

Film Studies - Sing Street

Directed by John Carney



Name: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Camera Shots and Angles

Shots

An **establishing shot**: This is a camera shot that shows the viewer a lot of information revealing where the action is taking place.

Based on this establishing shot, where do you think this film is going to take place?



A **long shot**: This is generally understood to show an image which is 'life-sized' or corresponding to the real distance between the audience and the screen. The focus may be on a character, but other background detail also emerges.

What information about the character and the setting can you figure out from this long shot?

A **mid-shot**: This is a shot of the head and the upper torso of a character. It is often used when characters are talking or to show something a character is doing.

What does this mid-shot tell us about the character in this film?



A **close-up**: This is a camera shot that gets really close to the subject to reveal important details. A close-up of a face is very intimate. It can make the audience feel closer to the character or very uncomfortable.

How does this close-up make you feel about the character?



An **extreme close-up**: This is an extreme version of a close-up, magnifying something that in reality the human eye would not be able to see. It is used for dramatic effect.

What does this extreme close-up emphasise about this character?

A **point-of-view shot**: The camera can be used to give us the point of view of a particular character. This is sometimes shortened to a POV shot.

Whose point of view are we seeing in this picture?



A **two shot**: This is a mid-shot that contains two characters. It is used to focus on dialogue and character interaction.

What do you think is going on between these two characters?

A **three shot**: This is a mid-shot that contains three characters. It is often used to explain the relationship between the central character and others.

From the positioning and body language in the shot, how do you know that Harry Potter is the central character?



Angles

High angle: This is when the camera looks down on the subject from above. It causes the subject to look weaker and seem vulnerable.

How does this shot make the characters appear?



Low angle: This is when the camera looks up at the subject from below. This makes the subject look dominant and powerful.

What kind of characters do you think these creatures are?

Over the shoulder: This is when the camera shoots over the shoulder of one character to show us who they are speaking to or interacting with. It helps us to understand both characters' point of view.

What type of conversation do you imagine is happening here?





Shot-reverse-shot: This is when the camera shoots from one direction, followed by a shot from the reverse position, and then back to the original position. This is often used during conversations between characters. It is shortened to an SRS.

Why do you think this type of shot is used so frequently in film?



Movement

- **Panning:** This is when the camera stays in one place but turns left or right to scan the scene or to follow a movement. It is usually a continuous, unbroken and smooth shot. You probably have a panning feature on your mobile phone.
- **Tracking:** This is when the camera moves along with the action or a character. It helps the audience to follow an important piece of action. Search for 'Goodfellas tracking shot' on **YouTube** to see one of the more famous tracking shots in movie history.
- **Handheld:** This camera movement makes the audience feel as if they are in the scene. It is often shaky and uses point-of-view perspective.

- **Tilt:** The camera follows the subject while being locked onto a fixed point.
- **Aerial Shot:** The camera is high above the subject.

Why each angle and shot is used:

High-Angle Shot – a shot in which the camera looks down on a character or setting. Often used to make the character seem 'small', under threat or feeling vulnerable. (HAS)

Big Close-Up – sometimes referred to as an extreme close-up; this shot may show just part of a character's face, e.g. the mouth or eyes. Used at moments of intense sadness or pressure or determination or even joy. We usually only see a BCU shot after we already know something about the character's story, so we can imagine what pressure/pain/joy they are experiencing in the scene. (BCU)

Establishing Shot – often used in the opening scene of a film to inform the audience of a film's setting. If the shot is taken from the air, it is called an aerial shot. Also called a wide-angle shot. (ES)

Medium/Mid Shot – shows characters from the waist up; shows characters interact with others as they build relationships. (MS)

Long Shot – shows characters from head to toe; often used when we meet a character for the first time; this shot also places the character in a particular location. (LS)

Low-Angle Shot – the camera looks up at a character. May suggest a character's power or control. (LAS)

Close-Up Shot – the camera focuses on the character's face. This fills the frame with the face. Hugely important in drawing attention to facial expressions and therefore capturing a moment of heightened realisation or understanding or feeling in a character. (CU)

Eye-Level Shot – a neutral camera angle, very common in film. It is an objective shot that does not manipulate a viewer's reaction to a character.

The Language of Mise-en-Scène

At its most basic, ***mise-en-scène*** refers to everything that is 'in the frame', or that is being shown on screen at any given time. This includes sets, costumes, props, lighting, colour and so on.

Look at what is inside the frame of this still from the movie *Mean Girls*.

- **Set/Location:** The set of a film is where and when the action of the film takes place. What can you tell about the time and location in which this film is set?
- **Costume:** The costumes and make-up used in a film tell us more about the time and place in which the action happens. They also give us information about the characters. What can you figure out about the different characters in this shot?
- **Props:** Props are any moveable item on a set. What do you learn about the three characters based on the items you can see on the table in front of them?
- **Lighting:** The lighting of a film creates atmosphere and mood, as well as highlighting important moments in the story. What is the lighting like in this image?
- **Colour design:** Along with lighting, the colour design of a film appeals to the audience's emotions and communicates a mood or tone. What kind of film do you think would use colours like the ones in this image?



The Language of Sound

Sound refers to everything we hear in a film. In film, sound is used to:

- Give information about the setting
- Help tell the story
- Create a mood or atmosphere
- Reveal something about the characters.

Sound in film can be divided into two types:

1. Sounds that come from *inside* the world of the film. This means that the characters can hear these sounds, for example, a radio playing in a car, a phone ringing or a gunshot. This is called **diegetic sound**.
2. Sounds that come from *outside* the world of the film. This means the characters cannot hear these sounds but we, the audience, can. Examples include the music soundtrack or sound effects. This is called **non-diegetic sound**.

