

SEKOU.



TECH RIDER



2023

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PRIMARY CONTACTS

Booking | Contracts | Billing

Nessa Valerii

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Calls | Calendar | Logistics | Event Prep | Tech

Brittney Dorey

Brittney@SekouAndrews.com

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MAILING ADDRESS

All packages or creative insight materials
may be mailed directly to Sekou at:

Sekou Andrews
9018 Balboa Blvd. # 614
Northridge, CA 91325



STAGE REQUIREMENTS | HOSPITALITY

Onstage

- Bottled water
- Small face towel (black preferred, as stage make-up stains can be distracting to audience, or show up on video)
- Ideally stage should be cleared. However, depending on which presentation Sekou is doing, he may want to keep a chair on stage
- If existing set/ furniture must remain onstage (couches, etc.), please minimize the amount of space it takes up and notify Sekou at rehearsal
- If a podium must remain onstage, please move to the side if possible and notify Sekou in advance

Backstage/ Green Room

- Bottled water (room temperature) • Tissues
- Towel (small face towel)
- Practice space: Sekou will need a “green room” or some relatively removed backstage space to run lines and "get in the zone" directly before going onstage. It is understood that certain agreed upon entrances (i.e. entering from the audience or from back of room) may render this space inapplicable.

Food Preferences

- No pork
- Chicken or turkey instead of beef or fish
- Simple, healthy protein snacks (nuts, protein bars, hard boiled eggs, etc.)
- Hot, Grande double-shot latte (coconut milk preferred, otherwise almond milk)



TECH REQUIREMENTS

**** Waiver of any of the following tech requirements must be approved in advance by SekouWorld, Inc. and confirmed in writing. If there are any problems please contact your SekouWorld, Inc. rep immediately to discuss ****

TELEPROMPTER

For Scrolling Text (Not Slides!)

Due to the language-specific nature of the poetic voice style of speaking and the time constraints that often accompany creating a personalized piece, **Sekou requires a SCROLLING TEXT teleprompter during his presentation.** This critical component allows Sekou to deliver his best for your event, so please follow the guidelines below very carefully.

Monitors

- Two or more 45” – 55+”, flat screen floor monitors (NOT “Presidential” or Podium-style)
- Unless Sekou has confirmed he needs a monitor for slides, please ensure ALL monitors can display teleprompter scrolling script
- Monitor Positioning – it is very important that you balance between positioning the monitors far enough from the stage (toward the audience) for Sekou to see them as he moves across the stage, while also preventing audience from seeing the script scrolling on the monitors.
 - + If two monitors, position them downstage left and right. If three monitors, downstage left, center and right.
 - + Best final positioning can be determined at tech rehearsal so, when possible, avoid finalizing/ taping down monitor positions until after rehearsal
 - + Please use Dog House or Barn Doors on the monitors to block audience line-of-sight when monitors are visible to the first few rows of audience

Operator

A professional teleprompter operator to scroll text

Software

- Professional teleprompter software should be used (ex. Telescript AV)
- Software must be able to:
 - + scroll forward and backward easily
 - + input text formatting (line breaks, font color, bullet points, highlighting, etc.)
 - + be scrolled manually (not on automatic speed, as Sekou’s tempos change drastically)
 - + be operated with a professional “dongle” for scrolling (as opposed to a mouse or trackpad)

IMPORTANT: Please be sure that the tech team has inputted this [sample teleprompter script](#) onto the software to test the loading process. This allows us to discover and address any formatting incompatibilities in advance. Please be sure that the tech team not only receives this document but actually goes through the process of testing it. If any formatting problems are discovered (i.e. the software doesn't input line breaks or font colors), please let us know immediately so we can co-create a solution

- Sekou will arrive to tech rehearsal with a flash drive containing the final script. Because his scripts are carefully pre-formatted, and because your team will have tested the upload using the sample script, script load-in at rehearsal will be quick and painless. Therefore, there is no need to request Sekou's script in advance.

