**ENGLISH COURSE**

**Year 1 – UNIT 8 teacher : Anne SOMBART 2020-2021**

**I. a. Complete the following definitions using the words in the box**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| the cast | director | editing | plot | screenplay |
| screenwriter | special effects | soundtrack | the stars |  |

1. The putting together of sequences and scenes in a film : editing
2. A story written for a film : screenplay
3. Someone who writes stories for a film : screenwriter all the actors in a film : the stars
4. Series of events in a film that make up the main story : plot
5. Images or sounds in a film that are created by trick photography or computers : special effects
6. The music in a film : soundtrack
7. The main actors in a film : the cast
8. The person responsible for overall artistic content of film, including telling the cast what to do :

Director

**What are the aspects of a film mentioned above that are the most important ?**

- The **plot**is really important because it's the main topic of the film. If the plot is bad the film is bad too.

- The **cast**are really important and can improve the film thanks to their acting skills. They can also atract some people who like them.

-The **soundtrack**is important too because it's the atmosphere of the film. Because of the soudtrack, the immersion is better.

- **Editing**is promodial. The film needs to be logicly build.

- The**special effects** are a part of the editing. They take a big place in some action movies like for example Fast & Furious.

-The **director**is an important person because all of the film is based on his point of view (on his direction)

b. What are the aspects of a film mentioned above that are the most important ?

**II. Reading**

**1. Read a scene from the second draft of the screen play adaptation and answer the following questions :**

1. Who is involved in the film ?
2. Where does it take place ?
3. When does it take place ?
4. What is happening ?
5. Why is this scene taking place ?
6. How do the protagonists feel ?

**INT. L.A. BUSINESS LUNCH RESTAURANT – MIDDAY**

Kaufman, wearing his purple sweater, sits with Valerie, an attractive woman in glasses. They pick at salads. Kaufman steals glances at her. She looks up at him. He looks away.

**KAUFMAN (V.O.)** I'm old. I'm bald. I'm repulsive.

**VALERIE** We think you're just great.

# KAUFMAN

(with studied modesty) Oh, thank you.

Valerie rubs her nose. Kaufman self-consciously rubs his nose in response.

**VALERIE** And we're thrilled you're interested.

Valerie rubs her nose again. Kaufman pulls at his nostril. Sweat slides down his forehead. Valerie watches it. Kaufman sees her watching it. She sees him seeing her watching it. She looks at her salad. He quickly wipes the sweat away.

**KAUFMAN** Oh, thanks, wow. That's nice to hear.

**VALERIE** You have a really unique voice.

**KAUFMAN** Well, thanks. That's... I appreciate that.

**VALERIE** Very talented. Really.

**KAUFMAN** Thanks. Thank you. Thanks.

# VALERIE

(looking up) So -

Kaufman is sweating a lot. He smiles, embarrassed.

**KAUFMAN** Sort of hot in here.

# VALERIE

(kindly)

Yeah, it is a bit. So, why dont you tell me your thoughts on this crazy little project of ours ?

In one motion, Kaufman wipes his forehead and pulls a book entitled The Orchid Thief from his bag.

**KAUFMAN** First, I think it's a great book.

**VALERIE** Laroche is a fun character, isn't he ?

# KAUFMAN

It's just, I don't want to compromise by making it a Hollywood product.

**VALERIE** Oh, of course. We agree. Definitely.

Kaufman is sweating like crazy now. Valerie is quiet for a moment.

**VALERIE**

See, we thought maybe Susan Orlean and Laroche could fall in love -

# KAUFMAN

New York journalist writes about weird guy and he teaches her to love. I mean, it didn't happen, it wouldn't happen.

**2. Questions**

1. Do you think Valerie and Kaufman have the same vision for the film ?
2. What do you think Kaufman means by ''a Hollywood product'' ?

**3. Complete the following statements about the standard format of screenplays, using the following words :**

*action / present / centre / V.O. / ~~capital~~ /dialogue / INT. / brackets*

1. The names of characters and scene headings are written in capital letters.
2. Dialogue is written in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the page.
3. Descriptions of settings and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are written in blocks which are wider than the dialogue.
4. Descriptions of how a character delivers his lines are in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Characters generally have little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at one time.
6. Descriptions of settings and actions are written in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tenses.
7. Voice-overs are abbreviated as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, external shots as EXT. and internal shots as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**4. Look at the following list of features that are typical of spoken dialogues. Can you find examples of these features in the screenplay ?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FEATURE | EXAMPLE |
| Incomplete sentences |  |
| Missing subjects |  |
| Repetition |  |
| Short sentences |  |
| Simple linking words |  |
| Use of shared knowledge to leave things unsaid |  |

Can you think of other features typical of spoken conversations and screenplay dialogues ?

**III. Writing a screenplay.**

1. Most screenplays are divided into three acts. Match the acts to the descriptions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Act 1  Act 2  Act 3 | 1. the main conflict 2. the resolution 3. the background |

1. In pairs, think about a story you would like to tell, or a book you would like to adapt into a film. Make notes about the following headings :

The background :

How is the story set up and how are the characters introduced ?

The conflict :

What conflict(s) do the characters deal with during the story – that is, what is the problem / desire / goal at the centre of the story ?

The resolution :

How is / are the conflict(s) resolved at the end of the film ?

1. Write a scene for your film. Use standard screenplay format and make the conversation seem as natural as possible.