

# Oddeoh House Narration Standards

## Purpose

The purpose of these narration standards is to ensure that all audiobook productions completed through Oddeoh House maintain a consistent level of technical quality, professionalism, and listener experience. These standards provide narrators with clear expectations regarding recording specifications, audio quality, delivery practices, and performance consistency.

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## Technical Recording Specifications

All narration must be recorded and delivered according to the following specifications:

- **File Format:** WAV (.wav)
- **Recording Type:** Mono
- **Sample Rate:** 44.1 kHz
- **Bit Depth:** 16-bit
- **Raw Audio RMS Value (post-recording):** Between -35 dB and -25 dB

Narrators should monitor recording levels carefully to avoid clipping while maintaining sufficient signal strength.

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## Raw Audio Quality Expectations

Narrators are expected to submit raw audio files that are clean, intelligible, and suitable for professional audiobook production.

Submitted recordings should be free from avoidable distractions, including but not limited to:

### Environmental Noise

- Aircraft noise
- Train noise
- Automobile traffic
- Household appliances

- HVAC systems
- Electronic hums or interference
- Pets
- Family members or other occupants
- Construction or landscaping noise

## Performance-Related Noise

- Excessive mouth clicks
- Dry-mouth clacks
- Lip smacks
- Unwarranted inhalations or exhalations
- Tongue noises
- Unnecessary handling noise
- Chair squeaks
- Desk bumps
- Clothing rustle
- Page turns that interfere with narration

While some natural breathing is expected within a spoken performance, narrators should strive to minimize distracting mouth and breathing sounds through proper hydration, microphone technique, and recording practices.

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# Room Tone Requirements

Consistent room tone is essential for seamless editing and mastering.

## Initial Recording Session

The **first recording of the first session** for a project must include:

- **Thirty (30) seconds of uninterrupted room tone**

During this capture, narrators should remain completely still.

**Please act as a statue.**

Avoid:

- Shifting in your chair
- Adjusting equipment
- Turning pages

- Breathing directly toward the microphone
- Moving clothing or jewelry

This recording provides editors with a clean noise profile for the duration of the project.

## Subsequent Recording Sessions

All recordings following the initial session must include:

- **Five (5) seconds of room tone at the beginning of the recording**
- **Five (5) seconds of room tone at the conclusion of the recording**

These room tone captures should follow the same standards of stillness and silence established during the initial session.

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# Performance Consistency Standards

Audiobook narration is often recorded over multiple days or weeks. Maintaining consistency throughout the project is critical to ensuring a seamless listening experience.

Narrators should strive to recreate the same recording conditions for every session, including:

- Microphone placement
- Distance from the microphone
- Microphone angle
- Recording environment
- Acoustic treatment setup
- Chair height and body position
- Posture while performing
- Monitoring setup
- Vocal energy and projection

Consistency becomes especially important when **pickup recordings** are required following proofing and quality review. Pickup lines should match the original performance as closely as possible in both technical quality and delivery style.

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## Creative Performance Standards

Narrators are entrusted with the artistic interpretation of the material they perform.

Narrators are given **full creative freedom regarding their performance choices**, including:

- Cadence
- Pacing
- Character interpretation
- Emotional delivery
- Use of pauses for dramatic effect

Once narration has been recorded, the narrator's pacing and delivery choices will generally be accepted at face value and preserved during the editing process.

Editors will focus on technical refinement and continuity rather than altering the narrator's intended performance style.

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## Professional Recording Practices

To support optimal vocal performance and recording quality, narrators are encouraged to:

- Stay well hydrated throughout recording sessions.
- Schedule regular vocal breaks during lengthy sessions.
- Warm up before recording.
- Monitor for increasing mouth noise as sessions progress.
- Stop and re-record immediately when significant interruptions occur.
- Review recordings periodically to ensure standards are being maintained.

A well-rested, well-hydrated narrator produces stronger performances and cleaner audio.

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## Final Reminder

The goal of these standards is not perfection—it is consistency, professionalism, and the creation of an enjoyable listening experience for the audience.

Record thoughtfully. Perform confidently. Trust your instincts as a storyteller.

Most importantly:

**Stay hydrated, tell great stories, and have fun.**

