

MAKING IT WORK

Stephanie Drachkovitch breaks down her essentials, from her home office setup to the one item she can't live without on set.

The cofounder and co-CEO of 44 Blue Productions, the company behind documentary series such as A&E's Nightwatch, Oxygen's The Real Murders of Orange County and E!'s Hollywood Medium with Tyler Henry, takes Produced By through her daily work essentials.

NEXSTAND LAPTOP STAND

Drachkovitch got rid of her desk chair in her office a decade ago in favor of a standing desk and hasn't looked back. "It allows me to use that kinetic energy of walking and talking," she tells Produced By. Last year, in the height of the pandemic, Drachkovitch received as a gift a collapsible laptop stand that allows her to convert any space into a standing desk. "It turns a conversation into a tactile visual experience for me. The standing desk has just given me so much more energy."

MOLESKINE TURQUOISE NOTEBOOK

Before she became a documentary producer, Drachkovitch studied journalism in college and made a habit of keeping a journal with her at all times. "I started out as an inveterate note taker," she says. She continues the practice today, keeping detailed notes of every meeting, pitch and project she's involved with. As for Moleskines, she's accumulated a vast collection over the years. "I fell in love with how they feel, the texture and pliability, and they fit in my purse. Turquoise is one of my ultimate favorite colors. It's my go-to blue color—like 44 Blue Productions—and I'm surrounded by blues."

BANDOLIER FOR PHONE

Adding a strap to a smartphone might not seem like a big revelation, but for



TOOL KIT

Drachkovitch, a smartphone bandolier “was a game changer for production.” Instead of carrying a purse on set, Drachkovitch uses her phone with a crossbody bandolier that has a small pouch, allowing her to carry only the essentials. “Now I just use the bandolier everywhere,” she says. “I haven’t used a purse in a year.”



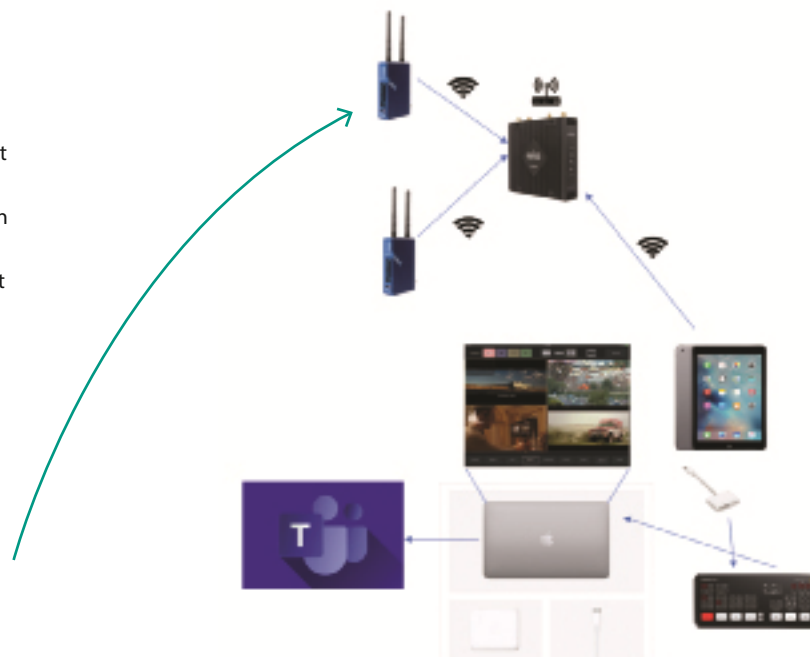
LOCAL NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS

“It’s really important to be informed about your city and to know things like who your police chief is, who the mayor is and what’s going on in neighborhoods,” Drachkovitch says. Local news stories have often been crucial for 44 Blue productions, and Drachkovitch makes sure that her team subscribes to local newspapers, also helping to support local journalism. “Whenever we go into a community, especially for a follow-doc—for instance, we’re embedded at Vanderbilt University for a new series that we’re doing with their transplant unit—when we go into that town, I will instantly do a digital subscription to the local paper so that we know what’s going on, especially if we need to do a booking or look for a story idea related to the series that we’re making.”



REMOTE VIEWING RIG

With 10 series and five pilot presentations filming across the country in the past year, Drachkovitch needed to see what was happening on the ground without having to send someone. The vice president of production management at 44 Blue Productions rigged up a remote viewing station so that Drachkovitch and her producing and programming partners could view everything happening. “It’s allowed for some efficiencies,” she explains. “I think we’ve gotten better interviews with people because we’re not in a room with them, with a footprint too big, that makes them feel self-conscious. It’s created, in some instances, a more intimate setting.”



This particular remote view package is for multiview across the Microsoft Teams platform so anyone on the invite list can see and hear what is being shot in the field:

- 2x Teradek Serv Pros
- 1x Teradek Link
- 1x Atem Mini Switcher
- 1x iPad
- 1x Laptop
- 2x Micro Cine Arms
- Power Cables
- HDMI Cables
- USB Cables
- BNC Cables
- HDMI to Lightning adapter