- **Click on the following link to download our sample prompter script in .docx or .rtf format:**

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14FPs1E5wYG2SPqBZrRC3_zdM1Yi5usil?usp=sharing

MICROPHONE

- **Type:** Thin, "Broadway style" headset mic with **2 ear loops**. DPA 4088 or Countryman H7 strongly preferred.
- **Accessories:** Clear medical/ surgical tape that adheres well to wet skin to secure the mic's position due to Sekou's dynamic movements during presentations

VISUALS

- **Poetic Voice Information Slide** (if Sekou is NOT using a deck for your presentation)
 - + to be displayed onscreen from walk-on to walk-off during Sekou's entire presentation (if you don't already have your own branded graphics to display), or
 - + used in conjunction with your own branded graphics if you have them (can be your graphics for Sekou's entrance/ exit and then his slide during presentation, or vice versa)
 - ++ If used for walk-on/walk-off...the slide should be displayed for 30 seconds at the beginning of Sekou's presentation, and again for 30 seconds when he finishes his presentation during the applause
 - + Visit this link to download the full size, high-resolution slide, or click on the link below:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15LZpsgvhhNaROa-mDuR_YPsyQP5EYxbl/view?usp=sharing
- **PowerPoint /Keynote Deck** – If applicable, Sekou will bring deck to rehearsal on flash drive (or email in advance if able)

MUSIC

- **Upon receiving confirmation of Sekou's selected titles**, download clips of Sekou's walk-on/ walk-off music choices [here](#).



TECH REHEARSAL

Rehearsal will most likely take place the day before or morning of presentation. All timelines below are flexible and can be adjusted based on Sekou's travel/ availability and event schedule:

- **SCRIPT LOAD-IN:** [3-5 min] Sekou will arrive to rehearsal and deliver flash drive with final script to be uploaded into the teleprompter system. Script will be 95% formatted but minimal tweaks may be made with teleprompter operator at rehearsal.
+NOTE: Additional tweaks may need to be made to script between rehearsal and presentation, depending on factors such as last-minute customization, approved client notes, etc.
- **SOUND CHECK:** [3-5 min] Check mic level and walk the stage and house to check for audio feedback hotspots. Also check walk on/walk off music.
- **SLIDE CHECK:** [3-5 min] Check information slide (poetic voice slide) and/or PowerPoint deck.
- **PROMPTER CHECK:** [5-10 min] - Partial run-through of select presentation sections to familiarize teleprompter operator with Sekou's reading style, rhythms, visibility needs, etc.
- **WALK-THROUGH:** [5-10 min] Sekou will walk the space to get a feel for the stage, floor/ house, entrances/ exits, stairs, etc.
- **LIGHTING CHECK** [5 min] Unless there are more involved lighting cues and capabilities, this will just be a discussion of lighting options and looks. Please anticipate that Sekou will leave the stage a few times during his presentation. He may present from the floor in front of the stage for longer sections and may walk up to the audience for brief moments of interaction (probably not past the first row or two unless pre-arranged).
- **VIDEO CHECK:** [3-5 min] Sekou encourages his presentations to be filmed for archival purposes (refer to contract for agreed upon usage terms/ fees). If presentation will be filmed, video check will just be a discussion about camera position and Sekou's suggestions on how to best capture his presentation. Please see next section for shot list and filming suggestions.

VIDEO | PHOTOGRAPHY

Filming Suggestions:

Because of the dynamic range of motion in Sekou's presentations, a two-camera shoot is typically best

- + **CAM 1:** Back/center of room capturing wide angle shot and occasional close ups
- + **CAM 2:** Side Angle and/or Roving capturing mid-waist shots, side angles, audience reactions, over the shoulder shots, following Sekou as he moves through the room
- + Microphone should be patched directly to camera for optimal audio recording
- + We also strongly suggest you **MIC THE AUDIENCE** as well. Nothing worse than watching video later that sounds dead because it didn't capture how lively and vocal your audience was in the room (laughter, call and response, etc.)
- + Lighting, background and camera-related wardrobe needs should be discussed in advance
- + Please be sure that video edit begins at Sekou's introduction (by host/MC) and ends after applause, standing ovation, and any comments made about Sekou by the host or speaker following.
- + Some clients have also found it very useful to film attendee commentary/ testimonials after Sekou's presentations, as attendees are often delighted and abuzz with discussion about the experience, which makes for great archival / testimony footage.

Suggested Shot List for Videographers and Photographers:

- + Wide Front Angle, Full Stage
- + Side Angle
- + Close-ups
- + Audience Reactions (laughter, leaning in, smiles, etc.)
- + Roving shots – Sekou moves a lot and getting moving camera shots often adds a beautiful and artistic energy to your video
- + Sekou loves getting over the shoulder shots (from behind his back /profile with audience in shot). Please encourage camera operator to get those shots without worry that they will interrupt his presentation (however, please try to avoid getting the teleprompter screen in the shot)