Setting and Overview

The film is set in Dublin in the 1980s. Socially, it is a difficult time with lots of unemployment due to a harsh recession. This goes hand in hand with a lot of new pop music being released in the charts. The plot of the film switches between the difficult reality of the recession in Dublin and the happy escape that music provides.

- **Who directed the film?** John Carney
- **Who produced the film?** Irish Film Board
- **What year is the film set in?** 1985
- **What was life like in this era?** High unemployment rates due to a recession, a lot of young Irish people were emigrating, ongoing troubles in the North.
- **What were some of the main struggles for people?** Financial struggles, social problems.
- **What town is the film set in?** Dublin city.

Questions

1. What's the name of the main character? _____
2. What instrument is he playing in the opening scene? _____
3. What problems are Conor's parents experiencing? _____
4. What is Conor forced to do? _____
5. What is your initial impression of Conor's new school? _____
6. How do the other students treat him? _____
7. What are some of the social problems mentioned in the film? _____

8. What's the name of the student who befriends Conor? _____
9. Whose house does he bring him to? _____
10. What is a futurist? _____
11. Who do the boys ask to join the band? _____
12. What is the name of the band? _____

13. How does Conor's brother react to the band's recording? _____

14. What is Conor's song called? _____

15. Who is the manager of the band? _____
16. How many members are in the band? _____
17. What is the name of the girl who features in the video? _____
18. Describe Barry's relationship with his father? _____
- _____
- _____
19. Where does Raphina live? _____
20. What revelation does Brendan make about his mother? _____
- _____
21. What are Brother Baxter's stereotypical views? _____
- _____
22. Describe Brother Baxter's treatment towards Conor? _____
- _____
23. What does Raphina nickname Conor? _____
24. How does she describe love? _____
25. How does Conor describe Raphina? _____
26. What life motto does Conor adapt? _____

27. How are the characters' image and appearance changing? _____
- _____
- _____
28. Describe Conor and Brendan's relationship.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
29. How does Cosmo's interaction with Barry differ from their first encounter?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
30. 'You only have the power to stop things but not create' – Explain how this quote conveys the main message of the film.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

31. Who do you think Cosmo is writing his song about? _____

32. How does music help Conor and Brendan escape from reality? _____

33. How does Conor compare the boat to a musical instrument? _____

34. What do Conor's parents tell their children during the family meeting? _____

35. What does Brendan refuse to do? _____

36. What names do people call Brendan? _____

37. Why does the camera zoom into the gym doors during the music video?

38. What does Conor imagine happening at the school disco? (Include 5 points)

39. What news does Conor find out when he goes looking for Raphina? _____

40. Describe how Conor is feeling at this point in the film? _____

41. How does Raphina convey that she feels worthless? _____

42. What does Conor say is the most important thing in life? _____

43. Why does Conor leave the park quickly without telling Raphina about his gig?

44. Why does Conor invite Brendan to play a solo at his gig? _____

45. Why do Conor and Darren visit Barry? _____

46. What does Darren say they all have in common? _____

47. How would you describe Barry's homelife? _____

48. How could joining the band help Barry? _____

49. How does Cosmo convey his dream and ambitions for the band's future at the school disco?

50. What bold move do the band make at the gig? _____
51. Who does Cosmo dedicate the final song to? _____
52. Describe Cosmo's behaviour at the gig? _____

53. Describe the atmosphere in the school hall? _____

54. How does Brendan support his brother?

55. Describe how Brendan feels as he says goodbye to his brother.

56. Describe the final scene of the film?

57. Who is the film dedicated to? _____
58. What important life lessons does this film teach viewers?

Key Moments

Key Moment 1 _____

- My chosen key moment is when _____

- What happens before the key moment _____

- What happens during the key moment _____

- What are the consequences of the key moment? Why is this key moment important?
 - Plot development: This key moment is important because it sends the plot in a new direction.

- **World of the text:** This key moment is invaluable in that it gives the viewer a clear picture of the setting of the story.

[illegible]

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Key Moments

Key Moment 2 _____

- My chosen key moment is when _____

- What happens before the key moment _____

- What happens during the key moment _____

- What are the consequences of the key moment? Why is this key moment important?
 - Plot development: This key moment is important because it sends the plot in a new direction.

- **World of the text:** This key moment is invaluable in that it gives the viewer a clear picture of the setting of the story.

[illegible]

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

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Key Moment 3 _____

- **My chosen key moment is when** _____

- **What happens before the key moment** _____

- **What happens during the key moment** _____

- **What are the consequences of the key moment? Why is this key moment important?**

- **Plot development:** This key moment is important because it sends the plot in a new direction.

- **World of the text:** This key moment is invaluable in that it gives the viewer a clear picture of the setting of the story.

[illegible]

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

[illegible]

Key Moment 4 _____

- My chosen key moment is when _____

- **What happens before the key moment** _____

- What happens during the key moment _____

- **What are the consequences of the key moment? Why is this key moment important?**

- **Plot development:** This key moment is important because it sends the plot in a new direction.

[illegible]

- **World of the text:** This key moment is invaluable in that it gives the viewer a clear picture of the setting of the story.

[illegible]

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Key Moment 5 _____

- **My chosen key moment is when** _____

- **What happens before the key moment** _____

- **What happens during the key moment** _____

- **What are the consequences of the key moment? Why is this key moment important?**
 - **Plot development:** This key moment is important because it sends the plot in a new direction.

- **World of the text:** This key moment is invaluable in that it gives the viewer a clear picture of the setting of the story.

[illegible]

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