ Production						
	Cam Op 1	FSII BP	A	Cameras									
	Cam Op 2	FSII BP	A	Cameras									
	1st AC	FSII BP		Cameras									
	Prod Supe	FSII BP & Two-way Radio		Direction	AD/ Production	Radios	VOG						
	Actor 1	IFB/Earwig	A	Talent									
	Actor 2	IFB/Earwig	A	Talent									
	Key PA	FSII BP	A	AD/ Production	Radios								
	Other Crew	Two-way Radio	Holding	Radios									
	VOG	Local Overhead Monitor	A										
										Key Code			
										Blue - Individual user/private channel-direct			
										Red - Group/partyline-everyone can hear and talk			
										Green - IFB - one way to talent			



“

What we're seeing this year on MasterChef Canada Season 7 (Post COVID) is a reliance on constant, consistent and broader communication more than ever before. Modern intercom unlocks a seemingly unlimited amount of configurations and possibilities, to the point where going backwards just isn't an option.

In this new world, the full integration of an Intercom system really is the way of doing things on set, now and in the future.

”

Brent Marchenski

Technical Producer

MasterChef Canada 7

JuniorChef Showdown 2

The Great Canadian Bakeoff 4

 **Clear-Com**[®]
AN HME COMPANY

Featured Products



FreeSpeak II® Digital Wireless

FreeSpeak II is the industry-leading digital wireless solution used in Broadcast and Live Event productions all around the world. Available for use in either 1.9 GHz and 2.4 GHz bands, FreeSpeak II offers ease of use, superior audio quality, and the freedom to move around uninhibited by wires.

[Read More](#)



Agent-IC® Mobile App

Clear-Com's Agent-IC mobile app operates on iOS or Android devices over 3G, 4G, LTE and WiFi networks. Boasting very low latency and high audio quality, Agent-IC allows team members to connect to the main intercom system using their existing devices, no matter where in the world they are. A free trial version of Agent-IC is available to download from the Apple iTunes Store or Google Playstore.

[Read More](#)



DX410™ Wireless

The DX410 wireless all-in-one headset is a favorite of camera operators due to its lightweight and simple operation. While it doesn't offer the robust feature set of the FreeSpeak II wireless system, it can be integrated into a FreeSpeak II system for those who prefer the DX format and streamlined user interface.

[Read More](#)



LQ® Series IP Interfaces

The LQ Series of products are the ultimate in IP interface solutions; they can integrate any audio stream into the intercom system, including two-way radios, telephones, and the Agent-IC mobile app. Its flexibility makes LQ the ultimate multitasker in an intercom system.

[Read More](#)



Headsets

Clear-Com offers a wide range of professional headsets which are designed for comfort and durability. Since this is a high-touch item it is ideal for each crew member to have their own personal headset, Clear-Com also offers Refresh Kits for Headset Sanitization for many of our most popular models.

[Read More](#)



About Clear-Com®

Clear-Com, an HME company, is a global provider of professional real-time intercom communication solutions and services since 1968. We offer market-proven intercom solutions that link people together through wired and wireless intercom systems and connectivity options.

Our history is rooted in technological advancements and innovations that deliver significant improvements to the way people collaborate when instant communication matters. In the markets we serve - broadcast, live performance, live events, sports, military, aerospace and government—our communication products consistently meet the demands for high-quality audio, reliability, scalability and low latency, as well as address communication requirements of varying size and complexity.

Clear-Com is recognized globally for its product achievements, consistent level of customer engagement, and dedication to delivering the right solutions for specialized applications, with the expertise to make it work.

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